



# Connecticut WIC Program Retailer Bulletin

## November 2021

### Effective Immediately



The attached FY2022 WIC Vendor Agreement is now in effect.

#### **Changes have been made to the WIC Vendor Agreement**

The USDA has approved the Connecticut WIC State Plan for FY22 which included changes to the WIC Vendor Agreement. If you do not wish to comply with these changes, please provide written notice that you wish to terminate your WIC vendor authorization. Please review the entire document and replace your current vendor agreement with the attached document. You must inform all staff handling WIC transactions on these changes. You must keep the attached Vendor Agreement with your WIC documents. The shaded areas are new language under the following sections:

#### **GENERAL CONDITIONS**

All vendors must maintain an active email account. Vendors must be capable of receiving electronic communications. This includes but not is limited to accessing the vendor portal, uploading documents, and receiving bulletins with program updates. Notify the WIC Program immediately of any changes to the email address. All WIC Program communications are electronic. Emails may be sent from program staff, the CT WIC vendor portal, or a DPH/DAS List Serve.

#### **THE WIC PROGRAM AGREES TO:**

Notify vendors of any Program changes, authorization renewals, sanctions, etc. only through electronic means (i.e. bulletins, emails, newsletters, website, etc.) with as much advanced notice as possible.

Removed: Provide the vendor with a file folder for the vendor to maintain a copy of the WIC Vendor Agreement, bulletins, minimum inventory and all WIC Program correspondence.

#### **Appendix A-Selection Criteria**

11. Be an established business, open to the public for at least one year in the current location. This condition may be waived for a currently authorized vendor that is adding an additional location or to the new owner of a currently authorized store, either of which are not being disqualified from SNAP or the WIC Program. Removed: "In good standing"

#### **Appendix C-Requirements For WIC Transactions**

10. The WIC card must be present and swiped by the customer to perform the transaction. If the swipe is not successful, the WIC card number can be entered manually, but the card must be present.

#### **APPENDIX E-DISQUALIFICATIONS, CIVIL MONEY PENALTIES AND FINES-STATE AGENCY-ESTABLISHED SANCTIONS**

If the WIC Program determines that a disqualification would result in inadequate participant access, then a civil money penalty shall be assessed in lieu of disqualification for Federal Mandatory Sanctions numbered 2 through 10. ... The civil money penalty shall not exceed fifteen thousand eight hundred seventy seven dollars (\$15,877) for each violation. If multiple violations are revealed by a single investigation, the total civil money penalty shall not exceed sixty three thousand five hundred nine dollars (\$63,509).

When a vendor who had previously been assessed a Federal Mandatory Sanction numbered 2 through 10 receives the same or another mandatory sanction, the WIC Program shall double the sanction for the second violation. Civil money penalties may also be doubled, but only to the extent of fifteen thousand eight hundred seventy seven dollars (\$15,877) per violation up to the maximum of sixty three thousand five hundred nine dollars (\$63,509) for multiple violations. These amounts are subject to change based on Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015.

**Fruit & Vegetable Benefit Increase**

Starting October 8, 2021, WIC participants over the age of 1 have received extra benefits to buy fruits and vegetables. Each WIC participant receives \$24, \$43 or \$47 to buy fresh, frozen, or canned fruits and vegetables in October, November, and December 2021. The extra benefits are good for this limited time only, so we are encouraging families to stock up on canned or frozen fruits and vegetables before their benefits expire. We are suggesting that vendors increase the quantities and varieties of fruits and vegetables that they normally stock, as the WIC customer demand for these items will be greater over the next 2 months. The dollar amount that families will receive is much higher and these benefits must only be used to purchase fresh, frozen, or canned fruits and vegetables.

