

<p style="text-align: center;">Nutrition Services Department of State Health Services</p>

Effective August 1, 2003

Policy No. CS:01.0

Eligibility Criteria For Program Participation

Purpose

To ensure Program benefits for those applicants in need.

Authority

7 CFR Part 246.7; 25 TAC Section 31.22

Policy

To be eligible for participation in WIC, applicants shall meet specific criteria defined by federal regulations, state agency (SA) policy and rules.

Procedures

- I. Individuals shall meet the following categorical criteria to be eligible for participation in WIC:
 - A. Women shall be either pregnant, or within six months postpartum if not breastfeeding, or within one year postpartum if breastfeeding. Proof of abortion, miscarriage, neonatal death or pregnancy is not a requirement for certification.
 - B. Children shall be younger than 5 years of age. Written proof is not required.

- II. Applicants shall meet the requirements for residence as defined in **Policy CS:06.0**.

- III. Applicants shall not exceed the income standards defined in **Policies: CS:07.0, CS:08.0, CS:09.0**.

- IV. Applicants shall have one or more nutritional risk conditions as defined in **Policy CS:18.0**.

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- V. Applicants shall be physically present at each WIC certification or qualify for an exception as defined in **Policies: CS:4.0, CR:07.0**.
- VI. If the applicant meets all the above-referenced criteria for eligibility, she/he may be certified and enrolled in the Program, regardless of citizenship status, as long as there is a caseload opening. Citizenship is not required for program eligibility.
- VII. Local agencies (LAs) shall not limit WIC participation nor deny WIC participants because a WIC applicant or participant does not wish to partake of available health services. For example, LA cannot require a child to be screened in the LA's well child clinic in order to get WIC benefits.