

VERMONT WIC GROCER HANDBOOK



Vermont WIC Grocer Handbook

Contents

Vermont WIC Grocer Handbook.....	1
Contents	1
Introducing the WIC Program	1
What is WIC?	1
How is WIC funded and operated?.....	1
What are the benefits of WIC for families?.....	1
Does WIC make a difference?.....	2
What is my role as a WIC grocer?.....	3
Thank you for being a WIC partner!	3
WIC is an Equal Opportunity Provider	3
Becoming a WIC Grocer	5
What are the requirements for becoming a WIC grocer?.....	5
How do I apply to become a WIC grocer?	7
When can I apply?	7
How often do I have to reapply?	7
What happens after I submit an application?	7
How does WIC decide if my store is eligible to be a WIC grocer?	8
Grocer Training	9
What is the purpose of grocer training?.....	9
How often do grocers have to attend training?	9
What are the state agency’s responsibilities?	9
What are the grocer’s responsibilities?	9
What are acceptable methods of training?.....	9
What does required training include?	10
What happens if a grocer fails to attend a training session?	10
WIC Approved Foods.....	11
Who decides what foods are WIC approved?	11
What foods are on the Vermont WIC approved food list?.....	11

Why are only certain types of infant formula approved?	11
What are the requirements for infant formula purchases?	11
Managing WIC in Your Store	13
What are the responsibilities of families when shopping with WIC?	13
How does a WIC transaction work?	13
What items may a family purchase with WIC?	13
What courtesies may a store offer to WIC families?	14
Courtesies that may not be offered:	15
Customer Service, Confidentiality and Complaints	16
What is required for good customer service?	16
What do I do if a WIC participant is physically or verbally abusive to store staff?	16
Routine Monitoring and Compliance Investigations	17
Who is responsible for monitoring grocers?	17
What is a secret shopper report?	17
What is a routine monitoring review?	17
What does the state agency do during a routine monitoring review?	17
How does the state agency determine who gets a routine monitoring review?	18
What are compliance investigations?	18
How does the state agency select grocers for a compliance investigation?	18
How does the state agency document monitoring visits?	18
Violations and Sanctions	20
Does the state agency have to warn a grocer before applying a sanction?	20
What types of activities are considered violations?	20
Category I Violations	20
Category II Violations	21
Category III Violations	21
Federally Mandated Sanctions	22
What happens when there are multiple violations during a single investigation?	23
Are there any actions in addition to sanctions?	23
How does disqualification or termination affect grocers?	24
What are the notification procedures for disqualifying or terminating a grocer?	24
When is a grocer not permitted to voluntarily withdraw from WIC?	24

What is a civil money penalty?	24
When does the State agency use a civil money penalty?.....	25
Does the state agency always impose a civil money penalty?	25
Can a grocer request a civil money penalty in lieu of disqualification?	25
When does the state agency notify FNS of sanctions and penalties?	25
Changes in Business Operations	27
When does a grocer need to notify the state agency about changes in business operations?	27
Does a grocer need to notify the State agency if there is a temporary store closure?.....	27
Can a grocer sell his or her WIC authorization with the store?.....	27
What happens to the agreement if there is a cessation of operations?	27
What happens to the agreement if the store moves?	27
WIC/SNAP Information Sharing	28
Can the state agency share information with staff in the SNAP?.....	28
Does the State agency share information with SNAP on a regular basis?	28
Does the State agency assist in SNAP investigations?	28
Incentive Items	29
What does the term <i>incentive item</i> mean?	29
What types of incentive items are acceptable?	29
What types of incentive items are not allowed?	29
Are buy-one-get-one-free promotions considered incentive items?.....	29
Manufacturers, Wholesalers, Distributors and Grocers.....	30
Appendix.....	31
1. WIC Grocer Application	31
2. Grocer Enablement	31
3. Mandatory Minimum Inventory Checklist for Chains, Large Grocers and Large Coops	31
4. Mandatory Minimum Inventory Checklist for Small Grocers and Small Coops	31
5. Vermont WIC Price Survey	31
6. List of Approved Infant Formula Suppliers.....	31
7. Comment Form	31

Introducing the WIC Program

What is WIC?

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, commonly known as WIC, is a cost-effective nutrition intervention program with demonstrated success in improving the health and nutritional status of women, infants and children. WIC provides nutritious foods and nutrition education, as well as referrals for health care and information on community health and nutrition services to eligible pregnant women, new moms, infants and children less than 5 years of age.

Proper nutrition at the beginning of life can help prevent serious health problems. Infants and preschoolers are going through a period of rapid growth, and intellectual and social development. Their nutritional status and the health care they receive can have a major impact on their ability to function as happy, healthy children.

How is WIC funded and operated?

Funding for WIC is provided by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). WIC operates in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Indian Tribal Organizations and 4 U.S. territories. In Vermont, WIC is part of the Vermont Department of Health, and WIC Program services are provided throughout the State by Department of Health District Offices. Statewide, the WIC Program serves approximately 12,000 participants each month.

WIC participants redeem food benefits at authorized WIC grocery stores that meet certain requirements and sign agreements to follow all WIC Program regulations.

WIC participants have limited incomes and health risks that can be improved through good nutrition. The WIC Program provides supplemental foods high in protein, vitamins and minerals that have been carefully selected and are individually prescribed to meet the nutrition needs of the participant. Health professionals at District Offices determine WIC eligibility based on nutritional risk, income eligibility and Vermont residency.

What are the benefits of WIC for families?

WIC is different from other nutrition programs in several ways:

- WIC eligibility is based on health risk, in addition to income.
- WIC services include nutrition education and health referrals, in addition to food benefits.
- WIC participants receive only the specific types and quantities of foods prescribed to them.

WIC food packages align with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and Infant Feeding Practice Guideline of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Women and children may receive:

- Milk, yogurt, eggs & cheese
- Beans, peas & lentils, peanut butter
- Certain brands of iron-fortified cereal
- 100% fruit juices high in vitamin C
- Fresh, canned or frozen fruits and vegetables
- Canned fish
- Whole grains (bread, rice, pasta and tortillas)
- Tofu and soy beverages

Infants may receive:

- Infant cereal
- Jarred baby food fruits & vegetables
- Jarred baby food meats
- Iron-fortified formula

WIC also refers participants to health and social service programs and provides information and education on good eating habits, to help families be healthy and eat well.

Does WIC make a difference?

Yes! Over 70 evaluation studies have been conducted to assess the WIC Program's effectiveness in improving the health of its participants. This research has shown that WIC is effective in improving participants' health. Some of the findings are summarized below.

For pregnant women, WIC participation has been associated with:

- earlier and adequate prenatal care visits.
- greater consumption of iron, protein, calcium and vitamin C.
- longer pregnancies, resulting in fewer premature births.
- improved maternal weight gain.
- larger head sizes of infants, reflecting greater brain growth.
- higher birth weights of infants.

For infants and children, WIC participation has been associated with:

- an increase in the rates of infants being breastfed.
- a reduced incidence of anemia.
- greater consumption of iron, folate and vitamin B6.
- better vocabulary and digit memory test scores.
- higher rates of immunization against diseases.

Participation in WIC is also associated with real cost savings. For every \$1 spent by WIC on pregnant women, \$2 to \$3 is saved in Medicaid costs for newborn infants and their mothers. Today, WIC is recognized as the Nation's premier public health nutrition program.

What is my role as a WIC grocer?

The grocers who are partners in WIC are very important because they:

- help infants, children and pregnant women become healthier;
- provide convenient access to healthy foods;
- assure the integrity of the WIC program by following the procedures in this handbook.

Thank you for being a WIC partner!

Although WIC families may already shop regularly and make purchases at your grocery store, WIC food benefits can only be used to purchase specific types and quantities of foods. The foods and quantities that may be purchased are listed on the Family Food Benefit List. Families may also perform a balance inquiry transaction at the Point of Sale (POS) terminal. A balance inquiry will show the remaining benefits in the family's account.

WIC is an Equal Opportunity Provider

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally,

program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992.

Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture,
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights,
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: 202-690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Becoming a WIC Grocer

What are the requirements for becoming a WIC grocer?

To be authorized as a WIC retail Grocer in Vermont, grocers must satisfy these selection criteria:

- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Participation** – The applicant must participate in SNAP. Please note that participation in SNAP satisfies only one WIC selection criteria and, by itself, shall not constitute compliance with all other necessary WIC selection criteria.
- **Compliance with WIC and SNAP Regulations** – The owners and managers listed on the application must have an acceptable history of compliance with WIC, SNAP, and other Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) Programs.
- **WIC Benefits** – The applicant must have EBT capability and be able to accept WIC benefits through the use of a Vermont WIC approved integrated or non-integrated single-function system. See [Appendix 2 Grocer Enablement](#) for more information.
- **Staple Foods** – The applicant must provide a variety of staple foods for sale including: fresh, frozen, and/or canned fruits and vegetables, fresh and/or frozen meats/fish, dairy products, and grain products such as bread, rice, and pasta.
- **Fresh Products** – The applicant must provide fresh products and maintain adequate stock of WIC approved food items year around, including infant formula (within expiration dates) in a clean and sanitary environment.
- **Mandatory Minimum Inventory** – The grocer must stock the mandatory minimum inventory of approved WIC foods and infant formula must be available on the shelves at all times ([Chains and Large Independent Grocers and Large Coops see Appendix 3](#); [Small Independent Grocers and Small Coops see Appendix 4](#)). All applicants will be inspected by the WIC Program to verify that the Mandatory Minimum Inventory of WIC items are in stock. Failure to stock and maintain the mandatory minimum inventory food items, in required quantities, after submission of a vendor application will be grounds for denial.
 - Exceptions to the Vendor Selection Criteria and Minimum Stock requirement may be granted if the State Agency determines that a vendor is needed for participant’s access in accordance with the State Agency’s policies.
 - Minimum Stock Requirements Exemptions approval is for a single store location and is for the indicated product(s) or food categories only.

NOTE: The Mandatory Minimum Inventory may be amended by the WIC Program during the Agreement period.
- **Competitive Prices** – The applicant prices must be competitive with other authorized vendors within the same Peer Group. The grocer has competitive prices.

