



WIC Flash

News from the Arkansas WIC Program

5800 W. 10th Street, Suite 810, Little Rock, AR 72204

March 12, 2015

Arkansas Approved Food List Inserts - Additions and Changes

Following our recent WIC Flash (February 23, 2015), enclosed are the food list inserts for the additions and changes to the Arkansas WIC Program Approved Food List. Please insert/staple these inserts in the food lists (green) that you already have in your store. The changes and additions will be effective **APRIL 1, 2015**. Please plan to train your store staff on these changes **before** April 1. If you need additional inserts, please contact the WIC State Office, Food Delivery Section. Updated staff contact information was sent with the WIC Flash on February 23.

Juicy Juice Apple Juice

There still seems to be some confusion about the status of Juicy Juice Apple Juice (64 oz. and 46 oz.). Juicy Juice Apple Juice is NOT authorized on the current Arkansas WIC Program Approved Food List in either container size. Juicy Juice Apple is a single fruit juice (not blended with other juices) and therefore DOES NOT qualify under the blended juice category. All other Juicy Juice varieties are blended and qualify under blended juices. They are still subject to the least expensive brand rule and should be compared in price to other blended juices in the same flavors. Juicy Juice Apple is NOT approved under the single fruit category for apple juice.

Best Practices for Tagging the Appropriate WIC Items

Tagging of Arkansas WIC approved food items is a requirement of the Arkansas WIC Vendor Participation Agreement & Handbook (p. 9, #36). Tagging seems to remain a challenge for some vendors. We have developed a one-page best practices and procedures guide that can be copied and shared with store staff that has responsibility for tagging WIC items. A copy of that one-pager is enclosed. We will also post a copy on the Arkansas Dept. of Health website <http://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programsServices/WIC/Pages/default.aspx> under Vendor Management.

Reauthorization of Arkansas WIC Vendors

All current Arkansas WIC Vendor Participation Agreements end August 31, 2015. In order to help with your planning, we are providing this general calendar. More details will be provided as we get closer to the beginning of the process:

- May - Issuance of new selection criteria and application forms
- June - Mandatory vendor training
- July - On-site vendor visits
- August - Vendor follow-up and issuance of new vendor agreements

Next eWIC Conference Call

The next eWIC Conference Call is scheduled for Thursday, May 28, 1:30 – 2:30 pm. This is a call-in only meeting. All vendors and corporate representatives are welcome to participate. WIC staff will provide updates and respond to questions regarding the transition to an electronic benefits transfer system. Call Line: 1-877-336-1831; Access Code: 8951404 (if you have problems calling in, call 501-661-2508). If you would like to receive meeting agendas and minutes, please contact Teresa Guerrero to get on the e-mail distribution list. teresa.guerrero@arkansas.gov