### I. VENDOR AND FARMER MANAGEMENT

(Please indicate) State Agency: West Virginia for F	FY 2024	2024
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Vendor and farmer/farmers' market management includes all those activities associated with selecting, authorizing, training, monitoring, and investigating the State agency's vendor and farmer/farmers' market population for the purpose of reducing fraud and abuse in the WIC Program food delivery system.

During a disaster or public health emergency, or supply chain disruption, the State agency may request to implement existing WIC regulatory and programmatic flexibilities or waivers to support the continuation of Program benefits and services. State agencies should consider the over arching authority, i.e. Stafford Act, Access to Baby Formula Ace or provision(s) authorized by Congress, and duration before developing a policy and procedure. The State agency must provide a detailed description of how it plans to operationalize the flexibility or waiver through their procedure manual where applicable. Please note that State Plans Guidance is not intended to capture a description of waivers authorized by Congress with separate reporting requirements..

Executive Order (EO) 13988, "Preventing and Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation." was issued to all Federal Agencies. The EO set out policies that all persons are entitled to dignity, respect, and equal treatment under the law, no matter their gender identity or sexual orientation. The EO does not usurp section 17 of 42 U.S.C, as amended or applicable regulations, rather it complements the language in the nondiscrimination statement. Following the contents of EO, State agencies must update their policies and procedures to align with the contents of the EO and the nondiscrimination statement.

- A. Vendor Selection and Authorization 7 CFR 246.4(a)(14)(i), (ii), and (iii): identify the types of food delivery systems used in the State agency's jurisdiction. Describe, if used, the State agency's limiting criteria. Describe the State agency's selection criteria and attach a sample vendor agreement. Describe, if applicable, the supervision and instruction the State agency provides to local agencies to which vendor agreement signing has been delegated.
- **B. Vendor Training** 7 CFR 246.4(a)(14)(xii): describe State and local agency procedures for training WIC Program vendors and farmers/farmers' markets and for documenting all relevant training.
- C. High-Risk Vendor Identification Systems 7 CFR 246.12(j)(3): describe the policies and procedures for identifying and monitoring high-risk vendors through the use of vendor peer groups, food instrument and cash-value voucher (CVV)/cash value benefit (CVB) redemption screening, analysis of overcharging and other violations, the use of price lists, tracking complaints, or other means. This section may be submitted separately because it is no longer a State Plan requirement but must still be approved by FNS.
- **D.** Routine Monitoring 7 CFR 246.4(a)(14)(iv): describe the criteria used to select vendors for routine monitoring as well as the methods and scope of on-site routine monitoring activities. Include any relevant information about the State agency's plans for improvement in the coming year.
- **E.** Compliance Investigations 7 CFR 246.4(a)(14)(iv): describe the investigative practices and procedures used to conduct both compliance buys and inventory audits for the purpose of detecting, tracking, and documenting vendor noncompliance with program requirements.
- F. Administrative Review of State Agency Actions 7 CFR 246.4(a)(14)(iii) and (a)(18): describe the procedures for conducting both full and abbreviated administrative reviews.
- G. Coordination with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) 7 CFR 246.4(a)(14)(ii),(a)(14)(iv), and 246.12(h)(3)(xxvi): describe the methods and procedures used to coordinate the monitoring and sharing of information on vendors who participate in both the WIC Program and SNAP.
- H. Staff Training on Vendor Management 7 CFR 246.4(a)(14)(iii), (a)(14)(iv), and (a)(14)(xii): describe the distribution of responsibilities and activities of those individuals at both the State and local levels who are involved in vendor management activities. If applicable, describe the supervision and instruction the State agency provides to local agencies to which vendor management activities have been delegated.
- I. Participant Access 7 CFR 246.4(a)(14)(xiv), (a)(15); 246.12(b), (g)(1), (g)(8): provide information about the State agency's definition of participant access.

### I. VENDOR AND FARMER MANAGEMENT

- *J. Farmer/Farmers' Market Authorization* 7 CFR 246.4(a)(14)(iii), (a)(14)(xii), and 246.12(v): if the State agency authorizes farmers/farmers' markets to accept CVVs/CVBs, describe the authorization process.
- K. Farmer/Farmers' Market Agreements 7 CFR 246.4(a)(14)(iii), (a)(14)(xii), and 246.12(v): if the State agency authorizes farmers' markets to accept CVVs/CVBs, describe the State agency's agreement with the farmers' farmers' markets and attach a sample farmer/farmers' market agreement.
- L. Farmer/Farmers' Market Training 7 CFR 246.4(a)(14)(iii), (a)(14)(xii), and 246.12(v): if the State agency authorizes farmers/farmers' markets to accept CVVs/CVBs, describe the training provided to the authorized farmers/farmers markets.
- M. Farmer/Farmers' Market Monitoring 7 CFR 246.4(a)(14)(iii), (a)(14)(xii), (a)(14)(v), and 246.12(v): if the State agency authorizes farmers/farmers markets to accept CVVs/CVBs, describe the criteria used for selecting farmers/farmers markets for routine monitoring as well as the method(s) and scope of on-site monitoring of the farmers/farmers markets.
- N. Farmer /Farmers' Market Sanctions, Claims, and Appeals 7 CFR 246.4(a)(14)(iii), (a)(14)(v), (a)(14)(xii), and 246.12(v): if the State agency authorizes farmers/farmers markets to accept CVVs/CVBs, describe the farmer/farmers' market sanctions, claims, and appeals and attach a copy of the farmer/farmers' market sanction schedule (which should be included in the farmer/farmers' market agreement as well).

