

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Nutrition Services</b> <b>Department of State Health Services</b></p>
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Effective August 1, 2007

Policy No. GA:08.0

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**Provision of Information on the Food Stamp, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, Medicaid, THSteps, Children's Health Insurance, Children's Health Insurance Perinatal, Women's Health, and Child Support Enforcement Programs to WIC Applicants and Participants**

**Purpose**

To ensure that WIC applicants/participants receive written information about the Food Stamp, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Medicaid, THSteps, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Children's Health Insurance Program Perinatal, Women's Health, and Child Support Enforcement Programs.

**Authority**

7 CFR Part 246.7 (b); State Policy

**Policy**

Local agencies (LA) shall provide written information concerning these programs to all adult applicants applying for the WIC Program for themselves or on behalf of others.

**Procedures**

- I. Upon initial application to the WIC Program, all adults applying for the program for themselves or on behalf of others shall be provided written information about Food Stamps, TANF, THSteps, Medicaid, the Child Health Insurance Program and the Child Health Insurance Perinatal Program, the Women's Health Program (WHP), and the Child Support Enforcement Program. Posting information in a public area does not satisfy this requirement. Applicants must individually receive written information at initial application.

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- A. If such individuals are not currently participating in Medicaid but appear to have family income below the applicable maximum income limits for the program, the LA shall refer these individuals to Medicaid, including the referral of infants and children to the THS Program.
  - B. Information on Medicaid shall include the following:
    - 1. a description of the services Medicaid provides;
    - 2. maximum income limits, according to family size, applicable to pregnant women, infants, and children up to age 5 which are used by the Medicaid Program for income screening; and
    - 3. an explanation that Medicaid counts a pregnant woman as if she were a family of two.
  - C. Information on the Women's Health Program shall include the following:
    - 1. A description of the services WHP provides;
    - 2. a WHP application;
    - 3. and an explanation that WIC clients are adjunctively income-eligible for the WHP. Participation in WIC may be documented by a copy of a Verification of Certification (VOC), an EBT shopping list, or a food voucher.
      - a. LAs shall provide a Verification of Certification to any client who requests one in a timely manner.
      - b. LAs are encouraged to explain that WIC applicants are not required to complete the list of income for the household or provide proof of income other than the copy of the VOC, shopping list, or food voucher. This information is not clearly stated on the WHP application form.
- II. At subsequent certifications, written information about these programs shall also be made available. LAs may post written information in a public area to satisfy this requirement or continue to individually provide written information to each person.

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- III. LAs may use the fact sheets provided by the SA or produce their own written information about these programs in a different format, if so desired. LAs shall provide local addresses and phone numbers for local program providers.
- IV. Each clinic is required to keep a supply of WHP application forms available for any applicant or participant who requests one.
- V. Documentation that written information was provided to adult participants/applicants or to adults applying on behalf of others is not required.

### **Guidelines**

**CHIP** – provides eligible children with coverage for a full range of health services including regular checkups, immunizations, prescription drugs, lab tests, X-rays, hospital visits and more. The program is designed for families who earn too much money to qualify for Medicaid, yet cannot afford to buy private insurance for their children. For more information go to: <http://www.chipmedicaid.com/>

**CHIP Perinatal** - provides basic prenatal care for unborn children of women who do not qualify for Medicaid because of income or immigration status. Undocumented persons can qualify. Household income must not exceed 200% of the federal poverty level. Coverage starts before the child is born and continues after birth for a total of 12 continuous months. Once born, the child will receive benefits that are similar to traditional CHIP benefits for the duration of the 12-month coverage period. For more information Go to: <http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/chip/perinatal/index.htm>

**Child Support Enforcement** – provides assistance in these areas: locating an absent parent; establishing paternity; establishing and enforcing child support orders; establishing and enforcing medical support orders; reviewing and adjusting child support payments. For more information go to: <http://www.oag.state.tx.us/cs/about/index.shtml#services>

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**Food Stamps** – assists low-income households to purchase food. For more information go to:

<http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/Programs/Programs.html>

**Medicaid** – provides medical services to low-income persons, including hospital services, doctor's services, and prescriptions. For more information go to:

<http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/medicaid/index.html>

**TANF** – provides financial and medical assistance to needy dependent children and the parents or relatives with whom they are living. For more information go to:

<http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/programs/TexasWorks/TANF.html>

**THSteps** – provides comprehensive and preventive health services through the Medicaid Program for persons younger than 21 years old. For more information go to:

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/thsteps/default.shtm>

**Women's Health Program** – provides a limited Medicaid-paid family planning benefit to women ages 18-44 with income at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty level. Only citizens and some immigrants are eligible. Benefits include an annual family planning exam and choice of contraception for 12 months. For more information go to:

<http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/womenshealth.htm>