



## Notice of Deferral of Application Processing

This notice is to inform potential WIC vendors including grocery stores and pharmacies that the MSDH WIC Program is enacting a state agency- imposed deferral of application processing starting December 1, 2020 and ending February 1, 2022.

**The last date for vendor applicants to submit an application is November 30, 2020.** The purpose of this deferral is to ensure vendor applicants and authorized vendors complete the authorization and certification process and are adequately monitored during the authorization period in preparation for eWIC implementation.

During this state agency- imposed deferral of application processing, vendor applications **will only be accepted for vendors needed to meet participant access criteria**, authorized vendors (without any open vendor sanctions or violations) who wish to transfer ownership and/or add outlets, and authorized vendors who wish to change address information.

The definition of participant access is as followed: In a county identified as urban or including a metropolitan area, there is at least one authorized grocery vendor within 20 miles driving distance of a WIC clinic location or within 20 miles driving distance from another authorized grocery vendor. In a county defined as rural, there is at least one authorized grocery vendor within 30 miles driving distance of a WIC clinic location or within 30 miles from another authorized grocery vendor. In any county, there is at least one other WIC authorized pharmacy vendors within 20 miles of a WIC clinic location or within 20 miles from another authorized pharmacy vendor. Participant access will be deemed inadequate if geographic barriers exist that would prevent participants access to authorized vendors within the designated driving distance. Clinic locations, current vendors, and potential vendor(s) are mapped to determine the radius (in miles) from the clinic to the stores to determine participant access.

Upon expiration of the state agency- imposed deferral of application processing, MSDH WIC will resume accepting applications during the next vendor application period, between February 1, 2022 and March 31, 2022.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), (AD-3027) found online at: [How to File a Complaint](#), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
2. fax: (202) 690-7442; or
3. email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.