



VENDOR UPDATE

Fall 2011

A Publication of the Maryland WIC Program
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Family Health Administration
Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

VENDOR PRICES

Prices for the fourth quarter of 2011 are due no later than October 14, 2011. **Please remember to provide your price list only on or after the effective date (October 1, 2011).** Chain stores (Giant, Safeway, Wal-Mart, Food Lion, etc.) should not submit price sheets. Your corporate contact person will submit prices for your entire chain. If you are responsible for submitting prices, please ensure that your UPC codes conform to the 8, 12, or 13 digit format – **do not substitute zeros in place of unknown digits!** Registered CART users are required to use the CART online system to submit prices for their stores. **Beginning in 2012, the Maryland WIC Program will only require semi-annual price submission. The submission dates will be April 1, 2012 and October 1, 2012.** If you have any question about shelf price submission, please contact Mr. Siwon Lee at 410-767-5433, Tiasha Taylor at 410-767-3519, or call 1-800-242-4WIC (4942) toll free.



2011 ANNUAL VENDOR TRAINING

Annual Training is currently underway. A schedule of dates was sent to all authorized vendors and contact persons in September. Annual Training is a mandatory requirement for WIC authorized vendors (chain stores may be represented by a designated individual). **Attending a Cashier Training Class does not fulfill your store's Annual Training requirement!** Please submit the registration form that was provided with the schedule indicating the desired date and location. Space is limited, so please register as soon as possible. If you are unable to attend any of the dates on the schedule, you will be notified when a make-up date is offered. If you have any questions, please contact James A. Butler at 410-767-5258, Mr. Siwon Lee at 410-767-5433, or Tiasha Taylor at 410-767-3519, or 1-800-242-4942 toll free.



VENDOR VIOLATIONS— REVISED SANCTIONS

On October 7, 2011, revisions to Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 10.54.03.16 – Vendor Sanction were published. The COMAR revision changes the number of repeat violations a vendor can commit before a one-year suspension is imposed from five in a two-year period to three in a one-year period. The number of cumulative violations has been reduced from 15 in a two-year period to five in a one-year period. The number of cumulative violations has been reduced from 15 in a two-year period to five in a one-year period. Code of Federal Regulation 246.12(l)(2)(i) require State agency vendor sanctions to be based on a pattern of violative incidences. For federal and state violations that require such a pattern, please be advised that the Maryland WIC Program considers two or more violations to constitute a pattern. If you have questions or comments, please contact James A. Butler at 410-767-5258 or call 1-800-242-4WIC (4942) toll free.



EBT UPDATE

The Maryland WIC Program is moving full steam ahead towards an eventual transition from paper based benefit delivery to electronic benefits transfer, also known as EBT. An initial planning meeting with stakeholders has been held and the initial stages of assessing vendor needs and infrastructure capabilities through a survey are currently being conducted. Anticipated next steps are additional stakeholder meetings to include retailers and development of an EBT technology comparison chart. State WIC staff will also attend upcoming conferences which will provide networking opportunities and exposure to the latest trends in WIC EBT. We will keep you abreast of our progress and encourage you to offer input and ask questions. You may contact James A. Butler at 410-767-5258, or our EBT Project Manager, Joseph Ferrara at 410-767-4462 or call 1-800-242-4WIC (4942) toll free.



MARYLAND WIC AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The Maryland WIC Program is joining the age of social media! Through the use of social media outlets such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, the WIC Program plans to provide useful information to WIC participants, vendors, and the general public. Links to these sites, when they are ready, will be available on our website, www.mdwic.org. Your thoughts and feedback are welcome! Please feel free to contact James A. Butler at 410-767-5258, or call 1-800-242-4WIC.



2011 CASHIER TRAINING

Below are available Cashier Training sessions through the end of the year. Cashier training is optional and is offered by the WIC Program to help you keep your cashiers properly trained. If you are interested in signing up your store staff, please use the registration form included with the schedule. The schedule and registration form are located at www.mdwic.org.

November 29—Cecil County; **November 30**—Wicomico County

December 5—Montgomery County, Frederick County; **December 12**—Harford County.

If you register for cashier training, please be sure to attend on the scheduled date. If you have questions or other training needs, please contact Siwon Lee at 410-767-5433, or Tiasha Taylor at 410-767-3519, or call 1-800-242-4WIC (4942) toll free.



The Vendor Update is a publication of the Maryland WIC Program.

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