



## West Virginia WIC Vendor Advisory Board Quarterly Update

July 25, 2019

**Participants:** By telephone conference

### 2020 Food List

- West Virginia has begun approving products for the approved food list which will be effective October 1, 2020. An addition-deletion list will be provided no later than May 2020 by formal letter to each store as well as by email to all store contacts provided on your most recent application.
- A comprehensive allowed – not allowed document will be available online no later than August 2020.
- Approved changes thus far which require submission by corporate office or distributor:
  - salmon in 7.5-ounce cans;
  - natural or organic varieties of peanut butter (without palm oil); and
  - organic varieties of canned or dried beans.

Please email EBT Coordinator, Cindy Tanner – [Cindy.L.Tanner@wv.gov](mailto:Cindy.L.Tanner@wv.gov) - an excel document containing the UPC, package size and product name of ALL brands of products you offer for these food categories.

### Vendor Satisfaction Survey

- A vendor satisfaction survey was released to participants through the WICShopper app on July 19, 2019. We have over 200 responses thus far.
- The results will be shared in the Fall Edition of the WIC'r Basket and will be the foundation for future projects of the Vendor Advisory Board.
- The survey is intended to offer insight into strategies that may increase redemption of WIC benefits.

### Yogurt:

- Yoplait Low-fat Yogurt Strawberry/Strawberry Banana Less Sugar in multipack of 8 – 4 oz cups (UPC 070470156040) is WIC Approved. Please ensure you have this item tagged with a shelf label if in inventory.
- Several stores have received a minimum stocking requirement warning for lack of inventory of whole fat yogurt. Stores with 10 or more registers are required to carry at least one variety of whole fat yogurt; stores with 10 – 19 registers need 2 containers on the shelf, and stores with 20 or more registers need 4 containers on the shelf. If you are having difficulty with this item, you are encouraged to

apply for an exemption as allowed in Policy 8.11. This is further explained on our website in the minimum stock requirements section under the retailers/farmers menu: <https://dhhr.wv.gov/WIC/retailersfarmers/Pages/Minimum-Stock-Requirements.aspx>

**Upcoming Program Changes:**

- Vendor peer group system and sanction schedule have been revised and submitted to our federal office for approval. It is our hope these changes will be implemented in the winter of 2020.
- A 2020 goal of the WV Vendor Management Unit is implementation of a Vendor Portal for completion of reauthorization applications, and implementation of inventory audits.

**APL Collection in Stores:**

- WIC Vendor Management staff will be visiting stores throughout the state to collect UPCs for approved WIC items. Staff will have their own hand-held devices and will announce their presence upon arrival. Expect these types of visits until the end of August.

Date of next quarterly voluntary call: **October 24, 2019 9:30 am**

- Dial 1-877-302-0757
- Enter Conference ID, 7232679, and press #