- Not-to-Exceed (NTE) – The NTE is the maximum amount that Vermont WIC will pay for specific food items identified by their Universal Product Code (UPC). The NTE is calculated from the actual prices paid for food redeemed through the WIC Card transactions. NTE may be reevaluated for price competitiveness at any time during the authorization period and grocers may be terminated for non-price competitiveness.
- **Demonstrated Business Integrity** – The grocer has no serious business practice violations. There is no conflict of interest between store ownership and management, and WIC state or local agency staff. None of the current owners, officers, or managers has been convicted of or has had a civil judgment during the last 6 years for the following:
 - Fraud, antitrust violations, embezzlement, or theft
 - Forgery, bribery, falsification, or destruction of records
 - Making false statements, receiving stolen property
 - Making false claims, or obstruction of justice
- **Continuing Quality Standards:**
 - **Continued compliance with WIC regulations** including consideration of business integrity standards. Continued compliance with state and local sanitary codes, licensure requirements, and food safety requirements.
 - **WIC sales volume** – The State will review the volume of WIC sales of each authorized WIC grocer on a periodic basis. Low or zero volume of WIC sales may result in loss of WIC authorization.
- **Percentage of Food Sales from WIC** – WIC sales cannot make up more than 50% of grocer’s total annual food sales. Applicants will not be accepted if it is expected that food sales from WIC will be more than 50% of total food sales. Currently authorized grocers’ volume of WIC redemptions will be monitored six months after initial authorization and annually to determine if they exceed 50% of total annual food sales.
- **Minimum Lane Coverage** – Stores with three or more cash registers are required to have an integrated system and equip all cash registers with the software to process WIC benefits. Stores with one to two cash registers must equip one cash register if the monthly WIC sales is less than or equal to \$8,000 or both cash registers if the monthly sales exceed \$8,000.
- **Email Address** – The applicant must have an e-mail address to do business with the Vermont WIC Program. Failure to have and/or maintain an e-mail address for the store will be grounds for denial or termination of the Grocer Agreement.
- **Incentive Items** – Provision of any incentive items (including but not limited to any food item, merchandise, or service obtained at no cost to the grocer or any food item, merchandise, or service of 1.99 or less) to WIC customers that are not offered to other customers are not permitted.

How do I apply to become a WIC grocer?

An owner of a retail grocery store may request a Retail Grocer Application by contacting the Retail Grocer Manager in the WIC State Central Office at WIC@Vermont.gov.

The owner or business representative must complete and submit all retail grocer application forms according to the instructions. The package will contain:

- WIC Grocer Application (web-based survey) See [Appendix 1 WIC Grocer Application](#).
- Minimum Stocking Requirements
 - [Chains and Large Independent grocery stores](#)
 - [Small stores and Coops](#)
- Price Survey (for new applicants only) See [Appendix 5 WIC Price Survey](#).
- Retail Grocer Agreement
 - If approved, Grocers will then be sent their Retail Grocer Agreement to sign.
 - Multi-store corporations must complete an application for each store location and will sign a single agreement with an appendix listing information about each location covered by the agreement.

When can I apply?

Vermont accepts applications from grocers at any time.

How often do I have to reapply?

The standard grocer agreement is for a three-year cycle. Grocers who are authorized mid-cycle will receive a pro-rated agreement, so that all grocers will be on the same agreement cycle.

What happens after I submit an application?

Any grocer who is new to WIC will have an onsite visit by WIC staff prior to authorization. Stores that are re-applying may or may not need an onsite visit.

Once the application is complete and the grocer satisfies selection criteria, WIC staff will schedule a site visit to assess whether the store meets WIC criteria.

The site visit will consist of a review of:

- Handicap accessibility
- Minimum inventory requirements
- Full service grocery status

- Sanitary and safety conditions
- Store staff knowledge about WIC requirements

The WIC staff will complete a preauthorization site visit checklist with the grocer/owner/store manager. The completed, signed checklist will become part of the application.

How does WIC decide if my store is eligible to be a WIC grocer?

WIC staff will objectively apply the selection criteria to each grocer applicant. Only applicants meeting all the selection and limitation criteria will be selected as eligible WIC authorized Grocers. The determination of eligibility is not subject to appeal.

Grocer Training

What is the purpose of grocer training?

All grocer training is designed to prevent program errors and noncompliance, and to improve program service.

How often do grocers have to attend training?

New grocers must attend training before initial authorization. All authorized grocers must attend at least one interactive training session during their period of authorization.

The state agency will also schedule and require additional training for grocers who are not meeting program requirements on an as needed basis.

What are the state agency's responsibilities?

- Provide interactive training before a new grocer is authorized
- Provide training annually to at least one representative of each store
- Designate the date, time, and location of the interactive training, and who should attend (for example, managers or cashiers)
- Provide at least one alternate date for interactive training
- Document the content of grocer training and attendance

What are the grocer's responsibilities?

- Attend training as required by the state agency
- Train cashiers and other staff on relevant program requirements
- Maintain documentation of training provided

What are acceptable methods of training?

- In person, classroom style training for store managers or corporate trainers
- In person training at the store for managers or cashiers
- Interactive training by webinar

- Training newsletters and grocer blog
- Informal training during site visits, or by phone or email

What does required training include?

- Information about the purpose of the WIC program
- Specific foods authorized by Vermont WIC
- The minimum inventory of approved WIC foods that the grocer must keep in stock, including the types, brands, sizes and quantities
- Procedures for completing WIC transactions
- The grocer sanction system
- The grocer complaint process
- The claims procedure
- The authorized list of infant formula distributors, wholesalers and grocers for WIC formula
- The policy regarding the use of incentive items
- Any changes to program requirements that have occurred since the last annual training.

What happens if a grocer fails to attend a training session?

If a grocer misses a required training, they will have one opportunity to reschedule to an alternate date. If the grocer misses training on the alternate date, their application may be denied, or their agreement terminated.

WIC Approved Foods

Who decides what foods are WIC approved?

The types and quantities of foods authorized for the WIC Program are specified in federal regulations. These foods have been chosen because they are high in nutrients that meet the WIC Program's specific nutrient requirements. They include cereals, fruit juices, milks, yogurt, eggs, cheeses, beans, peas or lentils, peanut butter, canned fish, fruits and vegetables, whole grains, tofu, soy beverages, infant formulas, jarred baby foods and infant cereals. Each state develops a list of the specific types of foods and/or brands approved for its WIC Program. Additional factors the state may consider when designating approved foods include: regional preferences, availability throughout the state, package sizes and competitive pricing.

What foods are on the Vermont WIC approved food list?

The Approved Product List (APL) is available on the Vermont WIC program website. Only the varieties, brands and package sizes listed are approved. The specific UPCs for the approved products on Vermont's APL are included in our UPC database. The APL is updated annually while the UPC database is updated regularly and posted at least monthly

<http://www.healthvermont.gov/children-youth-families/wic/grocers>

Why are only certain types of infant formula approved?

WIC regulations require each state to have a cost containment plan in place for infant formula.

What are the requirements for infant formula purchases?

Vermont WIC has a competitive bid contract with Abbott Nutrition for all standard infant formulas including Similac Advance, Similac Sensitive for Spit-Up, Similac Sensitive for Fussiness & Gas, Similac Total Comfort and Similac Soy Isomil.

Infant formulas must be purchased from the list of wholesalers, distributors, retailers, or manufacturers provided by the Vermont WIC program. You may not purchase formula from any other source. See [Appendix 6 for Vermont's list of Approved Infant Formula Suppliers](#).

Substitution of other formulas is prohibited unless the WIC food benefits list clearly specifies another brand.

In addition, the following restrictions on formula purchases apply:

- A participant may not purchase formula and later exchange it for another formula.
- A participant may not purchase another type of formula if the brand printed on the WIC food benefits list or balance inquiry is out of stock.
- A participant may not purchase formula and later return it for cash. If you suspect that someone is requesting a cash refund for infant formula purchased with an WIC card, please report the information to the State WIC office. Remember, under no circumstances may a customer purchase a different formula than their food benefits list or balance inquiry specifies.

NOTE: The rebate contract goes out for bid every few years, and the contract brand may change from time to time. At the time the bids are awarded, all WIC Grocers will be notified. As the contract formula represents over 98% of WIC formula purchases, a change in the company awarded the contract will make quite a difference in the movement of your infant formula stock.

Managing WIC in Your Store

What are the responsibilities of families when shopping with WIC?

WIC families are responsible for using their WIC cards correctly. WIC families receive training where they are given information about how to shop with their card, how to identify and select WIC foods; and, where to shop. Families receive the *WIC Foods Guide* showing which foods are approved, a copy of their Family Food Benefit List and the *WIC Program and Shopping Guide*.

How does a WIC transaction work?

In stores with integrated POS systems, WIC foods do not need to be separated from other items at checkout. The WIC enabled POS system will automatically identify the items that are approved for WIC in that transaction and produces a receipt showing which items will be included in the WIC purchase. The customer reviews the list of items for purchase and will approve or decline the WIC purchase, and may use other forms of payment for any remaining items.

In stores with stand beside terminals, WIC foods must be separated from other items and processed as a separate transaction.

If a person has a WIC card and successfully enters the PIN, the cashier must accept the WIC card for the WIC approved items in the transaction. Cashiers may not request identification as part of authorizing an WIC transaction.

- The grocer must scan each item and is prohibited from scanning any UPC code that is not affixed to the actual item being purchased by the WIC participant, or any UPC code as a substitute, replacement or otherwise not actually affixed to the actual item being purchased by the WIC participant.
- The grocer must assure that the price affixed to the scanned UPC code in the point of sale device is not greater than the price displayed on the package, container, shelf or other sign in the store for the purchased item.

*Families that foster children may have multiple WIC cards since each Foster Child has their own card. These families may have more than one WIC transaction to process per trip through the lane.

What items may a family purchase with WIC?

Families can purchase the specific food items listed on their Family Food Benefit List. The same list can be printed by conducting a “balance inquiry”; the available balance will print on the receipt generated from this transaction.

- The family is not required to purchase all of the foods on their Family Food Benefit List.
- WIC families must receive the food item that corresponds specifically to the UPC code scanned during the transaction.

In addition to the specific food items listed on the WIC Family Food Benefit List, most families have a dollar amount in their account for purchasing WIC approved fruits and vegetables.

- Families may purchase any variety of fresh, frozen or canned fruits and vegetables that do not have added sugar, salt, fats, oils or non-fruit/vegetable ingredients.
- If the value of the selected fruits and vegetables exceeds the WIC benefit available, the family may choose to pay the difference using any other source of payment (cash, SNAP benefits, debit, credit or gift card).
- The family may also choose to return a portion of their fruit and vegetable purchase rather than paying the difference.

