

An e-newsletter for Alabama WIC Vendors

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Question of the Month

Q: Should WIC customers receive a receipt of their purchase?

A: Yes. Contrary to common practices, the WIC customer is to be treated like any other customer and therefore should receive a receipt. A sanction will be assessed for failure to provide WIC customers with a receipt. See Vendor Handbook for more information.

E-mail Alerts Now Available

Want to receive e-mail alerts and updates? To be added to the e-mail list, notify Kathy Law at **1-800-WIC-HOPE**.

TRAINING

All authorized WIC vendors are required to train store personnel on WIC policies and procedures. This includes current and new store personnel.

Effective October 1, 2013, it is a requirement that authorized WIC vendors maintain a training file with documentation that training on WIC policies and procedures has occurred. Vendors will receive the appropriate sanction if this documentation is not available during a routine monitoring visit.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

On behalf of the Vendor Management Branch, we would like to thank you, our vendors, for the invaluable service you provide to the participants of the Alabama WIC Program. We wish you and your families a very happy holiday season.

Important WIC Information

WIC is administered at the Federal level by the Food and Nutrition Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Each State is mandated to address program fraud and abuse.

Effective October 1, 2013, Alabama has implemented a tiered sanction schedule for state-level vendor sanctions. State-level vendor violations that result in sanctions have been expanded and revised. Per Federal Regulations, some previous state sanctions have been correctly identified as contract violations.

The sanction schedule is part of the Alabama WIC Vendor Contract and the Alabama WIC Vendor Procedure Handbook. It is imperative that as an authorized WIC vendor you review the Alabama WIC Vendor Contract and the Alabama WIC Vendor Procedure Handbook.

Least Expensive Brand Reminder

Effective October 1, 2013, participants are required to purchase the least expensive brand available **at the time of purchase** for milk, cheese, **and peanut butter**. This means that if the price for a national brand of any of these food items falls below the regular price of the "store brand" an override may be necessary and the participant should be allowed to purchase the "lowest price" food item.