### A. Vendor Selection and Authorization

1.	Number and Distribution of Authorized Vendors
a.	Does the State agency use limiting criteria to limit the number of vendors it authorizes?
	☐ Yes ☐ No
b.	If yes, check and specify the type(s) of criteria used (e.g., vendor/participant ratio of 1/100 per county):
	☐ Vendors/local agency or clinic ratio (specify):
	☐ Vendors/local service area or county ratio (specify):
	☐ Vendors/geographic area (e.g., number per mile, city block, zip code) (specify):
	Statewide cap on the number of vendors (specify):
	Other (specify):
ΑC	ODITIONAL DETAIL: Vendor Management Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation):
2.	Vendor Application Periods
a.	The State agency considers applications, check all that apply::
	☑ On an on-going basis
	Annually in(month)_ for a new agreement that begins(month)(day)
	Every two years (specify month): (month)
	Every three years (specify month): (month)
	Any time there is a participant access need
	The State agency is currently under a:
	Federal Moratorium (specify time frame):
	State agency-imposed deferral of application processing (specify time-frame and conditions):
	Other (specify):
ΑC	ODITIONAL DETAIL: Vendor Management Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation):
3.	Vendor Selection and Authorization
a.	The vendor selection criteria used to select vendors for program authorization include: Required criteria:
	EBT capable as defined in 7 CFR 246.12(aa)(4)(ii)
	∀endor applicant price lists
	☐ A State agency standard drawn from a price survey
	A standard drawn from another source (specify):
	Other (specify):

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### A. Vendor Selection and Authorization

	⊠ A r	ninimum variety and quantity of supplemental foods criterion that is:
	$\boxtimes$	Statewide
	$\boxtimes$	Peer group specific
	$\boxtimes$	A requirement to obtain infant formula only from sources included in the State agency's list of State licensed infant formula wholesalers, distributors, and retailers and manufacturers registered with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration
	⊠ A Ł	susiness integrity criterion that includes:
	$\boxtimes$	No history, during the past six years, among the vendor's owners, officers, or managers of criminal convictions or civil judgments for activities listed in <u>7 CFR 246.12(g)(3)(ii)</u>
	$\boxtimes$	No history of other business-related criminal convictions or civil judgments
	$\boxtimes$	Other (specify): Compliance with tax, unemployment and workers compensation
	$\nabla$	Lack of a current SNAP disqualification or civil money penalty for hardship per 7 CFR 246.12(g)(3)(iii)
On	∟∠ tional c	
		rement to stock a full range of foods in addition to WIC supplemental foods
	•	on necessary to ensure adequate participant access
		ption of a minimum number/volume of food instruments and CVVs/CVBs
		ctory compliance with previous vendor agreement
		ation by an approved State or local health department
_		f authorization as a SNAP retailer, including SNAP authorization number
		of operation which meet State agency criteria (specify): Suitable hours visibly posted and adhered to
		previous WIC sanctions
Ш	Other	riteria (specify):
	Not ap	plicable (explain):
b.	•	n how the State agency develops and uses the competitive price criteria identified in item 3a to select so for authorization.
		es the State agency exempt from competitive price criteria pharmacies that provide only exempt infant nula or WIC-eligible medical foods to participants?
	☐ Ye	s 🔀 No
		the State agency exempt non-profit WIC vendors (other than health or human services agencies that vide food under contract with the State agency) from competitive price criteria?
	☐ Ye	s 🔀 No
C.	When	does the State agency assess vendors for above-50-percent status? Check all that apply:
	⊠ At	authorization
	6 r	nonths after authorization
	⊠ An	nually
	Ot	ner (specify):

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### A. Vendor Selection and Authorization

a.	How does the State agency assess vendors for above-50-percent status? Check all that apply:
	☐ Use the A50 status determination report in the Food Delivery Portal (e.g., WIC-6 in The Integrity Profile)
	Collect food sales documentation from another agency (specify):
	Other (specify):
	Does the State agency authorize vendors that derive more than 50 percent of their annual food sales from WIC transactions (i.e., above-50-percent vendors)?
	☐ Yes ☑ No If "No," please proceed to item 3f. If "Yes," please respond to the following:
	(1) How many above-50-percent vendors are currently authorized? (include all above-50-percent vendors, not just WIC-only vendors)
	(2) Does the State agency allow above-50-percent vendors to provide incentive items?
	Yes  No If "No," please proceed to item 3f. If "Yes," please respond to the following:
	Describe the incentive approval process or attach a copy of the relevant application form and list the Appendix citation here:
	(3) Does the State agency provide above-50-percent vendors with a list of pre-approved incentive items?  Yes; please provide list No
	(4) Does the State agency provide above-50-percent vendors with a list of prohibited incentive items?  Yes; please provide list No
f.	Does the State agency ensure vendors (regular and above-50-percent) do not treat WIC participants differently by offering them incentive items that are not offered to non-WIC customers? (7 CFR 246.12(h)(3) (iii) and WIC Policy Memorandum 2014-3 Vendor Management: Incentive Items, Vendor Discounts and Coupons)
	Appendix A - WW WIC Vendor Handbook page 8 and 19; Appendix B - Vendor Agreement Article 28; Authorization and Annual Training
g.	On-site pre-authorization visits are conducted to verify information received during the application process:
	by SA by LA by Other
	For vendors at initial authorization For all vendors at authorization/reauthorization
h.	Does the State agency verify the status of vendor applicants' SNAP retailer authorization (e.g., via Food Delivery Portal (FDP) or Store Tracking and Redemption System (STARS)?  Yes No
	DITIONAL DETAIL: Vendor Management Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation):

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### A. Vendor Selection and Authorization

