



VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

MSDH WIC Program
May 21, 2020

PREVIOUS SESSION(S)

Background to the WIC Program

Vendor Selection Criteria

Vendor Application Process

Minimum stock requirements

Approved Product List

Key schedule dates

Application Guidance

Review of Required Documents



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Overview

- Authorization Timeline
- Approved Products List & UPC Management
- Pre-Authorization Monitoring
- Vendor Training



Authorization Timeline

Dates provided
are tentative
based on known
information

Key Authorization Activities

Activity	Date
Vendor Technology Survey	July 2019 December 2019 *On-going
Vendor Advisory Meetings	Monthly
Application Open	October 16, 2019
Last Date to Submit Application	September 30, 2020
Vendor Application Moratorium	October 1, 2020- January 31, 2022
Vendor Monitoring	Started February, 2020
Vendor Trainings	May, 2020
L2 Certification (if any)	June, 2020
L3 Certifications	August, 2020

Current Rollout Schedule

	Start Date	Area(s)	Counties
<i>Pilot 1</i>	October 12, 2020	Forrest	Forrest
<i>Pilot 2</i>	October 26, 2020	Lauderdale	Lauderdale
<i>Rollout 1</i>	January 19, 2021	5, 6, 7	Issaquena, Sharkey, Warren, Claiborne, Yazoo, Hinds, Copiah, Madison, Rankin, Simpson Leake, Neshoba, Kemper, Scott, Newton, Smith, Jasper, Clarke Jefferson, Adams, Franklin, Lincoln, Lawrence, Wilkinson, Amite, Pike, Walthall
<i>Rollout 2</i>	February 8, 2021	1, 2	DeSoto, Tunica, Tate, Coahoma, Quitman, Panola, Tallahatchie, Yalobusha, Grenada, Calhoun Marshall, Benton, Tippah, Alcorn, Prentiss, Tishomingo, Lafayette, Union, Pontotoc, Lee, Itawamba, Monroe
<i>Rollout 3</i>	March 1, 2021	3, 4	Bolivar, Sunflower, Leflore, Carroll, Montgomery, Webster, Chickasaw, Clay Washington, Humphreys, Holmes, Attala, Choctaw, Oktibbeha, Lowndes, Winston, Noxubee
<i>Rollout 4</i>	March 22, 2021	8, 9	Jefferson Davis, Covington, Jones, Wayne, Marion, Lamar, Perry, Greene Pearl River, Stone, George, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson

Approved Product List & UPC Management

Discussion about
adding UPC's

Approved Products List (APL)

- The approved products list is currently awaiting approval from FNS
- Vendors will be able to submit UPC's they would like added to the list once the official list has been posted
- The APL file will be posted to the agency website upon approval
- Additional UPC's may be added using the UPC submission form
- No submissions will be reviewed or considered until the final list is approved and posted

UPC Submission Form

- UPCs are approved according to the current food guide
- Remember to provide a copy of the product label.
 - Product name
 - Size
 - Nutrition facts
 - UPC bar code.
- Manufacturers must provide a list of stores where the product is available.

Mississippi WIC Program UPC Submission Form

Submitter's Information	
Name	Phone Number
Email	WIC Vendor ID or eWIC card number
Store or Business Name	
Address	City, State, ZIP Code

Attach a copy of the product label. It must include the product name, size, manufacturer, nutrition facts, and UPC bar code. Only products with a UPC code denoted on the container will be considered. Manufacturers must provide a list of stores where the product is available.

Product Information	
Product Type	Product Name
Product Brand/Manufacturer	Package Size
UPC Code* (8, 12 or 13 digits) _____	
Fill in the number <u>exactly</u> as it appears on the product label and <u>include all numbers</u> .	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>GTIN-12 (UPC-12)</p>  <p>0 12345 67890 5</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>GTIN-13 (EAN / UCC-13)</p>  <p>0 123456 789012 ></p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>GTIN-8 (EAN / UCC-8)</p>  <p>0123 4567</p> </div> </div>

For State WIC Use Only	
Date Received	Label Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Date Reviewed	Reviewed By
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied - Reason for Denial	
Category	Subcategory
Date UPC Entered	Entered By

UPC Submission Process

- Vendors may submit a UPC submission form to update or revise a UPC on the existing APL throughout the year.
- Vendors may submit a UPC submission form to add a new product for a category/ subcategory that allows *any brand* to the APL throughout the year.
- Vendors may submit a UPC submission form to add a new product for a category/ subcategory that *is brand specific* annually during the following period: March to May
 - Starting in 2021
- The vendor will send the UPC submission form and supporting documentation (appropriate images of the label per the instructions on the form) to eWIC@msdh.ms.gov
- The nutrition team will review the documentation and complete the UPC submission form.

