



State of Louisiana
Louisiana Department of Health
Office of Public Health

June 30, 2016

TO: Louisiana (LA) WIC Authorized Vendors

FROM: Sean C. Mack, LA WIC Vendor Manager

RE: Upcoming WIC Vendor Reauthorization Process and Changes to Vendor Selection Criteria

LA WIC will be contacting its currently authorized vendors very soon to initiate the process of reauthorization. Your current Vendor Agreement with LA WIC will expire on 09/30/2016. After this date, currently authorized stores will no longer be allowed to transact WIC benefits unless they are reauthorized by LA WIC and new Vendor Agreements are put into place. Unlike the previous two Vendor Agreement Extensions that were implemented in August 2015 and February 2016, to be reauthorized on October 1, 2016, all vendors must undergo the full WIC vendor selection process. This process will require vendors to submit new applications and various other documents, as required.

The LA WIC Program is also in the final stages of making changes to its Vendor Selection Criteria. We are notifying you of two changes that may significantly affect your eligibility to become an authorized WIC Vendor. These two items are:

1. Full-Line Grocery Requirement:

- a. Effective 10/01/2016, LA WIC will only authorize Vendors that meet its definition of a Full-Line Grocer. LA WIC defines a Full-Line Grocer as a store that carries the following items:
 - i. 5 or more varieties of cereal with 3 or more units of each variety.
 - ii. 4 or more varieties of fresh vegetables with 5 or more units of each variety.
 - iii. 3 or more varieties of bread or tortillas with 6 or more units of each variety.
 - iv. 4 or more varieties of fresh meat, poultry or fish with 5 or more units of each variety.
 - v. 2 or more varieties of rice with 3 or more units of each variety.
 - vi. 3 or more varieties of fresh dairy products with 5 or more units of each variety.
 - vii. 4 or more varieties of fresh fruits with 5 or more units of each variety.

2. Prohibition Against Above-50-Percent Vendors:

- a. LA WIC and Federal Regulations define an above-50-percent Vendor (A50 Vendor) as any Vendor that derives more than 50% of its annual food sales revenue from WIC food instruments. Also, new vendor applicants expected to meet this criterion under guidelines approved by FNS, are defined as above-50-percent vendors.

- b. Effective 10/01/2016, LA WIC will no longer authorize Vendors that meet or are expected to meet the definition of an A50 Vendor.

As stated in the WIC Vendor Agreement, WIC authorization is not a license or property interest. Expiration of the WIC Vendor Agreement is not subject to administrative review. If you have any questions regarding this memorandum, please contact LA WIC at LAWICVendor@la.gov or 504-568-8229.