4.	Vendor Peer Groups	
	If the State agency does not have a vendor peer group system, please attach a copy of the most recent exemption request and approval letters and proceed to item 4e.	1
a.	Are vendors assigned to peer groups for selection/authorization?	
b.	Are vendors assigned to peer groups for reimbursement purposes?	
C.	Peer groups are based on the following (check all that apply):	
	☐ WIC sales volume	
	Gross food sales volume	
	☐ Number of cash registers	
	Square footage of store	
	$\boxtimes$ Location of store, per <u>7 CFR 246.12(g)(4)(ii)(A).</u>	
	☐ City, county, or regional divisions ☐ Unique economic location (e.g., rural island, single metro area)	
	☐ Urban/suburban/rural ☐ Other (specify): Location of corporate headquarters, number of sta	ates
	Other (specify):	
d.	Using the chart on the next page, describe the peer groupings (e.g., supermarkets, medium and small group stores, convenience stores, etc.) that the State agency plans to use during the upcoming fiscal year. For State agencies with more than 18 peer groups, please attach a chart containing this Peer Group Description and list the Appendix citation here:	ery
е.	Has the State agency received approval for an exemption from the vendor peer group system requirement $\frac{CFR\ 246.12(g)(4)(v)}{2}$ ?	<u>(7</u>
	☐ Yes; date FNS approved exemption: ☐ ☐ No	
	(1) If yes, the State agency's exemption was based on the latest available data for the current fiscal year (which covers the period from to), and the State agency:	
	Does not have any above-50-percent vendors; data source:	
	Paid above-50-percent vendors percent of the total annual WIC redemptions to date; data source:	
	(2) If the State agency does not use a vendor peer group system, describe the State agency's alternative system for comparing the prices of new vendor applicants and currently authorized vendors and selecting for authorization or reauthorization vendors that offer the program the most competitive price	es.

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## I. VENDOR MANAGEMENT A. Vendor Selection and Authorization

# **DESCRIPTION OF VENDOR PEER GROUP SYSTEM**

	Vendor Peer Groups				Comparable
Peer	Decription	Number of	Number of Vendors in Peer Group	eer Group	Vendors Peer
Group No.	(e.g., supermarkets, chain stores, pharmacies)	Regular Vendors (3)	Above-50% Vendors (4)	Total (5)	Group Number (6)
<b>~</b>	Mass Merchandisers: Retailer that a) sells a wide variety of merchandise but also carries groceries, b) owns multiple distribution centers and c) operates nationwide.	38		38	
7	National Grocery Chains: Retailer that a) primarily sells groceries, b) owns multiple distribution centers, and c) operates in 10 or more states.	99		99	
က	Regional Grocery Chains: Retailer that a) primarily sells groceries, b) orders from a corporate or national grocer distribution center, and c) operates in 4-9 states and/or corporate	44		44	
4	Local Grocery Chains: Retailer that a) primarily sells groceries, b) orders through corporate or national grocer distribution center, and c) operates in 3 or less states and/or in more than o	55		55	
5	Rural Independent Grocers: Retailer that a) primarily sells groceries, b) uses a third-party distribution center, and 3) operates in only one WIC Local Agency service area of West Virg	41		41	
9	Isolated Independent Stores/Farmers Markets: Retailer that a) sells a wide variety of merchandise but has a limited assortment of grocery items, b) uses a third-party distribution	15		15	
7					
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10					
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12					

A. Vendor Selection and Authorization

13	41	15	16	17	18

### Instructions:

Column 1 – Assign a sequential number to each peer group.

Column 2 - Describe the vendors in the peer group; include all factors and definitions checked in question 4c. (e.g., urban = counties with >100,000 residents OR

suburban = counties with >10,000 residents OR rural = counties with <10,000 residents)

Column 4 – If the State agency authorizes above-50-percent vendors, insert the number of above-50-percent vendors currently authorized. Column 3 – Insert the number of authorized vendors that are regular vendors.

Column 5 - Insert the total number of authorized vendors. This number should be the sum of columns 3 and 4, since the State agency must identify each vendor as being either a regular vendor or an above-50-percent vendor.

levels that it applies to the above-50-percent vendors. If above-50-percent vendors are placed in a peer group with regular vendors, then the number in column 1 should be the same as that in column 6. If above-50-percent vendors are in separate peer groups, then the number in column 1 will be Column 6 - For each peer group that contains above-50-percent vendors, insert the number of the peer group that contains comparable regular vendors. The comparable vendor peer group is the peer group that the State agency uses to derive the competitive price criteria and maximum reimbursement different from that in column 6.

### A. Vendor Selection and Authorization

т.	competitive price criteria to enhance system performance (7 CFR 246.12(g)(4)(ii)(C)).
	The State agency makes this assessment—
	Annually Every three years
	Biennially Other (please specify):
	Explain what procedures does the State agency have in place to assess the effectiveness of its peer group system and competitive price criteria to enhance system performance?  For applicants, a food basket analysis utilizing the statewide average of the four most common WIC food packages plus a 15% inflation factor – based on the vendor price survey – is used to determine if an applicant is competitive within the specified vendor classification. Food basket analysis is then conducted using redemption data at reauthorization for all vendors.
	Provide date of most recent FNS approval: 07/10/2020
5.	Semiannual Shelf Price Collection
a.	Has the State agency received approval for an exemption from the shelf price collection requirement under <u>7</u> <u>CFR 246.12(g)(4)(ii)(B)</u> :
	Yes; date FNS approved exemption: 01/11/2023 No
	If yes, please attach a copy of the most recent exemption request and approval letter(s).
6.	Vendor Agreements
a.	The following reflect the State agency's vendor agreement practices; check all that apply:
	∀ Vendor agreements are subject to the State's procurement procedures
	☐ Vendor agreements/handbooks are subject to the State's Administrative Procedures Act
	A nonstandard vendor agreement is used for:
	☐ Military commissaries
	☐ Pharmacies that only provide exempt infant formula and/or WIC-eligible medical foods
	<ul><li>☐ All pharmacies</li><li>☐ Mobile stores</li></ul>
	Other (specify):
$\boxtimes$	Vendors are authorized for a period of 3 year(s)
$\boxtimes$	All vendors are provided at least 15 days advance written notice of the expiration of the vendor agreement
	Chain stores sign a master agreement that includes multiple locations
	Chain stores sign an agreement for each store location
	All authorized WIC vendors are compliant with the regulatory split tender requirement at 246.12(f)(4).
	Other (specify):
b.	In addition to the requirements in <u>7 CFR 246.12(h)(3)-(h)(6)</u> , the vendor agreement includes:
	Periodic submission of vendor price lists. If so, specify frequency: Every three years with reauthorization appli
	Maintenance of records in addition to the required inventory records. If so, specify types of records:

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### A. Vendor Selection and Authorization

