

WIC Matters Newsletter for Vendors

APRIL 2021 VOLUME 21 ISSUE 1

Required Vendor Training

Every three years ALL vendors must complete WIC refresher training to satisfy federal requirements. This year we are conducting this training through an online module. It is approximately 25 minutes long. A link to the training and more information can be found here:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/wic/vendor/training/modules/index.html>

Please complete the required training by August 1, 2021. Make sure you complete the survey at the end of the module so you get credit for taking the training.

Coming Soon: Additional Fruit & Vegetable Dollars, (Cash Value Benefits) for Women and Children on WIC June 1 – Sept 30, 2021

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 will allow a temporary increase of the WIC cash-value benefit for fruit and vegetable purchases. Normally children receive \$9.00 and women \$11.00 per month from WIC for fruits and vegetables. From June 1st through September 30th, children and women will each receive \$35.00 dollars for fresh and/or frozen fruits and vegetables.



What WIC vendors can do to help families spend their full value of fruit and vegetable dollars (CVB):

- Pay attention to stock and order more produce as needed to meet demand.

- Stores with integrated POS systems: Remember to map ALL produce to ensure families can purchase all WIC-allowed fruits and vegetables. Mapping Instructions: [Mapping of WIC Allowed Produce Items](#).
- Point out the end balance and encourage families to fully utilize the fruit and vegetable benefit.
- Remind your customers that frozen fruits and vegetables can be a great option if they have a large CVB balance
- Ensure your customers utilize WIC first for produce and foods ahead of SNAP; this allows families more flexibility with SNAP dollars as WIC is more restrictive.
- Train all cashiers on the increase in benefits to avoid confusion.
- Remind families to use the [My MN WIC App](#) to scan foods and see their balance. Remind them not to use the My MN WIC app Food Finder function for **fresh** produce; only frozen produce UPCs will work in the app.

With an increase in CVB, it is important to remind all vendors that this benefit can **ONLY** be used to purchase fruits and vegetables!

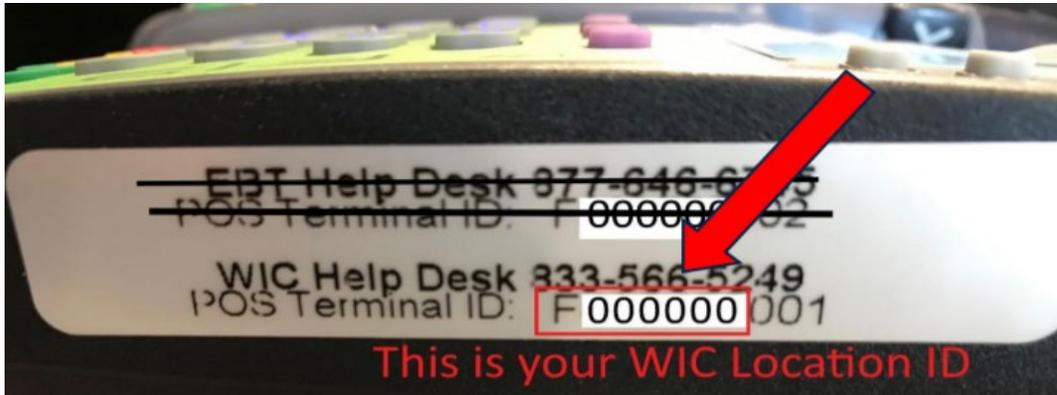
Misuse of the benefits can result in audits, claims, sanctions and/or termination.

Helpful Tips for Stand-Beside Stores Only:

- Call FIS at **1-833-566-5249** if:
 - Your stand-beside terminal is not working correctly.
 - You have payment questions.
 - You need training on your stand-beside terminal.

Please note: When calling FIS, you need the Location ID that is listed on the side of your terminal as your “POS Terminal ID”. It starts with “F” and includes the next 6 digits. Do not include the last 3 digits.

For example, if the side of your terminal says “F000000001”, your location ID is “F000000”, as shown in the photo below.



- When calling FIS, if possible, please note the date, time, and person you spoke with. This helps if you need to contact them a second time or experience delays in service or shipment of equipment.
- Because vendors lease stand-beside terminals through FIS, Minnesota WIC cannot resolve any problems you may experience with your stand-beside terminal. However, if your terminal has not been functioning for more than two weeks, and FIS has not resolved the issue, please contact the Minnesota WIC Program at health.wicvendor@state.mn.us. Please include details on the issue and the calls you have had with FIS.

References:

2021 Required Vendor Training -

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/wic/vendor/training/modules/index.html>

Mapping Instructions -

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/wic/vendor/training/ewic/mapping.pdf>

My MN WIC App –

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/wic/ewic/appbrochure.pdf>

For vendor related questions or concerns, please email health.wicvendor@state.mn.us

Minnesota WIC Program

PO Box 64882

St Paul MN 55164-0882

www.health.state.mn.us/divs/fh/wic

Phone: 651-201-4404

Toll free: 1-800-657-3942

Fax: 651-215-8951

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 Instructions](#) (https://www.ocio.usda.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2012/Complain_combined_6_8_12.pdf) (AD-3027) found online at: [Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights](#) (<https://www.usda.gov/oascr>) 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.

Minnesota Department of Health - WIC Program 85 E 7th Place, PO BOX 64882, ST PAUL MN 55164-0882; 651-201-4444, health.wic@state.mn.us, www.health.state.mn.us; To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-4444