
SECTION: REFERRALS, HEALTH LINKAGES AND INTEGRATION, AND OUTREACH

SUBJECT: General Purpose and Scope

ITEM: Overview

General Purpose and Scope

Coordination of intake procedures, outreach activities and referral services with other community programs are conducted to enable WIC participants and potentially eligible persons to benefit from services that meet their individual health and nutrition needs. These activities are critical because substantial numbers of pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding women, infants and young children from families with inadequate income are at special risk with respect to their physical and mental health by reason of inadequate nutrition or health care, or both. The local agency (LA) coordination of referrals, health linkages and integration, and outreach provide one of the core benefits of the WIC program.

- I. The WIC Program serves as an adjunct to good health care during critical times of human growth and development, to prevent health problems, including drug and other harmful substance abuse, and to improve the health status of WIC participants. The LA is required to:
 - A. make available appropriate health services to participants/applicants;
 - B. inform applicants of the health care services available;
 - C. plan for continued efforts to make health services available through written agreements with other health programs and medical care providers to lend administrative efficiency and participant convenience to the certification process; and
 - D. arrange and maintain cooperative written agreements with any hospital providing care to the LA participants.
- II. The WIC Program is supplementary to the Food Stamp Program, other food distribution programs for the needy, and public assistance programs. The LA is required to:
 - A. inform eligible persons of the availability of food distribution programs, including the eligibility criteria for participation, and
 - B. refer applicants/participants to such programs.

Authority

22CCR 40681 (c)

7CFR 246.4 (a) (7) (20); 246.6 (b) (3) (5) (f); 246.7 (a) (b)

[WIC Nutrition Services Standards, October 2001, Standards 3, 15, and 16](#)