Purchases that include more than 40 WIC items may be unable to be processed correctly. It's important to know the threshold set in your POS.

What courtesies may a store offer to WIC families?

These courtesies must be extended if offered to other customers:

- **Sales:** If there is a sale price on a WIC food item, then WIC is charged the sale price. If there is a special where an extra quantity is given at the usual price for the quantity and size of an approved item (e.g., 22 oz of peanut butter for the approved 18 oz size), then the family may purchase the sale item.
- **Manufacturer coupons:** Manufacturer coupons must be accepted from a WIC family in conjunction with an WIC purchase, if the coupon is for a food item type, brand and package size included on the Family Food Benefit List.
- **Buy One, Get One Free:** When WIC should be charged for the cost of the one item, that item must be a Vermont WIC Approved item that appears on the participant's WIC food benefits list. The participant then may receive the "free" item. The "free" item must not be counted as part of the WIC purchase and no charge for the "free" item shall be made to the WIC Program. If any amount is made to the WIC Program for the "free" item then this item becomes part of the WIC sale and the Grocer is subject to sanction for providing more food than called for on the WIC benefit card.
- **Store Loyalty or Other Discount Card Program:** Grocers that provide loyalty or discount programs must allow WIC families to use them during a WIC transaction if they so desire. A WIC family may not be required to apply for nor use any loyalty or discount card program if they do not choose to do so.

Courtesies that may not be offered:

These courtesies may not be extended to WIC families, even if they are offered to other customers:

- **Substitutions:** Substitutions of any kind for the designated food types, brands, forms or package sizes are not allowed under any circumstances.
- **Exchanges and Refunds:** Stores may not exchange food items for another food item or product or to refund the purchase price of a food item that was purchased with a WIC card. Replacement of spoiled, defective, or damaged WIC food with the exact same food, which is fresh and undamaged, is allowed.
- **Rain Checks:** Stores may not offer a rain check for items that were not in stock at the time of the original WIC purchase.
- **Credit Accounts:** Some stores have programs in which an individual may get food or other items now and settle the bill at a later date. This procedure may be commonly called a “due bill” or allowing a “credit account” for an individual or family. Stores may not accept a WIC card as payment for these types of accounts.

Customer Service, Confidentiality and Complaints

What is required for good customer service?

Treat WIC shoppers with the same courtesy and respect as you do all shoppers.

To make the WIC shopping experience a great one:

- *Be pleasant.* Make sure your body language and tone of voice, as well as your actual words, are welcoming.
- *Be patient.* A WIC transaction may take a little longer than other transactions.
- *Be respectful.* Don't break confidentiality rules by mentioning that someone is on WIC. Don't say "WIC" on the intercom when calling for assistance.

In accordance with federal law and USDA policy, authorized WIC grocers are prohibited from discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

What do I do if a WIC participant is physically or verbally abusive to store staff?

You should follow your store policy regarding abusive customers. You may also file a complaint with WIC by calling 802-863-7333 and asking to speak to a WIC program staff person, or by submitting a comment form to the helpdesk at WIC@Vermont.gov.

Routine Monitoring and Compliance Investigations

Who is responsible for monitoring grocers?

The state agency is responsible for monitoring grocers to determine whether they are in compliance with WIC regulations and grocer agreements.

Monitoring may include, but is not limited to:

- Secret shopper reports
- Eligibility criteria review, such as a minimum inventory check
- Educational visits
- Compliance buys
- Inventory audits

What is a secret shopper report?

A secret shopper is a WIC participant who has been asked by the WIC program to provide written feedback on their regular WIC shopping experience. Secret shoppers report on whether they were able to find the approved WIC foods on their family food benefits list, and on confidentiality and courtesy at checkout. Secret shopper monitoring helps WIC to identify customer service and training issues.

What is a routine monitoring review?

Routine monitoring may include a scheduled or unannounced visit to your store by a WIC program representative. The representative may be someone on the state or local staff, or another person designated by the state agency. He/she will introduce him/herself to a store representative, walk around the store and may observe operation of the WIC system and WIC transactions. A store representative is encouraged to accompany the WIC program representative.

What does the state agency do during a routine monitoring review?

Routine monitoring activities include, but are not limited to:

- Verifying that the grocer meets the minimum inventory requirement
- Collecting/verifying shelf prices of WIC approved foods

- Observing WIC transactions
- Interviewing grocer staff
- Checking compliance with other eligibility criteria, such as posting the “WIC accepted here” sign

How does the state agency determine who gets a routine monitoring review?

All grocers will receive at least one routine monitoring review during their agreement period. Some grocers may receive more than one visit. The state agency selects grocers by random selection, periodic/scheduled reviews, or because of complaints about the grocer from WIC families.

What are compliance investigations?

Compliance investigations consist of

- Compliance buys - unannounced, undercover/covert on-site visit in which an individual poses as a WIC participant, a parent or caretaker of an infant or child participant, or proxy, and purchases items in order to determine whether a grocer complies with their WIC agreement and the applicable regulations.
- Inventory audits - examination of food invoices or other proofs of purchase to determine whether a grocer has purchased sufficient quantities of WIC foods to provide participants the quantities redeemed by the grocer during a given period of time.

How does the state agency select grocers for a compliance investigation?

The state agency is required to conduct annual compliance buys for at least 5% of active grocers, prioritized based on the greatest potential for non-compliance. This requirement is a minimum, and does not preclude the state agency from performing compliance investigations on more than 5% of grocers. Each year, some grocers are randomly chosen for compliance buys, even if their potential for non-compliance is low.

How does the state agency document monitoring visits?

The state agency must document the following information for all monitoring visits, including routine monitoring visits and inventory audits:

- The date of the monitoring visit or inventory audit

- The name and signature of the reviewer
- The nature of any problems detected

For compliance buys, the state agency must document:

- The date of the compliance buy
- The name and signature of the reviewer
- The nature of any problems detected
- A description of the cashier involved in each transaction
- The types and quantities of items purchased, current shelf prices or prices charged to other customers, if available. Price information may be obtained before, during, or after the compliance buy.
- The final disposition of all items as destroyed, donated, provided to other authorities, or kept as evidence.

Violations and Sanctions

Does the state agency have to warn a grocer before applying a sanction?

Not always. If the State Agency finds that a grocer has committed a violation that requires a pattern of occurrences in order to impose a penalty, the State agency shall send a written warning to the grocer, unless the State agency determines, on a case-by-case basis, that notifying the grocer would compromise the compliance investigation. (7 CFR 246.12(h)(3)(xviii).

What types of activities are considered violations?

Category I Violations

Category I violations shall accrue 2 points per violation to be retained for 12 months. Category I violations shall consist of a pattern of the following:

- Failure to obtain infant formula from a source on the Vermont WIC Program approved list of authorized infant formula wholesalers, distributors and retailers.
- Failure to provide promotional specials or accept manufacturer or store coupons for WIC purchases, except that cash-only promotions may be denied to participants if denied to other customers using EBT, gift, credit or debit cards or personal checks for payment;
- Failure to provide security during the redemption process preventing the unauthorized disclosure of participant PIN numbers;
- Allowing untrained personnel to accept and process eWIC redemptions;
- Failure to clearly indicate the retail price of all WIC approved items, either individually on each item or at the shelf or point of display;
- Issuance of a raincheck or similar receipt to a WIC customer for unavailable WIC product(s);
- Failure to provide the participant with a receipt that meets EBT Operating Rules in effect at the time of this agreement (see Receipt Requirements);
- Failure to provide the capability for WIC participants to retrieve their currently available benefits balance upon request without requiring a purchase to be made;
- Failure to maintain premises in a clean and sanitary condition.
- Failure to offer WIC customers the same courtesies as offered to other customers.
- Failure to post “WIC Accepted Here” decal in a visible location on or near all incoming doors so participants know that the store is Authorized without entering the store.

Category II Violations

Category II violations accrue 3 points per violation, retained for 18 months. Category II violations shall consist of a pattern of the following:

- Contacting participants in an attempt to have them return to the store to fix a vendor error or to seek reimbursement for food costs not paid by the State Agency;
- Charging participants, a fee, either directly or indirectly, arising out of or associated with operating, maintaining, or processing WIC Card transactions;
- Asking the participant for identification. The PIN, along with a valid WIC Card is the sole source of identification needed to process a WIC Card transaction;
- Accepting the return of items purchased with an eWIC card for cash or credit towards other purchases;
- Requiring cash purchases in order to redeem WIC benefits;
- Failure to keep all WIC participant information confidential, and at no time confiscate the WIC Card, or ask for or enter the cardholder's PIN;
- Requiring participants to use special checkout lanes, except that participants may be limited from cash-only or maximum item lanes if other customers using EBT, gift, credit or debit cards for payment are also so limited.

Category III Violations

Category III violations shall accrue 12 points per violation to be retained for 18 months. Category III violations shall consist of a pattern of the following:

- Failure to allow WIC program representatives to complete on-site monitoring;
- Failure to pay claims for unauthorized costs assessed by the state agency;

Federally Mandated Sanctions

- A grocer convicted in court for the crime of trafficking in food benefits or cash-value vouchers, or for selling firearms, ammunition, explosives, or controlled substances, as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C. 802, in exchange for WIC cards shall be permanently disqualified from program participation, effective on the date of receipt of the notice of disqualification
- A grocer shall be disqualified from program participation for 6 years for a single incidence of buying or selling WIC cards for cash trafficking or a single incidence of selling firearms, ammunition, explosives, or controlled substances as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C 802, in exchange for food benefits
- A grocer shall be disqualified for 3 years for:
 - A single incidence of the sale of alcohol or alcoholic beverages or tobacco products in exchange for WIC benefit OR
 - A pattern of 3 or more incidences within a 12-month period of:
 - Charging the state agency more for an approved supplemental food than non-WIC customers or charging the state agency more than the current shelf price permitted under the grocer agreement OR
 - Receiving, transacting or redeeming WIC benefits outside authorized channels, including the use of an unauthorized grocer or an unauthorized person OR
 - Charging the state Agency for supplemental food not received by the participant OR
 - Providing credit or non-food items in exchange for WIC benefits
 - Claiming reimbursement for the sale of an amount of a specific food item which exceeds the store's documented inventory of the food item for a specific period of time
- A grocer shall be disqualified for one year for a pattern of 3 or more incidences within a 12-month period of providing unapproved food items in exchange for WIC benefits, including charging for supplemental food provided in excess of those listed on the Family Food Benefit List;
- In accordance with 7 CFR 246.12(l)(1)(vii) a grocer who has been disqualified from the 3SquaresVT/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program shall:
 - Be disqualified from WIC program participation for the same length of time as the 3SquaresVT/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program disqualification which may begin at a later date than SNAP disqualification AND
 - Not appeal the WIC program disqualification to federal administrative or judicial tribunals AND
- A grocer who has been assessed a 3SquaresVT/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program civil money penalty for hardship in lieu of disqualification from the 3SquaresVT/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program shall be disqualified from WIC program participation, the length

of which shall correspond to the period for which the grocer would otherwise have been disqualified in the 3SquaresVT/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

- Failure to meet rules or standards of another state agency or local health agency which results in suspension of license shall result in a disqualification period not to exceed the federal limit as cited in 7 CFR 246.12(l)(2)(i) of one year in length and remain in effect until such rules or standards are met and license reinstated.
- A grocer who is disqualified from participation in another program administered by the state shall be disqualified for a period not exceeding one year from program participation for an equal number of months as the other program disqualification. Per 7 CFR 246.12(i)(2)(iii) – The State may opt to disqualify a vendor or assess CMP for any cross-border store that has been disqualified or assessed a CMP by another WIC SA for a mandatory vendor sanction.

