

Virginia WIC Retailer Advisory Meeting Minutes

Date: October 19, 2023

Time: 2:00 PM EST

Location: webex

State WIC Office Attendees: Megan Nason, Alex Acharya, Bob Altermatt, Brian Tun, Jennifer Trower, Ephraim Ewing.

Facilitator: Ephraim Ewing

Recorder: Jennifer Trower

- The meeting began at 2:00pm

Megan Nason (Program Manager) provided an update for the Division and WIC Program

- In-person services at our WIC clinics returned in August of this year with the expiration of all COVID-19 related waivers.
- A continuing resolution was passed by congress and signed by the president last month. This continuing resolution provided government funding through November 17 to avoid a government shutdown. Based on our current funding, we anticipate being able to operate until the end of January of 2024 should another continuing resolution or budget not be passed.
- WIC regulations require that the monthly Cash Value Benefit (CVB) be adjusted annually for inflation. With the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2024 passed, the inflation adjusted monthly CVBs have increased to the following levels:
 - \$26 for child participants (was previously \$25)
 - \$47 for pregnant and postpartum participants (was previously \$44)
 - \$52 for fully and partially breastfeeding participants (was previously \$49)

Alex Acharya (Vendor Team Manager) provided an update for the vendor team

- Virginia WIC retailers participated in the 2023 authorization over the summer
- The completed 2023 retailer agreements were sent to single store owners and multi store companies. If a business did not receive their signed 2023 retailer agreement, please contact Alex.Acharya@vdh.virginia.gov
- When an authorized retailer changes bank account the business must contact the programs EBT provider Conduent (WIC EBT Vendor Help Desk 1-877-436-6057). Conduent will provide instructions for how to update the bank account.
- Retailers must also complete the Authorization for Direct Deposit ACH & EBT Settlement (WIC#V-394 10/20). The form is located online at <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/wic-retailers/resources/>. Instructions are included in the form. Please call the vendor team if you have any questions.

- The quarterly WIC retailer bulletin for Fall 2023 was emailed to retailers and contacts on October 17, 2023. The Vendor Team requests that you please distribute and share the bulletin with store personnel
- Each of the published WIC retailer bulletin is available for download on the vendor team website <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/wic-retailers/resources/>
- All WIC waivers including eggs and milk waivers under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) expired on August 9, 2023. As a result, the Virginia WIC Program will resume retailer compliance activities, undercover buys and onsite monitoring reviews
- For WIC retailers the most important activity is the onsite monitoring review. The activity identifies whether a store meets the Minimum Stocking Requirements for foods and formulas.
- Virginia WIC retailer minimum stocking requirements can be downloaded from our website [Minimum Stocking Requirement \(virginia.gov\)](#) and the [Minimum Stocking Requirement - at a Glance \(virginia.gov\)](#)
- The Date for the next meeting is January 18, 2024 at 2:00pm EST.