	Submission of food instruments and CVVs/CVBs within a shorter timeframe than required by program regulations. If so, specify timeframe:
	Redemption of a minimum number/volume of food instruments and CVVs/CVBs
	Minimum hours of operation
	Other (specify all):
c.	The State agency delegates the signing of vendor agreements to its local agencies:
	☐ Yes     No
	If yes, provide a description of the supervision and instruction provided to local agencies to ensure the uniformity and quality of this activity.
Ρle	ease attach a copy of the Vendor Agreement or provide the appropriate Procedure Manual reference below.
	DDITIONAL DETAIL: Vendor Management Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation): e Appendix B –WV Vendor Agreement

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### **B. Vendor Training**

Vendor Training - General Annual vendor training covers the following content (check all that apply):
□ Purpose of the WIC Program
Supplemental foods authorized by the State agency
Minimum varieties and quantities of supplemental foods that must be stocked

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$\boxtimes$	Supplemental foods authorized by the State agency
$\boxtimes$	Minimum varieties and quantities of supplemental foods that must be stocked
$\boxtimes$	Obtaining infant formula only from sources included in the State agency's list of State licensed infant formula wholesalers, distributors, and retailers, and manufacturers registered with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration
$\boxtimes$	Procedures for obtaining prior State agency approval to provide incentive items to WIC participants
$\boxtimes$	Procedures for transacting and redeeming food instruments and cash - value vouchers
$\boxtimes$	Vendor sanction system
$\boxtimes$	Vendor complaint process
$\boxtimes$	Claims procedures
$\boxtimes$	Changes in program requirements since the last training
$\boxtimes$	Recordkeeping requirements
	Replacement food instruments and cash-value vouchers
$\boxtimes$	Participant complaints
$\boxtimes$	Vendor requests for technical assistance
$\boxtimes$	Reauthorization
$\boxtimes$	Reporting changes of ownership, location, or cessation of operations
$\boxtimes$	Procedures for appeal/administrative review
$\boxtimes$	Training employees
$\boxtimes$	WIC/SNAP sanction reciprocity and information sharing
	Other (specify):
f a	ny topics listed above are not included in the annual vendor training, explain why.

### b. Vendors or vendor representatives receive training on the following occasions and/or through the following materials (check all that apply):

$\boxtimes$	On-site (in-store) meetings/conferences
$\boxtimes$	Off-site meetings/conferences
$\boxtimes$	During routine monitoring visits (e.g., educational buys)
$\boxtimes$	When specialized technical assistance is requested
$\boxtimes$	Written materials (e.g., newsletters)
$\boxtimes$	Audio or video recordings
$\boxtimes$	Teleconference, video conference, or webinars
	Vendor hotline
$\boxtimes$	State or local agency website

Other (specify):

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### **B. Vendor Training**

C.	vendors or ve	endor representatives receive <i>interactive</i> training as follows (check all applicable responses):
		e initial authorization
		ce every three years
	☐ Annually o	r more frequently than once every three years
d.	The following	method(s) are used to evaluate the effectiveness of vendor training (check all that apply):
		forms provided with training materials
		and/or post-tests regarding vendor policies, procedures, and practices
	☐ Statistical	indicators, such as a reduction in food instrument/cash-value voucher/cash-value benefit errors
	⊠ Education	al buys
	☐ Record re	views
		edback from vendors and/or participants
	∨ Vendor ad	visory councils
	None	
	Other (spe	cify):
ī		
2. a.	The State age Local age A contract A vendor a	or; specify:
	The State age Local age A contract A vendor a Other (spe	ncies or; specify: association/representative; specify:
	The State age Local age A contract A vendor a Other (spe	ncies or; specify: association/representative; specify:
	The State age Local age A contract A vendor a Other (spe	ncies or; specify: association/representative; specify:
a.	The State age Local age A contract A vendor a Other (spe None (the	ency delegates its vendor training to:  ncies  or; specify:  association/representative; specify:  cify):  State agency conducts all vendor training)
a.	The State age Local age A contract A vendor a Other (spe None (the	ency delegates its vendor training to:  ncies  or; specify:  association/representative; specify:  cify):  State agency conducts all vendor training)  requency with which the State agency performed the following activities during the past fiscal
a.	The State age Local age A contract A vendor a Other (spe None (the	Incies In
a.	The State age Local age A contract A vendor a Other (spe None (the	Incies  Incies
a.	The State age Local age A contract A vendor a Other (spe None (the	Incides  Inc
a.	The State age  Local age  A contract  Other (spe  None (the  Indicate the fryear:  Times/ FY	Incies In

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### **B. Vendor Training**

3.	Documents for and Documentation of Vendor Training				
a.	The State agency or the entity to which it delegates vendor training documents the content of and vendor participation in annual vendor training:				
b.	Vendors or vendor representatives are required to sign an acknowledgment of training when they have received the following types of training (check all that apply):				
	⊠ Educational buys				
	Remedial training Other (specify):				
C.	The State agency produces a Vendor Handbook:				
	If yes, provide the link to the Vendor Handbook or the citation:				
	https://dhhr.wv.gov/WIC/formsmaterials/Pages/Vendors.aspx				
d.	The State agency provides online or web-based training:				
	☐ Yes ⊠ No				
	If yes, provide the link to the training:				
	DITIONAL DETAIL: Vendor Management Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation): icy and Procedure 8.10 –Vendor Training				

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C. High-Risk Identification Systems 1. Vendor Complaints The State agency has a formal system for receiving complaints about vendors: No; please explain: Yes, complaints are received through the following: A toll-free number handled by State agency staff A standard complaint form which the complainant sends to: State agency Local agency or clinic Online system; include link here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WVWICvendor Other (specify): b. The State agency has a formal system for receiving complaints from vendors: No; please explain: Yes, complaints are received through the following: A toll-free number handled by State agency staff A standard complaint form which the complainant sends to: Local agency or clinic Online system; include link here: https://dhhr.wv.gov/WIC/Pages/contact.aspx Other (specify): Direct Vendor Management Unit phone number; Vendor Management Unit direct email The State agency logs and responds to all complaints c. The State agency logs and responds to all complaints: Xes, please explain: Customer service issues (all types) are documented in the Crossroads MIS; email, mail, or phone notification to complainant is made upon completion of investigation. No; please explain: ADDITIONAL DETAIL: Vendor Management Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation): Identifying High-Risk Vendors What criteria does the State agency use to identify high-risk vendors: (\* = mandatory) Complaints against vendors Other (specify all): frequency of whole dollar transactions New vendor b. Identify the frequency for generating high-risk vendor reports: ☐ Monthly Annually Quarterly No set schedule Other (specify):

c. Identify the type(s) of food instruments/cash-value vouchers/cash-value benefits used in the high-risk vendor analysis. (Check all that apply):