What happens when there are multiple violations during a single investigation?

If a grocer has committed multiple violations during a single investigation, the state agency will disqualify the grocer for the period corresponding to the most serious mandatory violation. However, the state agency shall include all violations in the notice of administrative action. If a mandatory sanction is not upheld on appeal, then the state agency may impose a state agency-established sanction. (7 CFR 246.12(l)(1)(xii))

Are there any actions in addition to sanctions?

The State agency will refer food grocers and participants who abuse the program to Federal, State or local authorities for prosecution under applicable statutes, where appropriate. Under 7CFR 246.23(d) of the Federal Regulations, whoever embezzles, willfully misapplies, steals or obtains by fraud any funds, assets or property provided under section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, as amended, whether received directly or indirectly from USDA, or whoever receives, conceals or retains such funds, assets or property for his or her own interest, knowing such funds, assets or property have been embezzled, willfully misapplied, stolen, or obtained by fraud shall, if such funds, assets or property are of the value of \$100 or more, be fined not more than \$25,000 or imprisoned not more than five years, or both, or if such funds, assets or property are of a value of less than \$100, shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both. (7 CFR 246.12(l)(7)). Sanctions and violations are subject to periodic revisions by State agency office.

How does disqualification or termination affect grocers?

Grocers disqualified from the Vermont WIC program may not accept WIC cards during the period of disqualification. Disqualified grocers do not have automatic reinstatement rights at the end of the disqualification period. After the disqualification period ends the grocer may apply for authorization. Application does not ensure authorization. The Vermont WIC program reserves the right to deny authorization to any applicant who was previously disqualified from the WIC Program.

Grocers terminated from the Vermont WIC program may not accept WIC cards after termination. Terminated grocers do not have automatic reinstatement rights to the program, but may reapply for authorization. Application does not ensure authorization. Vermont WIC program reserves the right to deny authorization to any applicant who was previously terminated from the WIC program.

What are the notification procedures for disqualifying or terminating a grocer?

When the state agency has determined a grocer will be disqualified or terminated:

- A letter will be sent outlining the cause for disqualification or termination, the beginning and ending date of the disqualification or termination period, the grocer's right to appeal the decision, and the procedures for an administrative review.
- The letter will be signed by a WIC program representative and sent certified mail, return receipt requested, at least 30 calendar days prior to the disqualification/termination start date.
- After receiving the return receipt, 15 calendar days (from the date on the return receipt) will be allowed as a waiting period for the grocer to appeal the decision.

When is a grocer not permitted to voluntarily withdraw from WIC?

The State agency shall not accept voluntary withdrawal of the grocer from the Program as an alternative to disqualification for violations with federally mandated sanctions. All disqualifications for violations with federally mandated sanctions shall be entered on record and reported to SNAP. (7 CFR 246.12(l)(1)(viii)).

What is a civil money penalty?

As an alternate sanction, the state agency may assess a civil money penalty in lieu of disqualification in order to emphasize the seriousness of program compliance and to allow the grocer to continue to serve an otherwise uncovered participant group. A civil money penalty does not, however, relieve the grocer of financial liability for previous compliance issues such as outstanding overage and/or

overcharge reimbursements or payments due for sale of unauthorized foods. Grocers must pay these outstanding liabilities in addition to the civil money penalty.

When does the State agency use a civil money penalty?

Under special circumstances, the state agency may choose to waive disqualification of an abusive grocer or non-compliant grocer. The state agency uses civil money penalties where the disqualification of the grocer would cause a hardship, not just an inconvenience, to participants. Participant hardship is not the same as participant inconvenience or preference. Grocers may not appeal or protest State agency decisions based on participant access or preference.

Does the state agency always impose a civil money penalty?

Regardless of participant hardship, the state agency will not offer a civil money penalty if the disqualification is based on:

- Buying or selling WIC benefit cards for cash (trafficking)
- Overcharging the program, with the intent to defraud.
- A grocer refuses to be monitored to supply the program with supplier's invoices
- A grocer refuses to accept mandatory training.
- A grocer has been disqualified from or has been assessed a civil money penalty by the SNAP Program in the past two years
- Third or subsequent mandatory sanctions, as listed in 7CFR246.12(l)(1)(vi).

Can a grocer request a civil money penalty in lieu of disqualification?

No. If the state agency has determined that a civil money penalty is not appropriate, a grocer does not have the option to pay a civil money penalty to avoid disqualification.

When does the state agency notify FNS of sanctions and penalties?

The state agency must provide the appropriate FNS office with a copy of the notice of administrative action and information on grocers it has either disqualified or imposed a civil money penalty in lieu of disqualification for any of the violations listed in paragraphs 7 CFR 246.12(l)(1)(i) through 246.12(l)(1)(iv).

This information shall include:

- the name of the grocer, address, identification number
- the type of violation(s)
- the length of disqualification or the length of the disqualification corresponding to the violation for which the civil money penalty was assessed

Notification shall be provided within 15 days after the grocer's opportunity to file for a WIC administrative review has expired or all of the grocer's WIC administrative reviews have been completed.

Changes in Business Operations

When does a grocer need to notify the state agency about changes in business operations?

A grocer must notify the State agency, in writing, at least 15 calendar days before any change in grocer ownership, store location, or cessation of operations.

Does a grocer need to notify the State agency if there is a temporary store closure?

Yes. The grocer must notify the state agency immediately, via telephone, and receive authorization from the state agency in the event that a store will be closed for any days and times other than those specified on the application information sheet.

Can a grocer sell his or her WIC authorization with the store?

No, the WIC agreement is not transferable. Agreements become null and void if ownership of the store changes. New owners must apply to the program on their own behalf.

What happens to the agreement if there is a cessation of operations?

The state agency is required to terminate the agreement.

What happens to the agreement if the store moves?

The state agency has the discretion to determine whether a change in location would necessitate a termination of the agreement. Factors that the state agency considers are miles moved, moving from one local agency area to another, moving closer or farther from other existing stores and how participant access will be affected.

WIC/SNAP Information Sharing

Can the state agency share information with staff in the SNAP?

Yes. The State agency may disclose confidential grocer information to persons directly connected with the administration or enforcement of SNAP. The State agency will share any information necessary with persons investigating or prosecuting SNAP violations

Does the State agency share information with SNAP on a regular basis?

Yes. Vermont WIC includes a report of authorized grocers in the annual WIC State Plan. The report contains the:

- grocer name
- store address
- WIC grocer identification number
- store owner name

Does the State agency assist in SNAP investigations?

Normally, WIC investigations and SNAP investigations are separate. Upon request, the State agency will coordinate investigative efforts with SNAP.

Incentive Items

What does the term *incentive item* mean?

An incentive item is merchandise or other giveaways made available to all customers.

What types of incentive items are acceptable?

- Merchandise obtained at no cost to the grocer and provided to all customers without cost
- Food or merchandise of nominal value. Nominal value means a per item cost of less than \$2.00
- Food sales and specials which involve no cost or nominal value for the grocer, and do not result in a charge to the family's WIC account in excess of the foods shown on the Family Food Benefit List.

What types of incentive items are not allowed?

- Grocers are not allowed to offer ANY incentives for the purpose of attracting WIC participants only
- The WIC acronym or logo cannot be used on incentive items
- Grocers cannot give or sell an incentive item for less than cost
- Under no circumstances are grocers allowed to offer cash, alcohol, tobacco or lottery tickets to WIC participants as an incentive, even if these items are being offered to non-WIC customers.

Are buy-one-get-one-free promotions considered incentive items?

No, buy-one-get-one-free promotions are not considered incentive items.

Manufacturers, Wholesalers, Distributors and Grocers

In accordance with the federal Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004, P.L. 108-265, authorized WIC grocers must purchase infant formula only from the sources approved by the state. The list provided by the Vermont WIC program is to ensure that Grocers are providing infant formula to WIC participants approved by the FDA.

As a Vermont WIC authorized grocer, you must obtain infant formula only from the sources listed in the directory provided by the state. See [Appendix 6 for Vermont's List of Approved Infant Formula Suppliers](#)

Authorized WIC grocers must be able to provide invoices showing infant formula was purchased from an approved manufacturer, wholesaler, distributor or grocer.

Grocers may not appeal the State's decision to include or exclude an infant formula wholesaler, grocer, distributor or manufacturer.

Appendix

- 1. WIC Grocer Application**
- 2. Grocer Enablement**
- 3. Mandatory Minimum Inventory Checklist for Chains, Large Grocers and Large Coops**
- 4. Mandatory Minimum Inventory Checklist for Small Grocers and Small Coops**
- 5. Vermont WIC Price Survey**
- 6. List of Approved Infant Formula Suppliers**
- 7. Comment Form**

Introduction

The Vermont WIC Program will consider applications for the authorization period beginning October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2021. Current WIC authorized Grocers and new Grocer applicants may apply.

