
SECTION: FOOD DELIVERY SYSTEM

SUBJECT: Overview

ITEM: Food Delivery System

Policy

The California Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program provides supplemental food to program participants through a retail purchase system, utilizing food instruments (FIs) printed by a local agency. The State agency monitors FIs from the time checkstock is sent to the local agency to use to print FIs, until the FIs have cleared the bank.

Basis for policy

7 CFR 246.12 (r) (5) & (s)

Contents of food instruments (FIs)

Each FI may be redeemed for specific food items at a WIC authorized vendor. WIC staff shall not direct participants either towards or away from specific WIC authorized vendors or types of vendors. The following food prescription information is then printed on the FI:

1. participant's individual number, generated by the Integrated Statewide Information System (ISIS),
2. name on the ISIS family record,
3. first day the FI may be redeemed by the participant,
4. last day the FI may be redeemed by the participant,
5. FI serial number which must match the preprinted serial number already on the FI,
6. WIC Authorized Vendor (WAV)
7. type of food to purchase, and
8. quantity of food to purchase.

Participant redemption of FIs

The participant presents the FI to any WIC authorized vendor in exchange for authorized foods. At the time of purchase, the actual selling price of the specified foods is entered and the participant or alternate signs the FI.

The participant has 31 days to redeem the FI for food items before the FI expires on the "last day to use." The WIC authorized vendor is allowed 45 days from the "first day to use" date in which to deposit the redeemed FIs in a commercial bank.

WIC Authorized Vendor (WAV) reimbursement for FIs

The WAV is reimbursed for the FIs by its bank after they are processed through the State's banking system.