

**Indiana WIC Program  
Indiana State Department of Health**

**Required Explanations**

**Policy**

WIC Program information must be explained to applicants/clients as an orientation to WIC and to minimize misunderstandings about the nature of WIC and the benefits it provides.

**Authority**

USDA Policy Memo No. 92-4  
USDA Policy Memorandum 2008-1  
FNS FAQ  
7 CFR Part 246.1  
7 CFR Part 246.7 (e)(4)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)  
7 CFR Part 246.7 (i)(10)  
7 CFR Part 246.7 (j)(2)(i)(ii)(iii);(4)

**Procedures**

- I. At initial certification the following must be explained in a constructive and sensitive manner to each client and authorized representative:
  - A. The purpose of the WIC Program is to provide nutritional support, (i.e., education and strategies for a healthy diet, supplemental foods, referrals and breastfeeding promotion and support), during critical times of growth and development, to improve health and achieve positive health outcomes.
  - B. The purpose for the nutrition assessment process is to identify nutrition needs (e.g., medical conditions, dietary practices) and interests.
  - C. The relationship between WIC staff and the client is a partnership with open dialogue and two-way communication working to achieve positive health outcomes.

- D. WIC food benefits are prescribed for the individual to promote and support the nutritional well-being of the client.
  - E. The food provided by the Program is supplemental, i.e., it is not intended to provide all of the client's daily food requirements.
  - F. Each client must reapply at the end of the certification period and be reassessed for Program eligibility.
- II. At least at initial certification the following must be discussed with each client and authorized representative:
- A. the WIC program booklet;
  - B. how to use the eWIC card, the shopping list and receipt, including benefit use dates;
  - C. the list of local vendors;
  - D. the types of health services available, where they are located, how they may be obtained and why they may be useful; and
  - E. the next appointment date.
- III. The following must be explained to each ineligible applicant:
- A. the purpose of the WIC Program;
  - B. the criteria used to determine eligibility and that in the absence of nutritional risk(s), WIC benefits cannot be provided; and,
  - C. information about other food assistance programs in the community.
- IV. If a waiting list is in effect, the following must be explained to each applicant:
- A. the purpose of the WIC Program;
  - B. the criteria used to determine eligibility, with a specific description of the nutritional risk(s) observed and a clear message that it is the nutrition criteria for which WIC benefits could be provided if a waiting list did not exist;
  - C. the nature of the WIC priority system and where in that system the observed risk criteria place the individual on the waiting list; and,
  - D. information about other food assistance programs in the community.

- V. When a pregnant woman is certified, the local agency staff shall emphasize the following:
- A. breastfeeding women are in a higher priority group than non-breastfeeding postpartum women;
  - B. breastfeeding women may receive WIC benefits for up to one year while non-breastfeeding women receive benefits for six months postpartum;
  - C. WIC offers a greater variety and quantity of food to breastfeeding participants;
  - D. breastfeeding women are more likely to be served than postpartum women when local agencies do not have the resources to serve all individuals who apply for the WIC Program; and,
  - E. the importance of breastfeeding and its physiological and psychological benefits.