A full monthly food package for a:

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### C. High-Risk Identification Systems

	☐ CVVs/CVBs
	☐ Other (specify):
d.	To perform the high-risk vendor analysis, the State agency's system aggregates a vendor's redemptions over the following time period:
	Other (specify): 12 month calendar year
e.	Vendor redemption patterns are generally compared to:
	Other (specify):
the	vide additional information detailing how the State agency conducts the high-risk vendor analysis and how State agency ranks and selects vendors for compliance and/or monitoring activity when more than 5% of horized vendors are high risk.
Pol	cy and Procedure 8.09 – Compliance Buys; Vendors are prioritized for investigations based on the high risk indicator,
	their standard deviation from the state average regarding data such as redemption, sales volume, NTE adjustments, aplaints, etc. The severity of the complaint or statistical deviation will prompt the timeline for completing the compliance
	estigation.

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### **D. Routine Monitoring**

1.	Routine Monitoring Visits					
a.	. Routine monitoring visits are conducted by:					
	∑ State agency staff ☐ Local agency staff ☐ Other (specify):					
b.	dentify the activities performed during a routine monitoring visit; check all that apply:					
	Check the vendor's inventory of supplemental foods and/or inventory records to determine if the vendor meets the State agency's requirements for the minimum variety and quantity of supplemental foods					
	Check the vendor's inventory of non-supplemental foods and/or inventory records to provide information on whether the vendor is an above-50-percent vendor					
	Determine whether the vendor accepts forms of payment other than WIC food instruments, such as cash, personal checks, and credit cards, to provide information on whether the vendor is an above-50-percent vendor					
	Check the vendor's invoices of infant formula to ensure that the infant formula is obtained only from the State agency's list of infant formula manufacturers registered with the Food and Drug Administration, and infant formula wholesalers, distributors, and retailers licensed under State law					
	☐ If the vendor is an above-50-percent vendor, check its stock of incentive items to ensure that such items have been approved by the State agency					
	Obtain the vendor's shelf prices and/or validate the vendor's price list					
	Review food instruments or receipts in the vendor's possession for vend violations					
	Compare shelf prices that appear on the register to test for vendor overcharges					
	Review use of shelf tags and signage					
	Review expiration dates on supplemental foods					
	Compare prices of supplemental foods with similar items not approved as supplemental					
	Verify if that the vendor has appropriate terminals deployed in the required number of lanes per 7 CFR 246.12(z)					
	(2).  Conduct an educational buy					
	☐ Interview manager and/or employees					
	Review employee training procedures					
	☐ Conduct annual vendor training or provide vendor with annual training materials					
	Other (specify all):					
c.	Generally, routine monitoring visits are conducted on each vendor (check all that apply):					
	☐ Annually ☐ Twice a year ☐ As needed (specify) ☐ Other (specify) At least one time during the three year agreement period					
d.	The following procedures are used in determining whether a vendor is selected for a routine monitoring visit (check all that apply):					
	☐ Random selection ☐ Complaints					
	Periodic/scheduled training					
	Periodic/scheduled review					
e.	What percent of vendors received monitoring visits during the past fiscal year?					

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### **D. Routine Monitoring**

Less than 5 percent; explain reason:
5 percent
More than 5 percent (specify):
DITIONAL DETAIL: Vendor Management Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation): dor Management Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation): Policy and Procedures 8.08 – Routine Monitoring

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### **E.** Compliance Investigations

1.	Invest	igative	<b>Practices</b>

a.	The State agency conducts (check all that apply):
	Compliance buys (a covert, on-site investigation in which a representative of the Program poses as a participant, parent, or caretaker of an infant or child participant, or proxy; transacts one or more food instruments or CVVs/CVBs; and does not reveal during the visit that he or she is a Program representative.)
	Inventory audits (the examination of food invoices or other proofs of purchase to determine whether a vendor has purchased sufficient quantities of supplemental foods to provide participants the quantities specified on food instruments redeemed by the vendor during a given period of time.)
	Other (specify):
b.	The following factors are used to determine which vendors are selected for a compliance investigation (check all that apply):
	☑ Vendor is identified by the high-risk vendor identification criteria
	Random selection
	Geographical considerations
	□ Participant complaints
	Other (specify):
c.	The State agency uses standard procedures for conducting and documenting compliance buys and inventory audits:
	Yes If yes, please provide the guidelines in the Vendor Management Appendix <b>or</b> Cite the Procedure Manual reference: Policy and Procedure 8.09 – Compliance Buys; Appendix E– Compliance Buy Procedure
	No; specify:
d.	The results of compliance investigations are used to assess the effectiveness of the State agency's high-risk vendor identification criteria:
	If yes, check the items below that describe how the results of compliance investigations are used to assess the effectiveness of high-risk vendor identification criteria:
	The State agency compares data on the prevalence of vendor violations detected among high-risk versus non-high-risk vendors.
	The State agency discards a high-risk vendor identification criterion if compliance investigations of high-risk vendors identified by the criterion result in no vendor violations after months
	Investigative procedures and training are reevaluated if compliance investigations of high-risk vendors result in the detection of no vendor violations.
	Other (specify):
ΑC	DITIONAL DETAIL: Vendor Management Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation):
2.	Compliance Buys
a.	The State agency conducts the following types of compliance buys:
	Trafficking buys (exchanging food instruments for cash
	Safe buys (transacting food instruments to see if the vendor will overcharge)

