

<b>Texas WIC Health and Human Services Commission</b>
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Effective November 1, 2023

Policy No. GA:08.0

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## **Provision of Information About Other Federal and State Programs to WIC Applicants and Participants**

### **Purpose**

To ensure that WIC applicants/participants receive written information about the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Medicaid, Texas Health Steps (THSteps), Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Children’s Health Insurance Program Perinatal (CHIP Perinatal), Healthy Texas Women (HTW), and Child Support Enforcement Programs.

### **Authority**

7 CFR Part 246.7 (b); State Policy

### **Policy**

Local agencies (LA) must provide written information concerning these programs to all adult applicants at initial or subsequent certification for the WIC Program, either for themselves or on behalf of others.

### **Procedures**

- I. Upon initial certification to the WIC Program, all adults applying for the program for themselves or on behalf of others must be provided written information about SNAP, TANF, THSteps, Medicaid, CHIP, the CHIP Perinatal Program, the Healthy Texas Women Program (HTW), and the Child Support Enforcement Program. Applicants must individually receive written information at initial application.
  - A. If such individuals are not currently participating in Medicaid but appear to have family income below the applicable maximum income limits for the program, the LA must refer these individuals to Medicaid, including the referral of infants and children to the THSteps Program.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Texas WIC</b> <b>Health and Human Services Commission</b></p>
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- B. Information on Medicaid must include the following:
  - 1. A description of the services Medicaid provides;
  - 2. Maximum income limits, according to family size, applicable to pregnant women, infants, and children up to age 5 which are used by the Medicaid Program for income screening; and
  - 3. An explanation that Medicaid counts a pregnant woman as if she were a family of two.
  
- C. Information on the HTW Program must include the following:
  - 1. A description of the services HTW provides;
  - 2. An explanation that WIC clients are adjunctively income-eligible for the HTW program. Participation in WIC may be documented by a copy of a Verification of Certification (VOC) or an electronic benefits transfer (EBT) shopping list.
  
- II. At subsequent certifications, LAs may post written information in a public area to satisfy the written requirement or continue to individually provide written information to each person.
  
- III. LAs have the option to use *A Guide to Helpful Programs and Services* flyer (Stock number 13-156) in the Texas WIC Catalog or produce their own written information about these programs in a different format. LAs must provide local addresses and phone numbers for local program providers.
  
- IV. Documentation that written information was provided to adult participants/applicants or to adults applying on behalf of others is required and maintained in the MIS.
  
- V. Description of Federal and State Programs:

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**Child Support Enforcement** – provides assistance in these areas: locating an absent parent; establishing paternity; establishing and enforcing child support orders; establishing and enforcing medical support orders; reviewing and adjusting child support payments. For more information, go to:

[2-1-1 Texas | Texas Health And Human Services Commission \(211texas.org\)](https://211texas.org)

**CHIP** – provides eligible children with coverage for a full range of health services including regular checkups, immunizations, prescription drugs, lab tests, X-rays, hospital visits and more. The program is designed for families who earn too much money to qualify for Medicaid, yet cannot afford to buy private insurance for their children. For more information, go to:

<https://yourtexasbenefits.com/>

**CHIP Perinatal** - provides basic prenatal care for unborn children of women who do not qualify for Medicaid because of income or immigration status. Undocumented persons can qualify. Household income must not exceed 200% of the federal poverty level. Coverage starts before the child is born and continues after birth for a total of 12 continuous months. Once born, the child will receive benefits that are similar to traditional CHIP benefits for the duration of the 12-month coverage period. For more information, go to:

<https://yourtexasbenefits.com/>

**Healthy Texas Women** – provides women’s health and family planning services to women ages 15-44 with income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level who are not pregnant. Only citizens and legal immigrants who are residents of Texas are eligible. Benefits include a variety of women’s health and core family planning services, contraception including LARC and sterilization, and screening for sexually transmitted infections, postpartum depression, cholesterol, diabetes, and high blood pressure. For more information, go to:

<https://www.healthytexaswomen.org/>

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**Medicaid** – provides medical services to low-income persons, including hospital services, doctor’s services, and prescriptions. For more information, go to:

<https://yourtexasbenefits.com/>

**SNAP** – assists low-income households to purchase food. For more information, go to:

<https://yourtexasbenefits.com/>

**TANF** – provides financial and medical assistance to needy dependent children and the parents or relatives with whom they are living. For more information, go to:

<https://yourtexasbenefits.com/>

**THSteps** – provides comprehensive and preventive health services through the Medicaid Program for persons younger than 21 years old. For more information, go to:

[Texas Health Steps | Texas Health and Human Services](#)