

WIC Hardware

DECEMBER 2025

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State Provided Computers are no longer required

Many Local Agencies are now using locally provided hardware instead of State provided since transitioning to WINNIE. Because WINNIE is a browser-based system, there is no longer a need for the State to provide hardware with the WIC application installed.

As indicated in our [Hardware Update](#) in December 2024, as of January 2027 with the new Local Agency Grant Agreements, the State will no longer provide hardware to WIC local agencies. The State will continue to provide minimum specifications for computers to ensure that WINNIE runs effectively, as well as a listing of State tested and approved signature pads, card readers, and scanners so that Local Agencies have the information needed to purchase their own hardware.

Once this transition is complete, all troubleshooting and replacement of hardware will be provided by the Local IT. Surplus of equipment after this time will be handled at the local level.

Computer transition

By July 2026, Local Agencies will need to have either transitioned to their own hardware or decide to take over the maintenance of the state provided computers and hardware they are currently using.

Signature Pads, Card Readers, Scanners and Universal Port Replicators

In July 2026, Local Agencies will complete the Hardware Ownership Acceptance Form to take over the maintenance of the Signature Pads, Card Readers, Scanners and Universal Port Replicators. Once these agreements are signed, Agencies will be able to use their WIC grant to purchase additional signature pads, card readers, scanners and port replicators. A list of the approved devices tested with WINNIE will be made available on our website once all agreements have been received.

Equipment currently in the Hardware Depot at Gainwell

In May 2026, Gainwell will distribute the Signature Pads, Card Readers and Scanners currently on hand to Local Agencies. To make this distribution equitable we will be using the most recent closed out month of participation to determine the number of card readers, signature pad, and scanners that are available for each agency.

The following are currently available and may be requested using the Equipment/Supplies Request form. These must be requested and received by April 30, 2026., we will distribute until they are gone:

- Universal Port Replicators
- Computers
 - 7060 micros – 84
 - 5500 laptop – 144
 - 5510 laptop - 81

Returning hardware

All state provided hardware not being kept by an agency (not included on the on the Local Agencies Hardware Ownership Acceptance Form) must be returned to Gainwell by November 1, 2026. This will allow Gainwell to reconcile what was returned and surplus the extra hardware at that time.

To return hardware please call or email the Minnesota WIC Help Desk:

- Phone: **1-800-488-8799** - **press 2**, 2 for the regular help line.
Press 2, 1 if urgent (unable to issue benefits or serve participants).
- Email: mnhelpdesk@gainwelltechnologies.com

Reference – complete listing of hyperlinks

Hardware Update

(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/wic/localagency/wu/2024/hardware.pdf>)

Minnesota Department of Health - WIC Program, 625 Robert St N, PO BOX 64975, ST PAUL MN 55164-0975; 1-800-657-3942, health.wic@state.mn.us, www.health.state.mn.us; to obtain this information in a different format, call: 1-800-657-3942.

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