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### **E.** Compliance Investigations

	Short buys (transacting food instruments for less food items than those available to see if the vendor will charge for food items not received)
	Major substitution buys (exchanging food instruments for non-food items)
	Minor substitution buys (exchanging food instruments for unauthorized food items)
	◯ Other (specify): Infant formula exchange
b.	Does the State agency tailor compliance buys to vendors' risk type?
	No; explain:
c.	Compliance buys are usually conducted by:
	☐ WIC local agency staff
	☐ State investigators
	☐ Investigators retained on a contract basis (e.g., Pinkerton, Wells Fargo)
	☑ Interns, neighborhood residents, or program participants employed by WIC
	Another WIC State agency
	Other (specify):
d.	Who is responsible for ensuring the proper execution of and follow-up on compliance buys?
	☐ WIC local agency manager
	☐ State investigators
	☐ Contractor
	☐ Another WIC State agency
	Other (specify): State WIC Director and/or State WIC Assistant Director, or designee
e.	If no vendor violations are detected, how many compliance buys does the State agency conduct before closing a compliance investigation?
	∑ Two
f.	If the State agency conducts a standard number of compliance buys per compliance investigation, what is the basis for the prescribed number of buys?
	State law or regulation
	State agency policy or procedure
	∠ Level of evidence necessary to impose vendor sanctions
	Legal counsel's advice
	Other (specify):
g.	Is the vendor provided written notification of a violation requiring a pattern of violations in order to sanction the vendor, prior to documenting another violation of the same kind, unless the State agency determines that such notice would compromise the investigation and documents this in the vendor's file?

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### **E. Compliance Investigations**

	If no, is the determination that the written notification would compromise the investigation documented in the vendor's file?							
	∀es; if a standard form is used, please attach and cite below.							
	□ No; please explain:							
h. AD	pes the State agency have a clear, actionable definition of "pattern of violations" approved by its General punsel/Administrative Officer?   Yes  No  No  TONAL DETAIL: Vendor Management Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation):							
	pendix F –Compliance Buy Notification Templates							
3.	Estimate the cost for conducting compliance buys, excluding expenses related to the vendor appeals/ administrative review process:							
	\$ Cost per compliance buy							
	Unknown							
	☐ Not applicable							
٩D	DITIONAL DETAIL: Vendor Management Appendix and/or Procedure Manual:							
1.	Inventory Audits (If inventory audits are not performed, go to Question 5)							
à.	The following factors are used to determine which vendors selected for compliance investigations will receive inventory audits rather than/or in addition to compliance buys:							
	☑ Vendor has highest risk based on State agency's high-risk identification criteria							
	Suspicion of vendor exchanging cash for food instruments (trafficking)							
	☐ Inconclusive compliance buy results							
	Other (specify):							
Э.	The State agency conducts the following types of inventory audits:							
	State agency inventory audits (vendor sends records to State agency)							
	Local agency inventory audits (vendor sends records to local agency)							
	Other (specify):							
۶.	Inventory audits are conducted by (check all that apply):							
	☐ WIC local agency staff							
	☐ State investigators							
	☐ Investigators retained on a contract basis (e.g., Pinkerton's, Wells Fargo)							
	Other (specify):							
d.	Identify the amount of, or period of time covered by, the receipts that are examined during an inventory audit:							
	3 months							

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Policy in development, inventory audits are new for FY2024.

### **E.** Compliance Investigations

5.	Compliance Buy/Invento	ry Audit Tracking System(s)				
a.	The State agency has a ractivities:	neans of recording and tracking staff person hours devoted to investigation				
	Yes; please describe:					
	⊠ No					
b.	The State agency has an automated system for tracking investigations that monitors the progress and status of each compliance investigation:					
	Xes; please describe:	Crossroads MIS functionality				
	☐ No					
ΑC	DITIONAL DETAIL: Vendo	or Management Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation):				

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### F. Administrative Review of State Agency Actions

1. 1	Types	of	Adm	inist	rative	Revi	ews
------	-------	----	-----	-------	--------	------	-----

The State agency conducts the following types of administrative reviews of vendor appeals for the adverse actions listed below. (Check all that apply):

Informal Desk Reviews	Abbreviated Admin. Reviews	Full Admin. Reviews			
		$\boxtimes$	Denial due to competitive price selection criterion		
		$\boxtimes$	Denial due to minimum stocking selection criterion		
	$\bowtie$		Denial due to business integrity or current SNAP DQ or CMP		
			Denial based on limiting criteria		
	$\boxtimes$		Denial due to State agency selection criteria		
	$\boxtimes$		Denial due to application outside timeframe		
	$\boxtimes$		Application of above-50-percent criteria		
		$\boxtimes$	DQ for WIC violations		
	$\boxtimes$		DQ for SNAP CMP		
		$\boxtimes$	Other WIC sanctions, e.g., fine or CMP		
		$\boxtimes$	Denial based on circumvention of sanction		
	$\boxtimes$		Application of peer group criteria		
	$\boxtimes$		Termination due to ownership change		
	$\boxtimes$		Termination due to location change		
	$\boxtimes$		Termination due to ceasing operations		
		$\boxtimes$	Termination for other causes		
	$\boxtimes$		DQ for trafficking/illegal sales conviction		
	$\boxtimes$		DQ/CMP due to another State agency's mandatory sanction		
	$\boxtimes$		CMP based on SNAP DQ		
			Denial based on no SNAP authorization		
		•	Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation): ically within the Handbook under Appendix A – Violations and Sanctions		
2. Administrat	ive Review Proce	edures			
a. The State ag	. The State agency has a law or regulation governing WIC administrative reviews:				
Yes; plea	Yes; please indicate:				
⊠ No					
If the State agency does have such a law or regulation, this includes:					
State ag	ency Administrativ	e Procedure	s Act  State agency health department regulation		
State ag	ency law pertainin	g to WIC only	y State agency WIC regulation		
☐ State ag	ency health depar	tment law	Other (specify):		