**Changed your email address or sold your store? Changed your store manager or primary store contact?** Send any new information to [dph.ptwic@ct.gov](mailto:dph.ptwic@ct.gov)

Please review this bulletin with all store employees handling WIC transactions. Initial below and keep for your own records in your WIC folder. **DO NOT SEND BACK TO WIC.**

**Initial here:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Owner      \_\_\_\_\_ Manager      \_\_\_\_\_ Asst. Manager      \_\_\_\_\_ Staff

If you have questions or concerns please contact the State WIC Office via email at: [dph.ptwic@ct.gov](mailto:dph.ptwic@ct.gov), 1-800-741-2142, 860-509-8084. Website: [www.ct.gov/dph/wic](http://www.ct.gov/dph/wic).

**This institution is an equal opportunity provider.**



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El Acuerdo de Proveedor de WIC FY2022 adjunto ahora está en efecto.

#### **Se han hecho cambios al Acuerdo de Proveedor de WIC**

El USDA ha aprobado el Plan estatal de WIC de Connecticut para el año fiscal 22, que incluía cambios en el Acuerdo de proveedores de WIC. Si no desea cumplir con estos cambios, proporcione un aviso por escrito de que desea rescindir su autorización de proveedor de WIC. Revise el documento completo y reemplace su acuerdo de proveedor actual con el documento adjunto. Debe informar a todo el personal que maneja las transacciones de WIC sobre estos cambios. Debe conservar el Acuerdo de proveedor adjunto con sus documentos de WIC. Las áreas sombreadas son lenguaje nuevo en las siguientes secciones:

#### **GENERAL CONDITIONS**

All vendors must maintain an active email account. Vendors must be capable of receiving electronic communications. This includes but not is limited to accessing the vendor portal, uploading documents, and receiving bulletins with program updates. Notify the WIC Program immediately of any changes to the email address. All WIC Program communications are electronic. Emails may be sent from program staff, the CT WIC vendor portal, or a DPH/DAS List Serve.

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#### **Appendix A-Selection Criteria**

11. Be an established business, open to the public for at least one year in the current location. This condition may be waived for a currently authorized vendor that is adding an additional location or to the new owner of a currently authorized store, either of which are not being disqualified from SNAP or the WIC Program. Removed: "In good standing"

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### **Aumento de los beneficios de frutas y verduras**

A partir del 8 de octubre de 2021, los participantes de WIC mayores de 1 año han recibido beneficios adicionales para comprar frutas y verduras. Cada participante de WIC recibe \$ 24, \$ 43 o \$ 47 para comprar frutas y verduras frescas, congeladas o enlatadas en octubre, noviembre y diciembre de 2021. Los beneficios adicionales son válidos solo por este tiempo limitado, por lo que alentamos a las familias a abastecerse de enlatados o congelados. frutas y verduras antes de que expiren sus beneficios. Sugerimos que los proveedores aumenten las cantidades y variedades de frutas y verduras que normalmente almacenan, ya que la demanda de estos artículos por parte de los clientes de WIC será mayor en los próximos meses. La cantidad en dólares que recibirán las familias es mucho mayor y estos beneficios solo deben usarse para comprar frutas y verduras frescas, congeladas o enlatadas.

**¿Cambió su dirección de correo electrónico o vendió su tienda? ¿Cambió el gerente de su tienda o el contacto principal de la tienda?** Envíe cualquier información nueva a [dph.ptwic@ct.gov](mailto:dph.ptwic@ct.gov).

Revise este boletín con todos los empleados de la tienda que manejan las transacciones de WIC. Sus iniciales a continuación y guárdelo para sus propios registros en su carpeta de WIC. **POR FAVOR NO ENVIAR DE VUELTA A WIC.**

**Iniciales aquí:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Dueño      \_\_\_\_\_ Administrador      \_\_\_\_\_ Asst. De Admin.      \_\_\_\_\_ Personal

Cuando tenga preguntas o inquietudes, comuníquese con la Oficina Estatal de WIC por correo electrónico al: [dph.ptwic@ct.gov](mailto:dph.ptwic@ct.gov) Website: [www.ct.gov/dph/wic](http://www.ct.gov/dph/wic)

**Esta institución es una proveedora para igualdad de oportunidades.**