



Department of Health

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WIC Vendor Bulletin 2008-1

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## WIC Food Packages: Time for a Change

The WIC food packages are changing to better meet the nutritional needs of WIC participants. The Rhode Island WIC Program will have changes to allow the participants to buy different items, which will change how you manage WIC business. This bulletin is to inform you about the areas of change. The specific changes will be coming soon.

### New Foods Added to the WIC Food Packages Include

- Fruits and vegetables (fresh, frozen, canned)
- Whole grain breads and cereals
- Baby foods fruits, vegetables, and meats
- Soy beverages
- Brown rice, oatmeal, and bulgur
- Soft corn and whole wheat tortillas
- Canned beans
- Canned salmon, sardines, and mackerel
- Tofu

### How Does the New WIC Food Package Rule Affect Vendors?

Under new regulations governing the WIC food packages, authorized WIC vendors are required to:

- **Stock new WIC foods:** including at least two varieties of fruits, two varieties of vegetables, and at least one whole grain cereal authorized by the Rhode Island WIC Program. There will be different inventory minimums for different vendors.
- **Transact and process cash-value checks for fruit and vegetables.** The cash-value checks are provided to participants to purchase fruits and vegetables (fresh, frozen, canned, and dried).

We would like to take this opportunity to hear your opinions and concerns. It is important to the Rhode Island WIC Program to receive all of the vendors' questions and concerns so that final decisions can be made in everyone's best interest. From a selection of those who volunteer, a committee will be formed to discuss concerns and to find solutions. For more information refer to [www.fns.usda.gov/wic](http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic) or call the WIC Vendor Unit: Tracy 401.222.4630, Millie 401.222.5930, or Preet 401.222.4633.

Please cut at the dotted line and mail in

**Vendor Committee for Food Package Changes**

Yes, I am interested in being a member

No, I am not interested

Mail to: Department of Health  
WIC Program, Vendor Unit  
3 Capitol Hill, Room 303  
Providence, RI 02908

Store Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Store Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_