

Vendor Update

A Publication of the Maryland WIC Program

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Family Health Administration

Summer 2004

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor – Michael S. Steele, Lt. Governor – Nelson J. Sabatini, Secretary



WIC Vendor Manual

Included with this Update is your 2004 WIC Vendor Manual. Please replace all of the pages of your current vendor manual. If you require additional copies or a WIC Vendor Manual binder, please contact JoAnn McGowen at 410-767-5351.



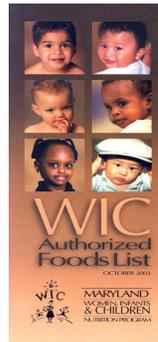
New Product Alert!

Kraft® Cracker Barrel® has introduced a new product called “Cracker Cuts.” These cheeses are packed in pre-cut slices suitable for eating with crackers. **Please be advised that this product is WIC Authorized as it is a domestic cheese.**



WIC Authorized Foods List

Please remember that the WIC Authorized Foods List is intended to help WIC Participants as well as vendors distinguish which foods are allowed and those that aren't. **Denying food items because they do not scan in your stores when they are clearly pictured on the food list will subject your store to sanctions.** Please also remember to report WIC participants attempting to purchase food items that are not reflected on the foods list



Kellogg's® has introduced a low-carb version of Special K® cereal. **This product is not WIC authorized.**



Land O Lakes™ Eggs are considered specialty eggs and as such are **not WIC authorized.** If you have questions about these or any other food item, please contact James A. Butler at 410-767-5258.



WIC Regulation Changes

We are in the process of drafting changes to the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR). Specifically, COMAR 10.54.03 – Retail



Food and Pharmacy Vendors. Some of the changes being proposed are: Requiring Food Stamp Authorization for all Maryland WIC vendors prior to WIC authorization, adding Lipil variety infant formulas to the minimum stock requirement, and elimination of powdered milk as a minimum stock item. **The changes are expected to be effective in the Fall.** Please contact this office if you have any comments or questions.

Infant Formula Issues

We have had a number of participants denied the purchase of some infant formulas because their checks did not read **“with Iron.”** Please be advised that in instances where space on the check does not permit the additional text, we opt to indicate the product name only. Additionally, none of the formulas in question are sold or labeled “without Iron.” If you have any questions, please contact the Nutrition Unit at 410-767-5242.



Vendor Prices

This office frequently receives calls from vendors indicating that it is necessary to increase the price of a WIC food item due to price increases from distributors. **The Maryland WIC Program does not set the price for WIC food items!** Prices for WIC food check types are compiled by our Management Information System based on the average redemption amount of WIC food checks. Your stores are assigned to Peer Groups in regions of the state along with stores of comparable size. Your stores' redemption amounts as well as those in the same Peer Group are averaged. If our bank rejects a WIC check, it means that the redemption amount exceeded the Peer Group average by 60 percent (the percentage above the Peer Group Average). **It is not necessary to request permission to increase the price of a WIC food item.**



Cashier Training Schedule

All WIC vendors should have received a schedule of cashier training dates for 2004. Cashier training is optional and is offered by the WIC Program to help you keep your cashiers properly trained. **There is no cost for this training.** Please see the dates for Summer 2004 below.



<i>Caroline County</i>	<i>July 16</i>
<i>Charles County</i>	<i>July 29</i>
<i>Howard County</i>	<i>July 30</i>
<i>Prince George's</i>	<i>Aug. 12</i>
<i>Wicomico County</i>	<i>Aug. 18</i>
<i>Montgomery County</i>	<i>Aug. 18</i>
<i>Baltimore County</i>	<i>Aug. 25</i>
<i>Baltimore City (Hopkins)</i>	<i>Sept. 7</i>
<i>Baltimore City</i>	<i>Sept. 14</i>
<i>Frederick County</i>	<i>Sept. 20</i>

<i>Harford County</i>	<i>Sept. 21</i>
<i>Allegany County</i>	<i>Sept. 27</i>
<i>Garrett County</i>	<i>Sept. 27</i>
<i>Carroll County</i>	<i>Sept. 27</i>

To take advantage of this training, please select a date and site your store trainer and/or cashiers would like to attend, complete the registration form mailed to all stores and mail or fax it at **least 5 days in advance of the training date** to Frances McRae-Washington, Office of the Maryland WIC Program, 201 W. Preston Street, Baltimore, MD 21201. The fax number is 410-333-5683. The schedule is also available online at:
www.fha.state.md.us/wic/html/vendor.html

Moving or Selling Your Store?

If you are moving or selling your store please notify the Maryland WIC Program at least 15 days in advance. **Selling your store does not transfer your WIC**



authorization! The new owner must apply to the Maryland WIC Program for authorization. You are also required to return your WIC vendor stamps to the Maryland WIC Program. If you have questions, or plan to sell or relocate your store, please contact JoAnn McGowen at 410-767-5251.

The services and facilities of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) are operated on a non-discriminatory basis. This policy prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, or national origin and applies to the provisions of employment and granting of advantages, privileges, and accommodations.

The Department, in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, ensures that qualified individuals with disabilities are given an opportunity to participate in and benefit from DHMH services, programs, benefits, and employment opportunities.

USDA prohibits discrimination in the administration of its programs.