



**TEXAS WIC PROGRAM**  
**Department of State Health Services**  
**Food Issuance and Redemption Services Unit - MC 4554**  
P.O. Box 149347  
Austin, TX 78714-9347  
(512) 341-4425    1-800-252-9629 (Texas Only)

April 10, 2009

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**New WIC Food Package Meetings**

The Texas WIC Program will be conducting a series of regional vendor meetings around the state in the months of May, June, and July to inform contracted WIC stores of the coming changes to the WIC food package that will go into effect beginning October 1, 2009. The modifications to the WIC food package are the most significant changes that have been made to the Program's food package in over 30 years.

Several new food items are being added to WIC benefits including fresh/frozen fruits and vegetables; baby foods; whole wheat and whole grain breads, corn & whole wheat tortillas, brown rice, soy milk, and tofu. To offset the cost of the new items, there will be significant changes in the authorized amounts of existing food items provided to WIC clients. For example, there will be reductions in the amount of milk, eggs, cheese, juice, and infant formula issued to clients and purchased in your store.

In order for grocers to have adequate advanced notice of the coming changes to assure they have the right types of products on their shelves for the WIC Program beginning October 1, 2009, and not be overstocked or out of compliance with minimum stocking, it is important that you understand the food items being changed and the implementation plan for how many WIC clients will be receiving the new food package each month beginning with October.

Therefore, in addition to written materials that you will receive with your contract renewal packets regarding the new WIC food package, the program will be conducting meetings at the following locations around the state to discuss the changes with grocers and to answer questions:

Austin	Tyler	Midland	Laredo
San Antonio	Abilene	Beaumont	McAllen
Dallas	San Angelo	Nacogdoches	Amarillo
Fort Worth	El Paso	Bryan	Corpus Christi
Paris	Alpine	Waco	Lubbock
Wichita Falls	Houston	Harlingen	Victoria

A tentative schedule for these meetings can be found at:

**<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/wichd/vo/bulletin.shtm>**

We will also send out notices to individual stores in each area reminding them of these meetings as our meeting schedule and locations are finalized.

We strongly encourage your store manager or his/her designee, or your company's category manager attend one of these meetings. Seating will be limited to the number of individuals who register to attend the meeting. Please call the WIC toll free vendor line at 1-800-252-9629, ext. 2510 (Aida Martinez) or ext. 2298 (Kimberly Cook) to tell them which session you plan to attend and if more than one person from your store will attend.