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### F. Administrative Review of State Agency Actions

b.	At which level	do administ	rative reviews of WIC vendor appeals take place:	
	☐ WIC local ag	gency [	State health department or Tribal	
		gency [	Other (specify):	
c.	Administrative reviews are conducted by:			
		cers		
☐ Administrative law judges				
	Other (spec	ify):		
d.				
	Abbreviated Admin. Reviews	Full Admin. Reviews		
		$\boxtimes$	Opportunity for vendor to examine evidence prior to review	
		$\boxtimes$	Opportunity for vendor to reschedule review date	
		$\boxtimes$	Opportunity for vendor to present its case	
		$\boxtimes$	Opportunity for vendor to be represented by counsel	
		$\boxtimes$	Opportunity for vendor to present witnesses	
		$\boxtimes$	Opportunity for vendor to cross-examine witnesses	
			Opportunity for investigators to testify behind a screen or via other non-identifying method	
		$\boxtimes$	Presence of a court reporter or stenographer	
			An impartial decision-maker, whose decision is based solely on whether the State agency correctly applied Federal and State statutes, regulations, policies, procedures	
		$\boxtimes$	A written decision within 90 days from request for review	
			Other (specify):	
e.	Check the party	y(ies) below	who may present the State agency case during a full administrative review:	
	☐ WIC staff pe	erson assigne	ed to case	
<ul> <li>✓ WIC State agency Vendor Manager</li> <li>✓ WIC State Agency Director</li> <li>✓ Legal counsel (State Attorney General or General Counsel's office)</li> <li>✓ Legal counsel (paid by WIC Program funds)</li> </ul>			or Manager	
			tor	
			orney General or General Counsel's office)	
			vIC Program funds)	
	Other (specify all):			
adr AD	ninistrative revi DITIONAL DET <i>A</i>	ew procedu \IL: Vendor	in the Additional Detail area below the location of the State agency's res.  Management Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation): and/or Procedure Manual (Citation): Policy and Procedure8.06 – Fair Hearing Policy for	

Vendor Management Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation): Policy and Procedure8.06 – Fair Hearing Policy for Vendors

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### G. Coordination with SNAP

1.	WIC/SNAP Information Sharing
a.	An information sharing agreement between the WIC State agency and SNAP is in effect and maintained at at the State agency:
	If yes, an updated list of authorized vendors is sent to the appropriate FNS SNAP Retailer Operations Division office:
	○ Once a year
	Regularly, at intervals of less than one year (specify):
	Periodically, as changes occur
	☐ Upon request
	Other (specify):
b.	State agency compliance investigators coordinate their activities with their SNAP counterparts:
	☐ Yes ☐ No
C.	State statute, regulations, or procedures restrict the disclosure of WIC vendor and SNAP retailer information to those permitted under <u>7 CFR 246.26(e)</u> and <u>(f)</u> :
	∑ Yes (specify):
	□ No
ΑD	DITIONAL DETAIL: Vendor Management Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation):

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□ Upload comma delimited file

☐ Upload XML file

### H. Staff Training

	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	9		
1.	Check bel practices:	ow the rout	tine formal training av	railable to State and local level staff in vendor management
	State	Local	Other (contractor)	
	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$		Vendor selection and authorization
	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$		Vendor training
	$\boxtimes$			Routine monitoring
	$\boxtimes$			Compliance investigations
				Inventory audits
	$\boxtimes$			Corrective actions and sanctions
				Criminal investigations
	$\boxtimes$			Vendor appeals/administrative reviews
	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$		Federal and/or State WIC regulations
	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$		Prevention of vendor fraud and abuse
	$\boxtimes$			WIC/SNAP information sharing and handling of confidential WIC vendor data
	$\boxtimes$			High-risk vendor identification
	$\boxtimes$			Vendor management information system
	☐ No	t applicable		
	☐ Ot	her (specify)	):	
2.	State ager stakeholde  Monthl  Quarte	er group: <sup>y</sup>	eets with vendor repre	esentatives as part of a vendor advisory council or other vendor
		•	Annually face to face	
	∠ Other i	-		
	☐ No ver	ıdor advisor	y council	
ΑD	DITIONAL	DETAIL: Ve	endor Management Ap	ppendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation):
3.	Reporting	vendor inf	ormation to the Food	Delivery Portal (FDP):
a.	How does	the State a	gency submit vendor	information to the FDP?
	☐ Manua	Ily (via the F	FDP screens)	

ADDITIONAL DETAIL: Vendor Management Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation):

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### I. Participant Access

1. Please provide the State agency definition for participant access. Include full criteria, including geography, density, and any other parameters in your response.

Participant access is defined in WV Policy and Procedure 8.03: To be considered inadequate participant access, one(1) of the following conditions must be indicated: Proximity of another authorized Vendor is more than three (3) miles driving distance; the Vendor serves ten (10) or more WIC participants whose specific nationality could not be properly served by another authorized Vendor located within a one (1) mile distance because of a language barrier; geographic barriers or conditions which would make normal travel burdensome or impossible to another authorized vendor (i.e., an unbridged river,an expressway and frequent road closings because of bad weather); a significant number of WIC participants, generally twenty (20) or more, would be required to travel an unreasonable distance to another authorized Vendor in order to receiveWIC benefits; the participant has a physical disability that cannot be accommodated by alternative Vendors (For this condition to apply, the participant with a disability must have done more than half of the participant's food benefit redemption in the previous six (6) months with this vendor.); or the need to provide adequate service to participants when circumstances make it necessary such as new clinic site opening, participant caseload increases, store closings, or currently authorized WICstores cease operations.

