

Iowa WIC Program
1-800-532-1579



Your child has you. And you have WIC.

Bureau of Nutrition and Health Promotion

Friday Facts

Week ending Issue: September 18, 2009 – Issue #37

Policy

From the WIC Services Policy and Procedure Manual —

300.30 Document Retention

All records pertinent to a USDA grant must be available to representatives of the state or federal government for the purposes of making an audit, examination, excerpts or transcripts.

All WIC documentation records must be retained for a minimum of five years following the date of submission of the final expenditure report for the period to which the report pertains. Therefore, for practical purposes, the retention period is six years from the beginning of the 12 month contract period.

Information

New WIC Food Package Tidbits – Breastfeeding Dyad

Educating clients on the new food package has been and will continue be top priority for the next several months, as you are aware. Pictures of the sample food packages have been developed to help with you describe what mothers and babies will receive on WIC starting in October. Agencies will receive enough laminated copies for each staff member responsible for discussing the food package, along with a table that compares the different food packages for mothers and babies. These materials should arrive by the end of the month. Keep in mind that the mother's food package is dependent on what the infant receives. The Exclusive Breastfeeding Food Package for women has a retail value of about \$73 compared to about a \$53 value for the Partially Breastfeeding Food Package. Make sure women on WIC are aware of how a change to their babies' food package can affect the food package they receive for themselves.

Materials for Transition to New WIC Food Package

The following materials will be arriving at local agencies over the next few weeks or will be available for order from ISAIC. Instructions for their use and/or disposition are below.

Check Stock

- *The new WIC check stock has green shading in the food description area.*
- *Please keep the check stock in a secure place until ready for use on October 1, 2009.*
- *After the October 1, 2009 New WIC Food Package roll out, please **shred any remaining check stock with the blue shading.***

WIC ID Folders

- The new WIC ID card is a blue card stock tri-fold with pockets in which to insert checks.
- You may continue to use the WIC ID cards and plastic folders in your possession until you have both the new folders and the plastic sleeves to hold them. If you elect to start using the new WIC ID folders prior to using up old cards, please shred the old cards.
- Single slot plastic sleeves will be sent to agencies to hold the new WIC ID folders. You may use up old plastic sleeves or dispose of them.

Flip Charts

- Agencies will also be receiving the flip charts you requested. English flip charts will arrive first. We are still waiting on the translation for the Spanish flip charts – but will get these to you as soon as possible.
- We will be unable to assemble all of the flip charts at the state office. Plan to spend some time assembling these during your down time on September 28-30.

How to Use Your WIC Checks

- These are being printed and will be shipped to ISAIC. We will notify you when they are available.
- The newly designed brochure will cover the same information as previously. A one-third page insert will provide information on using the cash value voucher. Be sure that this is given to every participant.

Resources

WIC Food Package Menu

The handout titled “New WIC Food Package” is now available to order from the Clearinghouse. This handout is meant to help WIC participants choose what foods they would like on their checks when there is more than one option available in a food category (example: whole wheat bread, soft corn tortillas, or brown rice).

Other

Fight the Flu: 3 Cs” Campaign

We want to make you aware of the IDPH “Fight the Flu: 3 Cs” campaign. This campaign is designed to address both seasonal and H1N1 influenza by encouraging good hygiene habits (the three Cs) and by being vaccinated when appropriate.

As part of this campaign, an email featuring the attached postcard was emailed to all state employees today; a similar email will be sent to all Iowa college and university students. In addition, a postcard is being printed and will be delivered to every residential address and P.O. Box in Iowa; statewide billboards featuring the same message are in development, and this graphic is posted to the IDPH Influenza and H1N1 Web sites. As future materials become available, including public service announcements and audio sound bites, they will be posted to the Web sites as well.

We encourage you to send the [attached postcard graphic](#) to your public health colleagues, friends, and family. Use it in any way that is helpful to you to get the public health message out.

Lead in consumer products

The Ecology Center tested 5,000 consumer products and found elevated levels of lead and arsenic in many. From USA Today, 9/16/2009.

www.usatoday.com/news/health/2009-09-16-chemicals-products_N.htm