



March 1, 2021

Vendor News Flash

Vendor Policy Updates for WV: 01.0, 02.0, 09.0, 10.0

Texas WIC has revised the following vendor policies effective on March 1, 2021:

- WV: 01.0 - Vendor Agreement/Policy Violations
- WV: 02.0 - Least Expensive Brand Declaration
- WV: 09.0 - Vendor In-Store Promotions: Incentive Items, Discounts, and Coupons
- WV: 10.0 - WIC Vendor Authorization

Please see the *Summary of Changes* for each policy below.

WV: 01.0 – Vendor Agreement/Policy Violations

New Policy Effective Date: March 1, 2021

Previous Policy Effective Date: January 1, 2021

Section	Revisions
Purpose	No changes
Authority	No changes
Policy	No changes
Procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated for consistent language and plain language • Updated terminology, for example: changed “vouchers” to “benefits”, “recipient” to “participant”, and “medical foods” to “WIC-eligible nutritionals” • Added “or cash value benefits” to the phrase WIC EBT food instruments • Updated references to other policies

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changed in Section IV. C. "invoice" to "inventory" audits • Removed the 24-month period an investigation must be completed
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WV: 02.0 – Least Expensive Brand Declaration

New Policy Effective Date: March 1, 2021

Previous Policy Effective Date: January 1, 2017

Section	Revisions
Purpose	More clear, concise language
Authority	Changed Vendor Agreement to 7 CFR 246.12
Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More clear, concise language • Changed "shall" to "must" • On October 1, 2020, Texas WIC removed dried beans and brown rice from the Least Expensive Brand food category
Procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated for consistent language, plain language, and terminology • Better organized policy into the following sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaring LEBs • Labeling LEBs • Changing Declared LEBs • LEB Compliance • Removed LEB sanction schedule as it is referenced in WV: 01.0



WV: 09.0 - Vendor In-Store Promotions: Incentive Items, Discounts, and Coupons

New Policy Effective Date: March 1, 2021

Previous Policy Effective Date: October 1, 2012

Section	Revisions
Purpose	More clear, concise language and used plain language
Authority	Updated to 7 CFR 246.12 and WIC Policy Memo #2014-3 – Vendor Management – February 7, 2014
Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reorganized sections of the policy • Defined types of vendors policy applies to • Defined expectations of equitable treatments and same courtesies vendors must provide to WIC participants • Defined allowable in-store promotions/incentive items for PWICs • Defined allowable in-store promotions/incentive items for PWICs and TWICs that do not require state approval • Defined prohibited in-store promotions/incentive items for PWICs and TWICs
Procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How vendors seek state approval for In-store Promotions/Incentive Items • Outlines requirements and restrictions for Incentive Items



WV: 10.0 – WIC Vendor Authorization

New Policy Effective Date: March 1, 2021

Previous Policy Effective Date: February 1, 2019

Section	Revisions
Purpose	No change
Authority	No change
Definitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Least Expensive Brand (LEB) updated • Traditional WIC (TWIC) updated
Procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vendor Selection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated competitive pricing selection criteria for all vendor types • Referenced where selection criteria is waived to ensure adequacy of participant access to supplemental foods • Referenced WV: 09.0 Incentive Items for PWIC vendors • Added data collection of SNAP authorization • Vendor Type: Removed Full-Line grocery must have SNAP authorization to participate on WIC program • Authorization Decision: Referenced WV: 03.0 Participant Access to supplemental foods if vendor is deemed ineligible for authorization • Vendor Agreement: Added authorized vendor must comply with selection criteria at all times • Competitive Pricing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated to reflect how peer grouping designation is determined • Revised for clear, concise language • Added Traditional WIC (TWIC) vendor outlet’s competitive pricing determination • Added State Agency will notify vendors monthly of peer group assignment

Texas WIC is ready to assist our vendor partners. Should you have any questions regarding this Vendor News Flash, please contact the Vendor Management Unit’s Vendor Outreach Branch at WICVendorRelations@hhs.texas.gov or 1-800-252-9629. Find more WIC vendor resources on our website at bit.ly/TexasWICVendors.

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