



TEXAS WIC PROGRAM
Department of State Health Services
Food Issuance and Redemption Services Unit - MC 4554
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VENDOR CONTRACTING MORATORIUM TO BE LIFTED

The vendor contracting moratorium that has been in place since April 2011 will be lifted on August 1, 2014, in conjunction with revisions to WIC Policy WV:10.0 effective that same date.

Policy WV:10.0 has been amended adding a contract limiting criteria requiring that all "new" vendor sites that the Texas WIC program authorizes on or after the effective date of the revised policy must be a Full Line Grocery store or pharmacy as defined by the policy to qualify. Vendor outlets with an existing WIC agreement as of the effective date of the revised policy do not have to meet this policy definition for contract renewal and can remain on the program as long as the outlet remains in compliance with all contract terms and conditions and other policy requirements. Specifically, the outlet must remain in full compliance with all contract/policy terms and conditions and must not disrupt the continuity of its program participation by quitting or selling the store. If a vendor outlet is disqualified for any period, or changes ownership, the store location must re-apply for contracting under the policies in effect at the date of the application, meaning it must meet the policy requirement of being a full line grocery store or pharmacy location to qualify.

The WIC Program is a supplemental food program intended to improve nutrition intake among participating mothers and children at nutritional risk. The healthy food benefits WIC provides, coupled with nutrition counseling, enhance and ideally influence the other food purchase decisions made by participants. To encourage healthy food choices for overall diet quality, participants need the ability to choose healthy, affordable products beyond the WIC supplemental benefit package. Full line stores offer a broader array of food types and/or brands to select from, particularly a greater variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, which best support WIC nutrition education and participant dietary intake goals.

This change in policy is intended to provide WIC Program families with greater access to nutritious food options and positions the Texas WIC Program to lift the vendor contracting moratorium that has been in place so long.

If you have questions about the lifting of the vendor contracting moratorium or the program's change to authorizing only outlets that meet the policy definition of a full line grocery store or pharmacy, please contact this office using the toll free phone number: 1-800-252-9629.