

Frequently Asked Questions

Are WIC services free?

Yes! All WIC services are free to women, infants and children, who have a nutrition risk and meet the income guidelines.

What is the WIC infant formula rebate system?

WIC encourages mothers to breastfeed their infants if possible; however, WIC will provide infant formula to mothers who are unable to breastfeed. USDA regulations mandate that all states establish a contract with one formula manufacturer as a cost savings measure. These contracts provide a rebate for every can of standard formula purchased by a WIC participant. In turn, the rebates received are immediately turned back to the program in order to serve more participants.

What does WIC consider as income?

Income is counted for everyone living in the household and includes employment wages earned before taxes, self-employment earnings, dividend or interest income, Social Security benefits, SSI, public assistance, alimony or child support payments, unemployment compensation, worker's compensation, net rental income and other cash income. Foster children under age 5 are eligible for WIC. MA (medical assistance), TANF (temporary aid to needy families) and SNAP (food stamp) clients are income eligible, but must provide income documentation.

What if I am a grandparent, father, or foster parent?

If you are a grandparent, father or foster parent who has custody of a child under age 5, you may apply on the child's behalf. If you do not have custody, you may accompany the child and their parent to the WIC appointment and you may become a proxy. A proxy is a person who acts on behalf of the WIC parent/caretaker to come to WIC to pick up vouchers and/or to go to the grocery store to redeem them.

What if I'm a teen? Do I qualify if I live with my Mom or Dad?

In most cases, if you are a teen, you must count all of the income of your household when determining if you are eligible for WIC. Please call your local WIC office to find out if you are income eligible.

Why does WIC limit formulas to iron fortified?

One of WIC's goals is to reduce rates of anemia. If a mother chooses not to breastfeed, iron fortified formulas help prevent anemia. WIC does not provide low iron formulas because they do not provide enough iron for normal growth and development. Lack of iron can impact cognitive development and affect learning later in life. The American Academy of Pediatrics and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend iron-fortified formula for all formula fed infants for the entire first year of life.

How does someone report a complaint or suspected program abuse?

Selling or trading WIC foods is illegal! If someone sells or trades any WIC foods, it could result in criminal charges and/or disqualification from receiving future WIC benefits.

To report program abuse or a complaint, call 1-800-942-9467 and you will be connected with the local WIC agency serving that county. WIC staff investigates all complaints or reports of alleged program abuse and take appropriate action if warranted. If you have already contacted the local WIC agency with no satisfaction, please call the state agency at 717-783-1289. WIC will keep the name of the reporter confidential, if requested.