Pre-Authorization Monitoring

How has this
affected current
procedures?

Pre-Authorization Monitoring

- On-site pre-authorization monitoring is currently on hold until June 1, 2020
 - This may be extended to July 1, 2020 depending on State guidance
- We have received a waiver for on-site vendor pre-authorization monitoring through June 30, 2020.
- For vendors authorized without a pre-authorization visit, an on-site routine monitoring visit will be performed at a later date during the on-site minimum stock verification or level certification of the POS system

Vendor Training

How has this affected current procedures?

Vendor Training

- Virtual vendor training took place on May 5th and May 7th
- Virtual vendor training is scheduled for the following:
 - Grocery Stores: Tuesday, June 9 2020 at 9:00am CT
Thursday, June 11 2020 at 1:00pm CT
 - Pharmacies: Tuesday, June 9 2020 at 1:00pm CT
Thursday, June 11 2020 at 9:00am CT

*Applicants applying to become grocery store and pharmacy vendors must attend a vendor training session for each

Vendor Training cont.

- If you have a completed application, you will receive an invitation to RSVP and join us virtually
- Please note this training may take up to 4 hours to complete and vendors will be required to be present during the entire training
 - Roll is taken at the beginning and end of the training session
- The primary contact or the training representative must be present for your business to receive credit for this training
- Training aides will be posted to the webpage by May 31, 2020

Vendor
Questions?



Next session

June 18, 2020 12pm CT

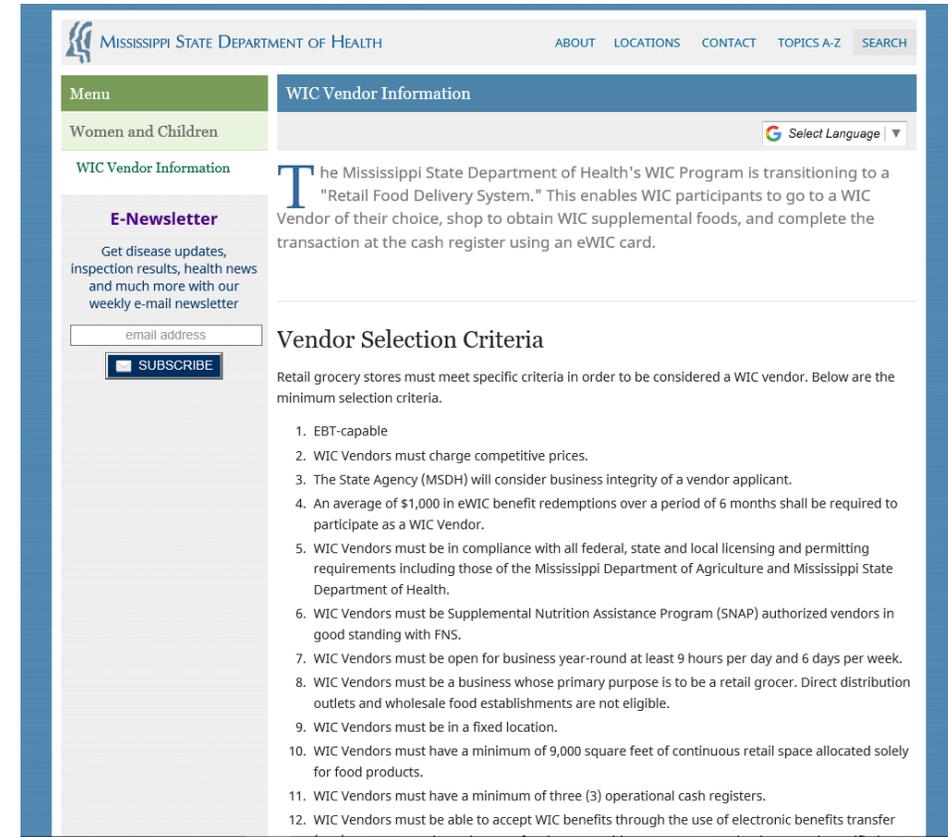
TOPICS

- Vendor Technical Assistance

NOTE: Vendor advisory sessions will be held every third Thursday at 12pm unless otherwise specified.

Where to get more information?

- Visit our website at www.freshnewwic.com
- Email us at vmu@msdh.ms.gov



The screenshot displays the Mississippi State Department of Health website. The header includes the department's name and navigation links: ABOUT, LOCATIONS, CONTACT, TOPICS A-Z, and a SEARCH button. A language selection dropdown is set to "Select Language". The main content area is titled "WIC Vendor Information" and features a large introductory paragraph: "The Mississippi State Department of Health's WIC Program is transitioning to a 'Retail Food Delivery System.' This enables WIC participants to go to a WIC Vendor of their choice, shop to obtain WIC supplemental foods, and complete the transaction at the cash register using an eWIC card." Below this, a section titled "Vendor Selection Criteria" lists 12 requirements for vendors. On the left sidebar, there is a "Menu" section with "Women and Children" and "WIC Vendor Information" links, and an "E-Newsletter" sign-up form with a "SUBSCRIBE" button.

MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

ABOUT LOCATIONS CONTACT TOPICS A-Z SEARCH

Menu

WIC Vendor Information

Women and Children

Select Language

WIC Vendor Information

E-Newsletter

Get disease updates, inspection results, health news and much more with our weekly e-mail newsletter

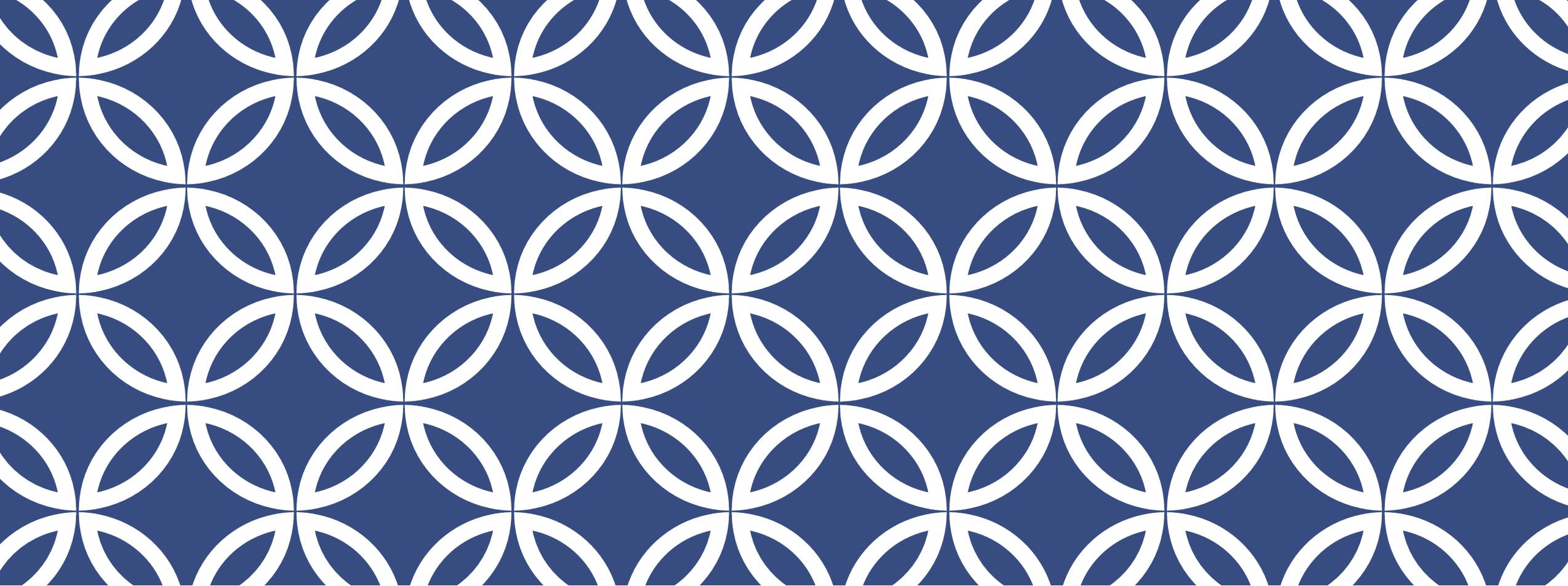
email address

SUBSCRIBE

Vendor Selection Criteria

Retail grocery stores must meet specific criteria in order to be considered a WIC vendor. Below are the minimum selection criteria.

1. EBT-capable
2. WIC Vendors must charge competitive prices.
3. The State Agency (MSDH) will consider business integrity of a vendor applicant.
4. An average of \$1,000 in eWIC benefit redemptions over a period of 6 months shall be required to participate as a WIC Vendor.
5. WIC Vendors must be in compliance with all federal, state and local licensing and permitting requirements including those of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Mississippi State Department of Health.
6. WIC Vendors must be Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) authorized vendors in good standing with FNS.
7. WIC Vendors must be open for business year-round at least 9 hours per day and 6 days per week.
8. WIC Vendors must be a business whose primary purpose is to be a retail grocer. Direct distribution outlets and wholesale food establishments are not eligible.
9. WIC Vendors must be in a fixed location.
10. WIC Vendors must have a minimum of 9,000 square feet of continuous retail space allocated solely for food products.
11. WIC Vendors must have a minimum of three (3) operational cash registers.
12. WIC Vendors must be able to accept WIC benefits through the use of electronic benefits transfer



THANK YOU

MSDH WIC Program