

TERMINATION/SUSPENSION OF PROGRAM BENEFITS

Federal WIC regulations allow for termination of benefits to program participants within a certification period if the state WIC office experience funds management problems, such as an inability to maintain its current level of participation for the remainder of the fiscal year. Such action will be taken only after alternative actions have been explored. This termination action will be planned to affect the least possible number of participants and will be directed first to those at least risk.

Before terminating participants, the state WIC office will first explore alternative actions such as:

- Natural attrition combined with a moratorium on certifications
- Transfer of administrative funds to cover food costs
- Obtaining additional funding from private, local, state or federal sources
- Choosing lower-cost, but comparable food package items

Suspension of Benefits

Suspension of benefits is a temporary action which allows WIC food voucher issuance to be resumed when funds are available without participant reapplication. This may be the choice of action if the funds management problem or overspending is small and affected participants can be accommodated in the near future.

Termination of Benefits

Termination is a more permanent action requiring terminated participants to reapply for program benefits and be certified again. This may be the course of action if the funds management problem or overspending is substantial and distribution of benefits to affected participants is unlikely to be resumed in the current fiscal year.

Selecting Participants for Suspension or Termination

Participants may be selected for suspension or termination in the following manner:

- by lowest nutritional risk priority (or priorities)
- participants who only have one month left in their certification period
- participants at higher income ranges

Prior Notification to Participants

Local agencies must notify participants about to experience mid-certification suspension or termination of benefits in writing not less than 15 days prior to the date of the proposed action. The notification must include the reason for the suspension or termination and the right to a fair hearing.