Grocery stores must meet all eligibility criteria to become an authorized WIC Grocer. Only grocery stores that are authorized as WIC Grocers by the State of Vermont WIC Program may redeem Vermont WIC benefits.

Questions: Contact the WIC Vendor Unit at 1-800-649-4357 or (802) 652-4183. You can also send an email to WIC@Vermont.gov attention: WIC Vendor Manager.

VT WIC Retail Grocer Application Process

Current Grocer Applicant: If you are a current Vermont WIC authorized grocer, you will need to fill out this application (Part I) and submit a signed grocer agreement (Part III) to be reauthorized for the 3-year cycle beginning October 1, 2018.

New Grocer Applicant: If you are a new grocer applicant, you will complete this application (Part 1), Part II and Part III to be authorized for the 3-year cycle beginning October 1, 2018.

Part I - Complete and submit the Vermont WIC Retail Grocer Application. This application collects required store information and key contacts.

Part II – Complete a Price Survey of selected WIC food items. This is only required for NEW grocers; re-authorization does not require a price survey. After we receive your on-line application, we will send you a separate Excel spreadsheet containing the price survey. Federal law requires us to collect this information as part of the application for WIC authorization.

Part III – Review and sign the Retail Grocer Agreement. The agreement must be signed by a company representative legally authorized to execute the agreement, and it must be returned to Vermont WIC in order to have a complete application.

In addition to completing all parts of the application, the authorization process includes:

- a) training
- b) site visits to your store
- c) finalizing the written agreement

Note: WIC Grocer authorization cannot be transferred from one owner to another. A new application must be submitted.

Thank you for your interest in the Vermont WIC Program.

Application - WIC Grocer information

* Are you a current Vermont WIC authorized grocer?

Application - WIC Grocer information

* What is your WIC Grocer ID number?

Application - SNAP information

* Are you a current SNAP grocer?

Yes

No

Application - SNAP information

* What is your SNAP ID #

Application - Business information

* Annual sales determine which Peer Group an authorized grocer is placed into. What is the total dollar amount of annual sales, including hot food?

* What is the Corporation or Partnership or Cooperative Business Name?

If the store operates under a different name, what is that name (e.g., "Doing Business As")

* How does this business operate?

Application - Business contact information

* Provide name, address and telephone number of principal owner:

First Name

Last Name

Title

Address

Address 2

City/Town

State

ZIP/Postal Code

Telephone

Fax

Email

* What is the physical address for the retail grocery store?

Address

Address 2

City/Town

State

ZIP/Postal Code

* Please provide main telephone numbers for your business:

Main telephone number

Main fax number

What is the mailing address for the retail grocery store? (If different from Physical Address)

Address

Address 2

City/Town

State

ZIP/Postal Code

Primary Contact if different from OWNER listed above.

First Name

Last Name

Title (eg. Co-Owner, Store Manager, etc)

Phone Number

Fax Number

Email Address

* If you provided multiple addresses for your company above, which address should we use for your primary contact?

Application - Training contact information

* How will your store/company assure that all staff who oversee or process WIC transactions will receive ongoing training?

- At least one member of our company/store management will attend the annual Vermont WIC training and the company will be responsible for training all store-level staff.
- All store-level staff involved in processing WIC will attend Vermont WIC provided training.

* Who is responsible for Cashier Training for your store?

- Owner
- Primary contact
- Other

Application - Training contact information

* Please identify and provide contact information for the Cashier Training contact for your store.

First Name

Last Name

Title

Phone Number

Fax Number

Email Address

Application - POS/ECR contact information

* Who is the contact for your store's Point-of-Sale (POS)/Electronic Cash Register(ECR) system?

* Please provide your cash register/Point of sale system contact's information:

First Name

Last Name

Business Name (if applicable)

Phone Number

Fax Number

Email Address

Application - Business integrity

* Does any owner, corporate officer or store manager have any relationship with individuals employed by USDA or the Vermont WIC Program?

Yes

No

Application - Business integrity

* Please provide name(s), title(s), and describe nature of relationship(s).

Application - Compliance with SNAP Regulations

* Is your store currently participating in the SNAP/3 Squares VT program?

Yes

No

* Has your store ever been disqualified from the SNAP program in Vermont?

Yes

No

* Has anyone involved in ownership or management of your store ever been involved in a store that was disqualified or fined by SNAP or WIC program in any state?

Yes

No

* Has any owner, officer, board member or store manager of this company been convicted of a felony?

Yes

No

Application - Compliance with SNAP Regulations

* Please provide name(s), title(s), and describe felony conviction(s).

Application - Additional Selection Criteria

* Is your store a “full service” grocery store that stocks staple and fresh food products?

Yes

No

* Will your store be able to fulfill the minimum WIC foods inventory requirements year round?

Yes

No

* Is it possible that sales from Vermont WIC could ever constitute 50% or more of food sales in your store?

Yes

No

* How many cash registers does this store have that will accept WIC transactions?

* List the supplier from whom infant formula is purchased

Application - Store hours

* Is your store open 24 hours / 7 days each week?

Yes

No

Application - Store hours

* Is your store open a minimum of 8 hours a day, 6 days a week?

Yes

No

Application - Store hours

* To apply to be a WIC grocer, your store must be open a minimum of 8 hours per day, 6 days per week. Indicate the days and hours of operation your store is currently open and explain what changes you will make to meet the minimum store hours criteria.

Current Store Hours:

Provide the days and hours of operation for this store:

Monday Opening Time

hh	mm	-
----	----	---

Monday Closing Time

hh	mm	-
----	----	---

Tuesday Opening Time

hh	mm	-
----	----	---

Tuesday Closing Time

hh	mm	-
----	----	---

Wednesday Opening Time

hh	mm	-
----	----	---

Wednesday Closing Time

hh	mm	-
----	----	---

Thursday Opening Time

hh	mm	-
----	----	---

Thursday Closing Time

hh	mm	-
----	----	---

Friday Opening Time

hh	mm	-
----	----	---

Friday Closing Time

hh	mm	-
----	----	---

Saturday Opening Time

hh	mm	-
----	----	---

Saturday Closing Time

hh	mm	-
----	----	---

Sunday Opening Time

hh	mm	-
----	----	---

Sunday Closing Time

hh	mm	-
----	----	---

We will contact you within two weeks if we have questions about Part I of your application.

If you are a NEW applicant, we will send you the WIC Price Survey (Part II) to complete and submit using an Excel workbook. After we receive Part II of your application, we will contact you with information on the required training, site visits, certification of your eWIC system and the process for executing a signed agreement for authorization (Part III).

If you are renewing your authorization, we will send the primary contact instructions for executing the signed agreement for authorization (Part III).

If you have any questions please contact:

Tamela Ross-Little,
Vermont WIC Vendor Manager,
tamela.ross-little@vermont.gov
(802) 652-4183.

Appendix 2. Grocer Enablement

WIC Grocer Technical Requirements

Grocer Enablement

The Vermont WIC Nutrition Program issues food benefits through an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) system. The system benefits both the Grocer and the WIC customer by delivering seamless WIC transactions at each cash register, making the transactions like other debit or credit card transactions, and removing any stigma for the WIC customer.

WIC Grocers must have the capability to operate either an integrated or non-integrated multi-function system to accept WIC benefits. In either system, when a WIC card is swiped, the device will obtain the benefit balance for the WIC customer and match the scanned food/formula items against the Vermont Approved Product List (APL) to accept the WIC customer's purchases. The two different types of systems that enable Grocers to accept WIC benefits are:

Integrated – the WIC software is part of the store's cash register system. Integrating WIC into the Point-of-Sale (POS) system and normal business processes is the preferred solution as it allows Grocers to manage inventory, payment, and settlement for WIC items within the same system that manages transactions for cash and other tenders. The integrated system also provides a more streamlined purchase experience for the WIC customer.

Non-Integrated Single-Function System - the WIC Card software is on a WIC only POS device and is capable of supporting WIC payments. Grocers will need to reconcile the WIC transactions to their Electronic Cash Register (ECR) system.

Integrated POS Options

1. Upgrade Current System

Grocers can choose to upgrade their current POS system with an integrated WIC EBT certified Electronic Cash Register (ECR) system. An integrated ECR system, upgraded to accept WIC Card transactions, allows the Grocer to maintain their current POS and business processes while integrating WIC redemptions with other payment types.

2. Replacement System

Grocers that currently have no WIC EBT capability available in their existing system may choose to replace their POS systems with an updated integrated ECR. A full system replacement with an integrated ECR:

- allows Grocers to upgrade out-of-date equipment and processes while achieving WIC Card enablement
- supports seamless WIC transaction at the POS

- eliminates the need for WIC customers to separate items at the checkout (mixed basket)
- integrates WIC into Grocers' existing inventory, redemption, and settlement processes

The Grocer is responsible for all the costs associated with updating their current POS system's hardware and/or software or replacing their current POS system with an integrated WIC EBT certified ECR system.

For more information about the Grocer Enablement and the development and implementation of EBT systems for WIC. Go to <https://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/wic-electronic-benefits-transfer-ebt-guidance>.

Certification Process for Integrated Systems

If a store is integrated, a certification process must be completed in order to conduct WIC transactions. There are three certification levels:

- Level I is a pre-certification process where the software provider runs a number of transaction scripts and verifies the results.
- Level II certification occurs at the software provider's location and is conducted by Conduent (Vermont WIC EBT contractor). The transaction scripts are run again, and the results are verified by Conduent and WIC staff. This certifies that the cash register software will correctly handle WIC transactions.
- Level III certification is a live in-store test by State WIC staff to verify the proper installation and set-up of the store's cash register system. Level III tests include various scenarios for WIC transactions.

Non-Integrated POS Option

1. Single-Function System

The non-integrated single-function system consists of a stand beside terminal and item scanner that operates independently of Grocers' ECR system. The non-integrated single-function POS communicates with the EBT system through a phone line or internet connection and is entirely separate from the store's overall inventory. A non-integrated single-function POS system:

- supports WIC EBT payment tender types
- requires a 'double scan' – first against the single-function POS device and second through the Grocer's ECR system
- does not support mixed basket transactions (WIC items are the only items that can be transacted)

2. Overview of Single-Function Stand-beside technology

Used only for WIC purchases (SNAP and other card devices are separate)

Hand-held bar code scanner, PIN pad, plus a terminal device that includes card reader, key pad, and receipt printer. The scanner and PIN pad are connected to the terminal with cords. The terminal must have an electrical connection.

