



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

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June 13, 2014

All Authorized Texas WIC Vendors

This letter is to transmit advance written notice of an amendment to WIC Vendor Policy WV:10.0 titled "*Selection of Vendors for WIC Initial Authorization of Sites and Calculation and Use of Vendor Competitive Pricing Data*", with an effective date of August 1, 2014. This policy, attached, has been reviewed and approved by the program's federal oversight agency, the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The primary change to this policy is the addition of contract limiting criteria which requires all "new" vendor sites the program authorizes as a WIC contract site after the effective date of this policy to qualify as a Full Line Grocery store or a pharmacy as defined in the policy. Please note that vendor outlets with an existing WIC agreement as of the effective date of this policy amendment do not have to meet this policy definition for contract renewal and can remain on the program as long as the outlet's compliance with contract terms and conditions and other policy requirements remains in good standing. 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 location is disqualified for any period, or changes ownership, the store location must re-apply for contracting under the policies in affect at the date of the application meaning it must meet the policy requirement of being a full-line grocery store or pharmacy location.

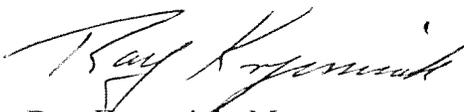
By definition, WIC is a supplemental food program, intended to improve nutrition intake among participating mothers and children at nutritional risk. The healthy benefits WIC provides, coupled with nutrition counseling, enhance and ideally influence the other food purchase decisions made by participants. 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.

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In summary, this change in policy is intended to provide WIC Program families with greater access to nutritious food options and positions the Program to lift the vendor contracting moratorium that has been in place since April 2011. To that end, the WIC vendor contracting moratorium will be lifted effective August 1, 2014.

Should you have questions about this change to the vendor contracting requirements for WIC vendor site participation, please contact this office at 1-800-252-9629.

Sincerely,



Ray Krzesniak, Manager
Food Issuance and Redemption Services Unit (FIRS)
Nutrition Services Section

Enclosure: WIC vendor policy WV:10.0 effective August 1, 2014

Cc: Joe Williams, Texas Retailers Association