

Hawaii WIC News

NEWS FOR WIC STORES

Spring 2021

IMPORTANT UPDATE: ALL VENDOR AGREEMENTS EXPIRE 9/30/2021

ALL Vendor Agreements that took effect 10/1/2018 will expire on 9/30/2021. New WIC Vendor Applications will be sent out in early May 2021. Please fill these out and return to the Hawaii WIC Vendor Unit in a timely manner to ensure there is no interruption in your WIC eligibility. The new Agreements will take effect 10/1/2021 and will expire 9/30/2024.

Regardless of when your store was WIC authorized during the current cycle, **ALL** Agreements will expire on 9/30/2021. Any store that wishes to continue to participate in the WIC Program after 10/1/2021 will have to fill out a new application.

More information will be provided by the WIC Vendor Management Unit in the coming weeks.

Cash Value Benefits for Fruits and Vegetables Have Been Temporarily Increased to \$35

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) into law. Under section 1105 of Subtitle B, Title I of ARPA, the USDA has temporarily increased the Cash-Value Voucher/Benefit for Fruit and Vegetable Purchases (CVV/B) for certain food packages to an amount that is less than or equal to \$35 per month during the federally declared COVID-19 public health emergency under Section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d).

As a result, Hawaii WIC will begin to increase WIC participants' fruit and vegetable benefits to \$35 per participant per benefit period from June 2021 to September 2021. Participants will be able to purchase fresh, canned, and frozen fruits and vegetables with their increased benefit. Benefits will be issued at the regular amounts beginning in October 2021.



WIC at Farmers' Markets

Hawaii WIC, in cooperation with the State of Hawaii Department of Health Chronic Disease and Health Promotion Division has begun the process of implementing WIC at Farmers' Markets. Pilot sites are being selected (1 in each county).

Our goal is to have the pilot sites accepting WIC by mid-Summer to take advantage of the temporary increase in fruit and vegetable benefits.

There are a considerable amount of challenges to meet this goal (State and Federal regulations and technological hurdles), but the process has begun and we are optimistic we can implement WIC at Farmers' Markets by our mid-summer goal.

WIC Shopper App: Not Just for WIC Participants

The FREE WIC Shopper App is a useful tool to determine if an item is WIC allowed.

Just download the free APP from your app store and select "Hawaii" from the WIC provider list. Tap the "Scan Barcode" button and scan the UPC with your smart phone.



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PRODUCE MAPPING

“Produce mapping” is the process a retailer or corporate office uses to link a UPC for a fresh fruit or vegetable that is not in the APL with a PLU that is in the APL. This is done using their POS software. Mapping works only for packaged fresh fruits and vegetables, not frozen fruits and vegetables or other WIC foods. Produce mapping is not necessary for stores that use a stand-beside terminal, because the cashier needs only to enter the dollar amount(s) of the fruits and vegetables purchased.

Why is it necessary?

Mapping is necessary because there are thousands of UPCs for fresh produce, the UPCs change weekly, and State WIC staff cannot keep track of all of them the way retailers can. Many retailers will have 50 or more UPCs in their system for blueberries alone, but they can map or link those 50 UPCs to a single PLU that's in the APL, making them WIC allowed. Mapping is also faster because a retailer can do it right away, whereas it can take two to three days to add a UPC to the APL.

Mapping is an ongoing process because new produce UPCs are coming into stores all year round. While most retailers do a good job, new items are sometimes missed.

Why does the app work for some foods, but not all?

In order for a food to show as WIC allowed in the app, its UPC or PLU must be in the APL. Since UPCs for many fresh fruits and vegetables are not in the APL, they will scan as “Not Allowed” in the app. However, if the retailer has mapped that produce item's UPC to a PLU that is in the APL, (and if the participant has an available CVB balance), it will scan as WIC allowed at the cash register and be deducted from the WIC card's balance. It is possible to type a PLU number into the app, but that does not tell if an item with a UPC is mapped to the PLU. For these reasons, the app is not reliable for fresh fruits and vegetables. The app is reliable for frozen fruits and vegetables, all other WIC foods, and formula because those UPCs are in the APL.