- Requires connection to VT WIC EBT through either dedicated telephone line or internet connection.
- Is not connected to store cash register system. Requires separate scan with key entered price and discount amounts. Daily totals are reported separately from other credit/debit transactions.
- You will be responsible for the monthly fee for the stand-beside equipment.



Connectivity Requirements

Requires dedicated landline telephone or internet connectivity. The unit must be connected at all times to conduct transactions and automatically download updates to the WIC food list.

Wiring Requirements

Requires wiring for telephone or internet, and also electrical power to the terminal unit.

Placement

Will be additional POS unit and peripherals in the lane. Hand-held scanner must be accessible to cashier in lane; keypad/card reader device must be accessible to both cashier and WIC card holder. PIN pad (on coiled cord) must be accessible to participant. Cashier must scan and enter prices, and card holder must enter PIN and approve transaction.

Transactions

WIC foods will have to be separated from other foods in the checkout lane, to be run through the WIC device.

Cashiers will have to run WIC transactions twice (once using WIC scanner/key pad, once in your own cash register). The WIC system is not connected in any way to your store ECR/POS and records, requiring you to do a separate reconciliation at the end of the day.

The WIC terminal automatically forwards the charge to WIC's contractor, Conduent, for each purchase; payment to you is automatic.

All cashiers will need to be trained to conduct these transactions efficiently and cordially.

Conduent is the host/processor that will handle the non-integrated single function terminals for stores using this type of POS system.

Any Grocer using the non-integrated single-function terminal will have an agreement with Conduent (our EBT contractor) for payments. You will need to provide Conduent with the necessary ACH information for deposit of funds owed to you for WIC. (Payment is made daily.)

The Grocer may be responsible for costs associated with the non-integrated single-function system.

Decision Questionnaire

Requirement	Yes	No
<p>Can you provide either a dedicated land telephone line or internet connection for the stand-beside? If you don't already have a telephone line you can dedicate or a "live" internet connection in your store, you will incur costs to have this installed and to maintain it.</p>		
<p>Can you provide electrical power for the WIC terminal device in lane?</p>		
<p>Can you make space on your lane for the WIC terminal device, the PIN pad and the hand-held bar code scanner?</p>		
<p>Do you accept that WIC transactions will have to be scanned and prices entered into the WIC terminal as a separate transaction from your store's ECR/POS system? ("double scanning")</p>		
<p>Will you confirm that all employees doing WIC transactions will be trained properly?</p>		
<p>Can you provide Conduent with the appropriate ACH information for your WIC payments?</p>		

If you can answer "Yes" to all requirements, then you can apply to be authorized as a Vermont eWIC retailer at this time.

Appendix 3: VT WIC Minimum Inventory Standard for Chains, Large Grocers and Large Co-ops

Use this checklist to determine if your store meets VT WIC’s required minimum inventory, and to periodically check/monitor your stores compliance with the standards.

Date _____ Store _____ Reviewer _____

CATEGORY SUBCATEGORY	QUANTITY REQUIRED ON SHELF	SIZE/CONTAINER	TYPE	TOTAL THIS CATEGORY	Met Quantity Requirement? Y/N	Met Variety Requirement? Y/N	If marginal, Delivery frequency?	Met MI Standard? Y/N
FRUITS & VEGETABLES								
NOTE: All WIC eligible FRESH Fruits and Vegetables are mapped to PLU code 4469. It is important to update your store’s POS on in conjunction with produce deliveries to be sure all fresh produce items eligible for WIC are mapped correctly.								
Fruits				Total Any Quantity of 16 Varieties				
Fresh	8 varieties	Fresh	Any WIC approved fresh fruits	Any quantity of 8 varieties				
Canned or Frozen	8 varieties	Canned or frozen	Any WIC approved canned or frozen fruits	Any quantity of 8 varieties				
Vegetables				Total Any Quantity of 16 Varieties				
Fresh	8 varieties	Fresh	Any WIC approved fresh vegetables	Any quantity of 8 varieties				
Canned or Frozen	8 varieties	Canned or frozen	Any WIC approved canned or frozen vegetables	Any quantity of 8 varieties				

CATEGORY SUBCATEGORY	QUANTITY REQUIRED ON SHELF	SIZE/CONTAINER	TYPE	TOTAL THIS CATEGORY	Met Variety Requirement? Y/N	Met Quantity Requirement? Y/N	If marginal, Delivery frequency?	Met MI Standard? Y/N
DAIRY (Eggs, Milk, Cheese, Yogurt, Soy Beverage, Tofu)								
Egg				Eggs 8 Dozen Eggs				
Medium or Large, White or Brown	8	Whole Dozen	Any WIC approved eggs					
Milk				Total 38 Milk (16 gallons, 8 half gallons, 6 quarts)				
Low-fat Milk	10	Gallons	Any WIC approved 1% or Nonfat (skim) fluid milk					
	8	Half Gallons						
	4	Quarts						
Whole Milk	6	Gallons	Any WIC approved Whole fluid milk					
	AND							
	2	Quarts						
Lactose-free Milk	4	Half Gallons	WIC approved Lactose-free 1% or Nonfat (skim) fluid milk					
	4	Half Gallons	WIC approved Lactose-free Whole fluid milk					
Cheese				Total 8 Pounds Cheese				
Blocks or Sliced American	8 lbs, minimum 2 varieties	8 oz and/or 16 oz blocks/bricks	Any WIC approved cheese					

CATEGORY SUBCATEGORY	QUANTITY REQUIRED ON SHELF	SIZE/CONTAINER	TYPE	TOTAL THIS CATEGORY	Met Variety Requirement? Y/N	Met Quantity Requirement? Y/N	If marginal, Delivery frequency?	Met MI Standard? Y/N
DAIRY (continued)								
Yogurt				Total 16 Yogurt				
Low-fat and nonfat Yogurt	10	32 oz Tubs	Any WIC approved Low-fat and nonfat yogurt					
AND								
Whole Milk Yogurt	6	32 oz Tubs	Any WIC approved Whole milk yogurt					
Soymilk Beverage				Total 12 Soymilk Beverage				
Refrigerated	6	64 oz	Any WIC approved Fortified soymilk beverage					
Shelf-Stable	0 Stock upon request	32 oz	Any WIC approved Fortified soymilk beverage					
Tofu				Total 8 Tofu				
Tofu	8	8 oz, 14 oz, and 16 oz packages	Any WIC approved tofu					

CATEGORY SUBCATEGORY	QUANTITY REQUIRED ON SHELF	SIZE/CONTAINER	TYPE	TOTAL THIS CATEGORY	Met Variety Requirement? Y/N	Met Quantity Requirement? Y/N	If marginal, Delivery frequency?	Met MI Standard? Y/N
WHOLE GRAINS				Total 36 Whole Grain Items				
Must carry these 4 whole grain subcategory options								
Bread	18, minimum 3 varieties	16 oz (1 lb) loaves	Any WIC approved bread					
Pasta	6	16 oz (1 lb) packages	Any WIC approved pasta					
Tortillas	6	16 oz (1 lb) packages	Any WIC approved tortillas					
Brown Rice	6	16 oz (1 lb) packages	Any WIC approved brown rice					
PEANUT BUTTER / BEANS, LENTILS, AND PEAS				Total 34 OR 26 Units				
Peanut Butter				Total 18 Jars				
Peanut Butter	18	16-18 oz jars	Any WIC approved peanut butter					
Beans, Lentils, and Peas				Total 16 Canned OR 8 Bags Dried				
Canned Beans	16, minimum 2 varieties	15-16 oz cans	Any WIC approved canned legumes					
OR								
Dried Beans, Lentils, and Peas	8, minimum 2 varieties	1 lb bags	Any WIC approved dried legumes					

CATEGORY SUBCATEGORY	QUANTITY REQUIRED ON SHELF	SIZE/CONTAINER	TYPE	TOTAL THIS CATEGORY	Met Variety Requirement? Y/N	Met Quantity Requirement? Y/N	If marginal, Delivery frequency?	Met MI Standard? Y/N
CEREAL								
Whole Grain Cereal (Hot or Cold)				Total 18 Whole Grain Cereal				
Hot or Cold	18, minimum 3 varieties	9-36 oz packages (9 oz min weight)	Any WIC approved Whole Grain cereal					
Other Cereal (Non-whole grain, Hot or Cold)				Total 12 Other Cereal				
Non-whole grain Hot or Cold	12, minimum 2 varieties	9-36 oz packages (9 oz min weight)	Any WIC approved cereal					
JUICE								
Children's Juice				Total 18 Children's Juice				
Shelf-stable or Refrigerated	12, minimum 2 varieties	64 oz bottles	Any WIC approved shelf-stable or refrigerated juice					
Frozen	6, minimum 1 variety	16 oz cans	Any WIC approved frozen juice					
Women's Juice				Total 20 Women's Juice				
Shelf-stable	12, minimum 2 varieties	48 oz bottles	Any WIC approved shelf-stable juice					
AND								
Frozen	8, minimum 2 variety	11.5 and/or 12 oz cans	Any WIC approved frozen juice					

CATEGORY SUBCATEGORY	QUANTITY REQUIRED ON SHELF	SIZE/CONTAINER	TYPE	TOTAL THIS CATEGORY	Met Variety Requirement? Y/N	Met Quantity Requirement? Y/N	If marginal, Delivery frequency?	Met MI Standard? Y/N
CANNED FISH				Total 12 Cans Fish				
Tuna, Salmon or Sardines	12	5 oz cans	Any WIC approved canned fish					
INFANT FORMULA AND FOODS								
Infant Formula				Total 36 Cans Formula				
Contract Brand	36	Cans	Abbott Similac Advance Powder 12.4 oz can UPC 070074559582					
Infant Foods				Total 104 Units (36 fruits, 36 vegetables, 24 meats, 8 cereal)				
Infant Fruits	36, minimum 3 varieties	4 oz jars	Any WIC approved infant **fruits	Total 36 jars **fruits				
Infant Vegetables	36, minimum 3 varieties	4 oz jars	Any WIC approved infant **vegetables	Total 36 jars **vegetables				
** Many infant fruit and vegetable combinations are WIC approved. Refer to the APL and UPC Database for all WIC approved products.								
Infant Meats	24	2.5 oz jars	2 varieties WIC approved infant meats	Total 24 jars meats				
Infant Cereal	8	8 oz boxes	Any WIC Approved infant cereal	Total 8 boxes infant cereal				

Appendix 4: VT WIC Minimum Inventory Standard for Small Independent Grocers and Small Coops

Use this checklist to determine if your store meets VT WIC's required minimum inventory, and to periodically check/monitor your stores compliance with the standards.

