

Becoming a WIC Vendor

What is WIC?

WIC (Women, Infants and Children) provides healthy food to low-income and nutritionally at-risk children and pregnant, postpartum, or breastfeeding women.

Why become a WIC vendor?

Once you are an authorized vendor, WIC recipients will be able to spend their WIC checks at your store. New customers may shop at your store, and current customers will be able to buy more products from you. Your sales will grow.

What will I have to do?

You must keep products from every WIC food group on the shelves, at reasonable prices. Cashiers must make sure that customers use their WIC checks for the right items, and you must enter the serial numbers on the checks into the state computer system before putting them into the bank.

How do I apply?

1. Submit the “WIC Single Vendor Store Application,” found online at www.cdph.ca.gov/PROGRAMS/WICWORKS/Pages/WICGrocerNewVendorPackage.aspx. Read the instructions first; they will guide you through the forms. If you want to have more than one store authorized for the program, you must submit the “Multiple Vendor Store Application” instead.
2. Once you have submitted a complete application, your local WIC office will contact you with the date, time, and location of a vendor training class. You must attend the class and pass a simple test at the end.
3. Your local WIC office will contact you to set up an on-site store inspection. To pass, you must have:
 - ▷ A valid health permit or health inspection report showing that the store passed.



Photo by Lydia Daniller

NOTE: WIC will not accept new vendor applications between March 12 and December 31, 2009.

- ▷ Prices for WIC-authorized foods posted on the individual items or on the shelf where the items are located. The prices must be reasonable and comparable to the prices of other stores of similar size and type in the same area.
- ▷ Every type of food group authorized by WIC on the shelves. (Vendors are not required to stock every authorized food item.) For details, see www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/wicworks/Documents/WIC-Grocer-NewVendorPkg-PreparingForAnOnsiteInspection.pdf.

The approval process can take up to 90 days for approval. It will take more time if there are missing items or other problems with the application.