On March 4, 2014, the USDA released the final WIC food package rule which is the final modification to the regulations that Louisiana WIC implemented in 2009. This rule is the outcome of extensive public comments and the experience of State Agencies across the nation in implementing the interim rules. The USDA also announced that a comprehensive review of WIC foods by the Institute of Medicine will be required every ten years.

Below are highlights of some of the key changes in the final rule.

Mandatory Changes:

- Increase the Cash Value Voucher for Fruits and Vegetables (CVV) for children to $8
  Implementation Date: June 1, 2014
- Nonfat and 1% low fat milk standard issuance for children over two years of age and all women.
  Implementation Date: October 1, 2014
- Medical Documentation from health care provider (Rx) no longer required for children to receive soy beverage. A full nutrition assessment by the CPA and appropriate documentation is required.
  Implementation Date: October 1, 2014
- A partially (supplementing < ½ infant formula pkg.) breastfeeding woman who is also pregnant will receive the fully breastfeeding woman's food package.
  Implementation Date: October 1, 2014
- Infants on standard contract formula may receive additional formula during the 6-12 months age range in lieu of infant foods. Infant must have a qualifying condition as detailed in the requirements for special (exempt) formulas. Documentation is required.
  Implementation Date: October 1, 2014

Optional Changes:

- Low fat or nonfat yogurt can be authorized as a substitution for milk. Limited to 1 quart
- 16 oz. whole wheat pasta can be authorized as a whole grain choice
- Fresh banana may substitute for a limited amount of infant foods
- A CVV may be authorized for infants 9-11 months in lieu of infant foods. A $4 CVV plus 16 jars infant food for fully formula fed and partially breastfed infants or $8 CVV plus 32 jars infant food for fully breastfed infants.
- Jack Mackerel may be authorized as a fish option for fully breastfeeding women
- In the special formula prescriptions, may allow a child or woman the option to receive jarred infant fruits and vegetables instead of the CVV. 128 oz. (32 jars) instead of the $8 or $10 CVV. Documentation is required.
- Farmers' Markets and/or individual farmers may be authorized to accept the CVV.