Date _____ Store _____ Reviewer _____

CATEGORY SUBCATEGORY	QUANTITY REQUIRED ON SHELF	SIZE/CONTAINER	TYPE	TOTAL THIS CATEGORY	Met Quantity Requirement? Y/N	Met Variety Requirement? Y/N	If marginal, Delivery frequency?	Met MI Standard? Y/N
FRUITS & VEGETABLES								
NOTE: All WIC eligible FRESH Fruits and Vegetables are mapped to PLU code 4469. It is important to update your store's POS on in conjunction with produce deliveries to be sure all fresh produce items eligible for WIC are mapped correctly.								
Fruits				Total Any Quantity of 8 Varieties				
Fresh	4 varieties	Fresh	Any WIC approved fresh fruits	Any quantity of 4 varieties				
Canned or Frozen	4 varieties	Canned or frozen	Any WIC approved canned or frozen fruits	Any quantity of 4 varieties				
Vegetables				Total Any Quantity of 8 Varieties				
Fresh	4 varieties	Fresh	Any WIC approved fresh vegetables	Any quantity of 4 varieties				
Canned or Frozen	4 varieties	Canned or frozen	Any WIC approved canned or frozen vegetables	Any quantity of 4 varieties				

CATEGORY SUBCATEGORY	QUANTITY REQUIRED ON SHELF	SIZE/CONTAINER	TYPE	TOTAL THIS CATEGORY	Met Variety Requirement? Y/N	Met Quantity Requirement? Y/N	If marginal, Delivery frequency?	Met MI Standard? Y/N
DAIRY (Eggs, Milk, Cheese, Yogurt, Soy Beverage, Tofu)								
Egg				Eggs 3 Dozen Eggs				
Medium or Large, White or Brown	3	Whole Dozen	Any WIC approved eggs					
Milk				Total 11 Milk (6 gallons, 5 half gallons)				
Low-fat Milk	6	Gallons	Any WIC approved 1% or Nonfat (skim) fluid milk					
	AND							
	3	Half Gallons						
AND								
Whole Milk	2	Gallons	Any WIC approved Whole fluid milk					
Cheese				Total 4 Pounds Cheese				
Blocks or Sliced American	4 lbs, minimum 2 varieties	8 oz and/or 16 oz blocks/bricks	Any WIC approved cheese					
Yogurt				Total 5 Yogurt				
Low-fat and nonfat Yogurt	3	32 oz Tubs	Any WIC approved Low-fat and nonfat yogurt					
AND								
Whole Milk Yogurt	2	32 oz Tubs	Any WIC approved Whole milk yogurt					

CATEGORY SUBCATEGORY	QUANTITY REQUIRED ON SHELF	SIZE/CONTAINER	TYPE	TOTAL THIS CATEGORY	Met Variety Requirement? Y/N	Met Quantity Requirement? Y/N	If marginal, Delivery frequency?	Met MI Standard? Y/N
DAIRY (continued)								
Soymilk Beverage				Soymilk Beverage is Optional, 0 Required				
Refrigerated	0 Stock upon request	64 oz	Any WIC approved Fortified soymilk beverage	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Shelf-Stable	0 Stock upon request	32 oz	Any WIC approved Fortified soymilk beverage	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Tofu				Tofu is Optional, 0 Required				
Tofu	0 Stock upon request	8 oz, 14 oz, and 16 oz packages	Any WIC approved tofu	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR

CATEGORY SUBCATEGORY	QUANTITY REQUIRED ON SHELF	SIZE/CONTAINER	TYPE	TOTAL THIS CATEGORY	Met Variety Requirement? Y/N	Met Quantity Requirement? Y/N	If marginal, Delivery frequency?	Met MI Standard? Y/N
WHOLE GRAINS				Total 6 Whole Grain Items				
Must carry <u>at least 3</u> of these 4 whole grain subcategory options								
Bread	2	16 oz (1 lb) loaves	Any WIC approved bread					
Pasta	2	16 oz (1 lb) packages	Any WIC approved pasta					
Tortillas	2	16 oz (1 lb) packages	Any WIC approved tortillas					
Brown Rice	2	16 oz (1 lb) packages	Any WIC approved brown rice					

PEANUT BUTTER / BEANS, LENTILS, AND PEAS				Total 11 OR 7 Units				
Peanut Butter				Total 3 Jars				
Peanut Butter	3	16-18 oz jars	Any WIC approved peanut butter					
Beans, Lentils, and Peas				Total 8 Canned OR 4 Bags Dried				
Canned Beans	8, minimum 2 varieties	15-16 oz cans	Any WIC approved canned legumes					
OR								
Dried Beans, Lentils, and Peas	4, minimum 2 varieties	1 lb bags	Any WIC approved dried legumes					

CATEGORY SUBCATEGORY	QUANTITY REQUIRED ON SHELF	SIZE/CONTAINER	TYPE	TOTAL THIS CATEGORY	Met Variety Requirement? Y/N	Met Quantity Requirement? Y/N	If marginal, Delivery frequency?	Met MI Standard? Y/N
CEREAL								
Whole Grain Cereal (Hot or Cold)				Total 8 Whole Grain Cereal				
Hot or Cold	8, minimum 2 varieties	9-36 oz packages (9 oz min weight)	Any WIC approved Whole Grain cereal					
Other Cereal (Non-whole grain, Hot or Cold)				Other Cereal is Optional, 0 Required				
Non-whole grain Hot or Cold	0	9-36 oz packages (9 oz min weight)	Any WIC approved cereal	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR

JUICE				Total 12 Juice				
Children's Juice				Total 6 Children's Juice				
Shelf-stable or Refrigerated	6	64 oz bottles	Any WIC approved shelf-stable or refrigerated juice					
OR								
Frozen	6	16 oz cans	Any WIC approved frozen juice					
Women's Juice				Total 6 Women's Juice				
Shelf-stable	6	48 oz bottles	Any WIC approved shelf-stable juice					
OR								
Frozen	6	11.5 and/or 12 oz cans	Any WIC approved frozen juice					

CATEGORY SUBCATEGORY	QUANTITY REQUIRED ON SHELF	SIZE/CONTAINER	TYPE	TOTAL THIS CATEGORY	Met Variety Requirement? Y/N	Met Quantity Requirement? Y/N	If marginal, Delivery frequency?	Met MI Standard? Y/N
CANNED FISH				Total 12 Cans Fish				
Tuna, Salmon or Sardines	12	5 oz cans	Any WIC approved canned fish					

INFANT FORMULA AND FOODS								
Infant Formula				Total 2 Cans Formula				
Contract Brand	2	Cans	Abbott Similac Advance Powder 12.4 oz can UPC 070074559582					
Infant Foods				Total 104 Units (36 fruits, 36 vegetables, 0 meats, 2 cereal)				
Infant Fruits	12, minimum 2 varieties	4 oz jars	Any WIC approved infant **fruits	Total 12 jars **fruits				
Infant Vegetables	12, minimum 2 varieties	4 oz jars	Any WIC approved infant **vegetables	Total 12 jars **vegetables				
** Many infant fruit and vegetable combinations are WIC approved. Refer to the APL and UPC Database for all WIC approved products.								
Infant Meats	0 Stock upon request	2.5 oz jars	2 varieties WIC approved infant meats	Infant meats optional	NR	NR	NR	NR
Infant Cereal	2	8 oz boxes	Any WIC Approved infant cereal	Total 2 boxes infant cereal				

Vermont WIC Price Survey

1. For each Category and/or Subcategory, please fill out all information in the yellow cells to complete the survey.
2. Product Name / Type: In the columns for Brand, Size and Price, enter your stores current information.
If you do not stock and item, place an asterisk (*) in the cell.
3. Brand: Enter the name of the product where not already entered.
4. Size: Enter the package size (ounces, pounds, can, etc.) for each product if blank.
5. Price: Enter the retail price (\$#.##).
6. Make sure to enter the date, store name, person completing survey, store address and phone number at the end of the survey.

Category	Subcategory	Product Name / Type	Brand	Size	Price
Fruits		Product Name / Type	Brand Name		
	Canned	Mandarin Oranges			
	Canned	Peaches			
	Frozen	Blueberries			
Vegetables		Product Name / Type	Brand Name		
	Canned	Corn			
	Canned	Greenbeans			
	Frozen	Broccoli			
	Frozen	Peas			
Whole Grains		Product Name / Type	Brand Name		
	Whole Wheat Tortillas			16 ounce	
	Corn Tortillas			16 ounce	
Whole Grains		Product Name / Type	Brand Name		
	Whole Wheat Bread			16 ounce	
	Whole Wheat Bread			16 ounce	
	Whole Wheat Bread			16 ounce	
Whole Grains		Product Name / Type	Brand Name		
	Brown rice			14 to 16 ounce	
	Brown rice			28 to 32 ounce	
	Instant Brown Rice			14 ounce	
Eggs		Product Name / Type	Brand Name		
	Eggs	Large Eggs	Store	Dozen	
		Large Eggs		Dozen	
Milk		Product Name / Type	Brand Name		
	Whole Milk	Store Brand	Store	Half Gallon	
		Store Brand	Store	Gallon	
		Regional Brand		Half Gallon	
		Regional Brand		Gallon	
	Low-Fat Milk	1% Milk - Store Brand	Store	Half Gallon	
		1% Milk - Store Brand	Store	Gallon	
		1% Milk - Regional Brand		Half Gallon	
		1% Milk - Regional Brand		Gallon	
		Skim or Fat Free Milk - Store Brand	Store	Half Gallon	
		Skim or Fat Free Milk - Store Brand	Store	Gallon	
		Skim or Fat Free Milk - Regional Brand		Half Gallon	
		Skim or Fat Free Milk - Regional Brand		Gallon	
	Lactose Free	Whole Lactose Free Milk		Half Gallon	
		Low-Fat Lactose Free Milk		Half Gallon	

Vermont WIC Price Survey

1. For each Category and/or Subcategory, please fill out all information in the yellow cells to complete the survey.
2. Product Name / Type: In the columns for Brand, Size and Price, enter your stores current information.
If you do not stock and item, place an asterisk (*) in the cell.
3. Brand: Enter the name of the product where not already entered.
4. Size: Enter the package size (ounces, pounds, can, etc.) for each product if blank.
5. Price: Enter the retail price (\$#.##).
6. Make sure to enter the date, store name, person completing survey, store address and phone number at the end of the survey.