Contact your POS provider or corporate office for more information on mapping.

DID YOU KNOW?

In the last 12 months, Hawaii WIC participants have purchased over **\$1.5 million dollars** in fresh, frozen, and canned fruits and vegetables with their WIC benefits!

(WIC redemptions of CVV benefits 4/1/2020 - 3/31/2021)

WIC FORMULA UPDATE:

In November 2020, Hawaii WIC authorized WIC participants to purchase Similac Sensitive, Similac Spit-up, and Similac Total Comfort at authorized WIC vendors.

Starting this month, Hawaii WIC will authorize participants to redeem their benefits for special infant formula in addition to the 3 formula we authorized in November.

THERE IS NOT A STOCKING REQUIREMENT FOR THESE ITEMS. If your store already carries these products you can expect them to start being purchased by WIC participants that have been issued special formula in their benefit.

Stores are not required to stock this item. AT THIS TIME THERE IS NO PLAN TO REQUIRE VENDORS TO STOCK THESE ITEMS.

NO ACTION IS REQUIRED on your part. Your store POS system has already downloaded the new allowable UPCs.

To see the complete list of WIC allowed formula, click [HERE](#).



SPECIAL INFANT FORMULA SALES

(November 1, 2020 - March 31, 2021)

\$188,960 in special infant formula sales,
\$2,601,272 in total formula sales,
7.26% of all formula sales for this period was special infant formula.

Questions? Contact the Vendor Management Unit.

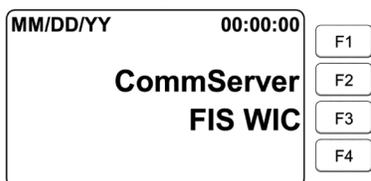
HOW TO MANUALLY DOWNLOAD THE APL ON YOUR STAND-BESIDE DEVICE (DIAL-UP)

1. Press **F3** (FIS WIC) on the WIC Main Menu.
2. Press **ENTER**.

Note You can cancel the download anytime during steps 3 through 9. Press **CANCEL** to cancel the download and return to the WIC Main Menu.

3. Press **3** using the gray number keys (1-0) on the terminal.
4. If the store does not require a dial prefix, press **ENTER** and **3**.
 If the store requires a dial prefix (9) and it is not listed in the download number proceed with the following steps:
 - a. Press the yellow **BACK** key eleven times (there should not be a telephone number listed).
 - b. Press **9**.
 - c. Press **ALPHA** one time.
 - d. Enter the download number, **18772296831**.
 - e. Press **ENTER** and **3**.
5. Press **ENTER**, again.
6. Press **ENTER**.
7. Press **F4** (FAST).
8. Press **F3** (FULL).
9. To continue the download, press **F1** (YES).

The device is being updated. Please wait until the download is complete and the WIC Main Menu is displayed before using the device.



10. Press **F3** (FIS WIC) on the WIC Main Menu.

The user is now able to **SIGN ON** to the terminal using their Clerk ID and password.



Please forward any questions or comments by email or phone to:

DOH.wic.vendor@doh.hawaii.gov

Phone: (808) 586-8392



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

HAVING TROUBLE WITH YOUR STAND-BESIDE DEVICE?

Call the **FIS Vendor Services Line:**
1-844-359-3105.

Available 24 hours,
 7 days per week, 365 days per year.

FIS will ask for your Location ID (including the letter at the beginning of your ID). This is different from your WIC vendor number.



Contact the Vendor Management Unit if you need your Location ID.

WHAT ARE ROUTINE MONITORING VISITS?

Routine Monitoring Visits are unannounced on-site monitoring visits conducted by the Vendor Management Unit. These visits are overt: The WIC representative conducting the visit will identify themselves to vendor personnel during their visit.

The purpose of the Routine Monitoring Visit is to ensure compliance with WIC program rules and prevent fraud, waste and program noncompliance.

Vendors will be chosen randomly to receive routine monitoring. Vendors can also be chosen to receive monitoring in response to any information received by WIC that indicates that a routine monitoring visit may be beneficial.

Need Signs?

Click [HERE](#) for a WIC Vendor Order Form