2.	Does the State agency assess all vendor applications not meeting selection criteria for participant access?
	⊠ Yes □ No
a.	If yes, describe below paste or attach and provide a citation of the procedures used for assessing vendor applications for participant access. Provide sufficient details so steps can be followed and criteria applied to a specific vendor
	Policy and Procedure 8.03 – Participant Access Assessment; 8.03 Attachment #1 – Participant Access AssessmentForm
	DITIONAL DETAIL: Vendor Management Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation) and/or FMNP State Plan tation):

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J. Farmer/Farmers' Market Authorization

$\boxtimes$	IF YOUR STATE AGENCY DOES NOT AUTHORIZE FARMERS/FARMERS' MARKETS TO ACCEPT CVVs/CVBs; SECTIONS J-N DO NOT APPLY.
1.	Does the State agency delegate any tasks related to the management of the Farmers or Farmers' Markets to another entity?
	□ No
	Yes (specify what tasks and to whom):
2.	The State agency authorizes farmers/farmers' markets to accept CVVs/CVBs based on:
	Authorization by the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP)
	Selection criteria established separately from FMNP
3.	If the State agency does not authorize farmers/farmers' markets based on FMNP authorization, the selection criteria include (describe):
4.	The State agency considers applications:
	☐ On an on-going basis ☐ Every three years
	Annually Every two years
	Other (specify):
	DITIONAL DETAIL: Vendor Management Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation): d/or FMNP State Plan (Citation):

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### K. Farmer/Farmers' Market Agreements

1.	Agreement perio	ods are for:
	One year	☐ Three years
	☐ Two years	Other (specify):
2.	Agreements are	:
	☐ A modified ve	ersion of the vendor agreement
	Combined wi	th the FMNP agreement
	Unique to the	e authorization of farmers to transact CVVs/CVBs
3.	The following re	flect the State agency's farmer/farmers' market agreement practices:
	All farmers/fa	rmers' markets have a written agreement with the State agency
	☐ A standard fa	armer/farmers' market agreement is used statewide
	Agreements	are subject to the State's procurement procedures
	Agreements/	handbooks are subject to the State's Administrative Procedures Act
		ners' markets are authorized/reauthorized under renewable agreements, provided no farmer/farmers' ions occurred during the previous agreement period
	All farmers/fa	rmers' markets are provided at least 15 days advance written notice of the expiration of the
		rmers' markets are provided a schedule of sanctions, either in or attached to the farmer/farmers' ement, or as a citation to State regulations
	Other (specif	y):
4.	Agreement prov	risions include:
	Assure that the	he CVV/CVB is redeemed only for eligible fruits and vegetables as defined by the State agency
	Provide eligik	ole fruits and vegetables at the current price or less than the current price charged to other customers
		VVs/CVBs within the dates of their validity and submit CVVs for payment within the allowable time ished by the State agency
	Redeem the	CVV/CVB in accordance with a procedure established by the State agency
	Accept training	ng on CVV/CVB procedures and provide training to any employees with CVV/CVB responsibilities on ures
	☐ Agree to be r	monitored for compliance with program requirements, including both overt and covert monitoring
	☐ Be accountal	ole for actions of employees in the provision of authorized foods and related activities
	☐ Pay the State	e agency for any CVV/CVB transacted in violation of this agreement
	Offer WIC pa	rticipants, parent or caretakers of child participants or proxies the same courtesies as other
	□ Neither the S	tate agency nor the farmer has an obligation to renew the agreement.
	Other (specif	y):
5.	The farmer/farm	ers markets agreement reflects that the farmer/farmers' market must not:
		tax on CVV/CVB purchases

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### K. Farmer/Farmers' Market Agreements

<ul> <li>Seek restitution from WIC participants, parent or caretakers of child participants or proxies for CVVs/CVBs not paid or partially paid by the State agency</li> </ul>
☐ Issue cash change for purchases that are in an amount less than the value of the CVV/CVB
Other (specify):
Please attach a copy of the Farmer/Farmers' Market Agreement or provide the appropriate Procedure Manual reference below.

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### L. Farmer/Farmers' Market Training

1.	Farmer/farmers' market training includes:
	☐ Eligible fruits and vegetables
	Procedures for transacting and redeeming CVVs/CVBs
	Agreement provisions
	☐ Sanctions and Appeals
	Other (specify):
2.	Interactive farmer/farmers' market training (e.g., face-to-face, video conference, web cam) is conducted:
	At or before initial authorization
	At least every three years following initial authorization
	Other (specify):
3.	Non-interactive farmer/farmers' market training (e.g., via hard copy mail, email, online) is conducted:
	Annually following authorization
	☐ Changes in procedures
	Other (specify):
4.	The State agency delegates training to:
	Local agency (specify):
	Contractor (specify):
	Farmer representative (specify):
	Other (specify):
5.	If the State agency delegates training, briefly describe the State agency's supervision of such training:
6.	The State agency produces a Farmer/farmers markets Training Handbook:
	☐ Yes ☐ No
	If yes, provide the citation:
7.	The State agency provides online or web based training:
	☐ Yes ☐ No
	If yes, provide the link to the training or citation:
	DDITIONAL DETAIL: Vendor Management Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation) and/or FMNP State Plan itation):

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### M. Farmer Monitoring

1.	Farmers/farmers' markets are included in the:	
	FMNP Sample of farmers/farmers markets for monitoring	☐ WIC sample of vendors for monitoring
2.	Monitoring includes:	
	Covert methods, such as compliance buys	Overt methods, such as routine monitoring
	DITIONAL DETAIL: Vendor Management Appendix and/o n (Citation):	r Procedure Manual (Citation): and/or FMNP State

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### N. Farmer/Farmers' Market Sanctions, Claims and Appeals

1.	Farmer/farmers' market violations may result in; check all that apply:
	☐ Disqualification
	☐ Denial of payment or demand for refund due to improperly redeemed CVVs/CVBs (Claims)
	Prosecution under Federal, State, or local law regarding fraud or other illegal activity
	Monetary sanctions such as civil money penalties and fines
2.	Farmers/farmers' markets may administratively appeal:
	☐ Disqualification
	☐ Denial of application
	Other sanction (specify):
3.	Farmers/farmers' markets may not administratively appeal:
	Expiration of an agreement
	☐ Claims
	Other (specify):
Ρle	ease attach and/or reference the location of the State agency's administrative review procedures.
	DITIONAL DETAIL: Vendor Management Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation) and/or FMNP State Plan itation):

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