Category	Subcategory	Product Name / Type	Brand	Size	Price
Milk Alternatives		Brand/Product Name / Type	UPC		
	Soy Beverage	8th Continent- Plain Original Label	0 53859 07066 3	64 oz - Half Gallon	
		Silk Original	'025293600270	64 oz - Half Gallon	
		Silk Vanilla Soy Milk	25293600393	64 oz - Half Gallon	
	Soy Beverage	Pacific Ultra Soy Plain (shelf stable)	0 52603 08200 6	32 oz - Quart	
	Goat Milk	Meyenberg whole or low fat milk	0 72904 00003 5	32 oz - Quart	
Cheese		Product Name / Type	Brand Name		
	Cheese	Cheddar		8 oz block	
		Cheddar		16 oz block	
		Mozzarella Cheese		16 oz block	
		American Slices		16 oz block	
Tofu		Product Name / Type	Brand Name		
	Tofu	Silken, Soft, Firm or Extra Firm)		14 to 16 ounce	
Yogurt		Product Name / Type	Brand Name		
	Whole Milk Yogurt			32 oz tubs	
				Store	32 oz tubs
	Low-Fat Yogurt			32 oz tubs	
				Store	32 oz tubs
Peanut Butter and Beans		Product Name / Type	Brand Name		
	Peanut Butter	Peanut Butter - Store Brand		16- 18 ounce	
		Peanut Butter - National Brand		16 - 18 ounce	
		Product Name / Type	Brand Name		
	Dried Beans, Lentils, Peas	Great Northern or Navy		16 ounce bag	
		Green split peas		16 ounce bag	
		Product Name / Type	Brand Name		
	Canned Beans	Black beans		15 -16 ounce can	
		Chick peas (garbanzo beans)		15 -16 ounce can	
Canned Fish		Product Name / Type	Brand Name		
	Chunk Light Tuna			5 ounce	
	Pink Salmon			7.5 ounce can	
Cereals		Product Name / Type	Brand Name	(9 - 36 ounce packages)	
Cold	Whole Grain	General Mills Cheerios (plain)			
		General Mills Multi-Grain Cheerios			
		General Mills Whole Grain Total			
		General Mills KIX			
		Kellogg's Frosted Mini-Wheats (Big Bite)			
		Post Banana Nut Crunch			
		Post Honey Bunches of Oats – Vanilla Bunches			
		Quaker Life (Regular)			
Quaker Oatmeal Squares (Blue box)					

Vermont WIC Price Survey

1. For each Category and/or Subcategory, please fill out all information in the yellow cells to complete the survey.
2. Product Name / Type: In the columns for Brand, Size and Price, enter your stores current information.
If you do not stock and item, place an asterisk (*) in the cell.
3. Brand: Enter the name of the product where not already entered.
4. Size: Enter the package size (ounces, pounds, can, etc.) for each product if blank.
5. Price: Enter the retail price (\$#.##).
6. Make sure to enter the date, store name, person completing survey, store address and phone number at the end of the survey.

Category	Subcategory	Product Name / Type	Brand	Size	Price	
Cereals - continued		Product Name / Type	Brand Name	<i>(9 - 36 ounce packages)</i>		
Hot	Whole Grain	Quaker Instant Oatmeal - Original				
Cold	Other	General Mills Cinnamon Chex				
		General Mills Rice Chex				
		General Mills Berry Berry Kix				
		Kellogg's Corn Flakes				
		Kellogg's Rice Krispies				
		Kellogg's Special K				
		Post Honey Bunches of Oats - Almonds				
Juice		Product Name / Type	Brand Name			
	Child's Juice			64 oz shelf stable bottle		
				64 oz shelf stable bottle		
				64 oz. REFRIGERATED carton/bottle		
				16 oz can Frozen concentrate		
	Women's Juice			11.5-12 oz can Frozen concentrate		
				11.5-12 oz can Frozen concentrate		
				48 oz shelf stable container		
Infant Formula		Product Name / Type	UPC			
	Infant Formula	Similac Advance (powder)	70074-55958	12.4 oz		
	Infant Formula	Similac Isomil Advance (powder)	70074-55964	12.4 oz		
Infant Foods		Product Name / Type	Brand Name			
	Infant Fruits			4 oz jar		
				4 oz jar		
				4 oz jar		
				4 oz jar		
	Infant Vegetables				4 oz jar	
					4 oz jar	
					4 oz jar	
					4 oz jar	
	Infant Cereal				8 ounce box	
					8 ounce box	
					8 ounce box	
					8 ounce box	
Date:		Store Name:		Person Completing Survey:		
Store Address/Location:				Phone:		

Authorized Infant Formula Suppliers

Policy

Federal law requires authorized WIC grocers to purchase infant formula directly from suppliers or manufacturers selected and approved by the Vermont WIC Program. These suppliers are listed on the Vermont Authorized Infant Formula Supplier List. The list includes manufacturers registered with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and wholesalers registered with the State of Vermont Department of Taxes. The Vermont WIC program does not permit authorized vendors to purchase WIC approved infant formula from other authorized vendors or retailers unless the supplier is approved by another state's WIC program (if the grocer is located in a border state). Border state authorized suppliers must be included on the Vermont listing.

Purpose

Federal WIC Regulations require that Vermont authorized grocers purchase all infant formula sold to WIC participants from authorized wholesalers and retailers contained on the list developed and maintained by the Vermont WIC Program.

Procedures

1. A current authorized list is posted on the Vermont website: healthvermont.gov and is available to applicants and authorized grocers. This list will be updated as suppliers are approved or disapproved.
2. New suppliers may be added via two scenarios: (1) an authorized WIC grocer would like to purchase from a source that is not currently on the list and (2) a supplier requests being added to the list. The authorized WIC grocer or prospective supplier must contact the Vermont Grocer Manager to submit such a request.
3. The Authorized Infant Formula Supplier List will be provided to all Grocers on an annual basis as part of the Annual Training which occurs in August and September.
4. Each vendor must maintain inventory records for a period of at least 3 years. These inventory records include but are not limited to: (1) inventory records showing all infant formula purchases, wholesale and retail, in the form of invoices identifying the wholesale or retail quantity and prices; (2) transfer records showing origination, destination, and quantity; (3) sales and use tax return; (4) books of account; and (5) other pertinent records necessary to substantiate the volume and the prices charged through eWIC transactions and for determination and verification of whether vendor is an above-50-percent vendor.

Vermont Authorized Infant Formula Supplier List

Type	Company	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone
Manufacturer	Abbott Laboratories	3300 Stelzer Road	Columbus	OH	43219	
Manufacturer	Mead Johnson	2400 West Lloyd Expressway	Evansville	IN	47721	
Manufacturer	Nestle, USA	12 Vreeland Road	Florham Park	NJ	07932	
Manufacturer	Nutricia North America	9900 Belward Campus Drive, Ste. 100	Rockville	MD	20850	
Manufacturer	PBM Nutritionals	652 Peter Jefferson Parkway, Suite 300	Charlottesville	VA	22911	
Manufacturer	ProLacta Bioscience	757 Baldwin Park Blvd	City of Industry	CA	91746	
Wholesaler	Amazon	http://www.Amazon.com				888-280-4331
Wholesaler	Associated Grocers of NE	11 Cooperative Way	Pembroke	NH	03275	603-223-6710
Wholesaler	Assuramed	1810 Summit Commerce Park	Twinsburg	OH	44087	888-394-5375
Wholesaler	Buzzuto's	275 Schoolhouse Road	Cheshire	CT	06410	203-272-3511
Wholesaler	Burlington Drug Company	91 Catamount Dr	Milton	VT	05468	802-893-5105
Wholesaler	C & S Wholesale Grocers	7 Corporate Drive	Keene	NH	03431	603-357-7301
Wholesaler	C & S Wholesale Grocers	47 Old Ferry Rd	Brattleboro	VT	05302	

Vermont WIC Policy and Procedures Manual FY 2020

Type	Company	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone
Wholesaler	Capitol Candy Co., Inc. Wholesalers	32 Burnham Street	Barre	VT	05641	800-639-2224
Wholesaler	Cardinal Drug	7000 Cardinal Place	Dublin	OH	43017	614-757-5000
Wholesaler	Hannaford/Delhaize America Distribution	1245 US RTE 202	Winthrop	ME	04364	207-377-2251
Wholesaler	Hannaford/Delhaize America Distribution	970 Route 9	Schodack Landing	NY	12156	518-766-2912
Wholesaler	McKesson Drug	401 Mason Road	La Vergne	TN	37086	
Wholesaler	Medline Industries, Inc.	1 Medline Pl	Mundelein	IL	60060	847-949-5500
Wholesaler	Price Chopper/Golub Corp	501 Duanesburg Rd	Schenectady	NY	12306	
Wholesaler	Shaw's Distribution Center	205 Spencer Drive	Wells	ME	04090	207-646-9616
Wholesaler	United Natural Foods Incorporated	Chesterfield Distribution Center, 71 Stow Drive	Chesterfield	NH	03443	603-256-3000
Wholesaler	Wal-Mart and/or Distribution	31 Alfred Plourde Parkway	Lewiston	ME	04240	207-344-2700



Vermont WIC Program Comment Form

Filed by:

Name/Title _____

Store Name _____

Location/Address _____

City/Town _____

May we contact you regarding this incident? Yes _____ No _____

Telephone _____

email _____

Comments about:

Family _____ WIC Staff _____ Other _____

Family Name _____

Last 4 digits of WIC card _____

Incident Date _____

Describe the nature of the issue. Provide details including a description of the issue and any related information. Include: lane number, any associated error messages and time.

Is this a new ____ or ongoing ____ issue? If ongoing, please provide any additional related information.

Describe Incident Resolution:

Please return the completed form by email or fax or call us at:

Vermont Department of Health - WIC Program
P.O. Box 70 Burlington, VT 05402
(802) 863-7333 phone (802) 863-7229 fax
WIC@Vermont.gov

Thank you for taking the time to share your comments with us.

State use:

Incident Form received by: Email _____ Fax _____ Mail _____ Phone _____

Received by _____ Date Received _____