



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

June 10, 2013

VENDOR ALERT 2013 - 03

TO: ALL WIC VENDORS
SUBJECT: MORATORIUM EXEMPTION CRITERIA

Purpose

The California Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program has been granted the authority by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to approve certain exemptions to the new vendor moratorium that meet the following Moratorium Exemption Criteria.

Background

On April 11, 2012, the USDA ordered California WIC to extend the temporary moratorium on accepting new vendor applications, put in place the year before, in order to effectively manage vendors and contain program costs. As directed by the USDA, the moratorium will remain in effect until the California WIC Program develops and fully implements an effective cost containment and vendor management system. USDA has provided California WIC with exemption criteria to accept new vendor applications.

Moratorium Exemption Criteria

California WIC may approve exemptions to the moratorium in the following situations for vendors:

1. **Participant Access.** New vendor applications may be approved when California WIC determines there to be a lack of participant access in the area. Currently, participant access is defined as a geographic area with:
 - a. the presence of a vendor within a 5-mile radius to another vendor or the WIC local agency in rural locations, or
 - b. the presence of a vendor within a 2-mile radius to another vendor or the WIC local agency in urban locations.
2. **Transfer of ownership from one vendor to another currently authorized vendor.** New applications may be approved for a currently authorized vendor that has purchased a new store if:
 - a. the new store is a previously authorized WIC store location, and
 - b. the application is filed by the new owner within 6 months of the previous vendor's termination from the Program.
3. **Temporary closure.** New vendor applications may be approved for vendors that were WIC authorized but are temporarily closed for renovations or other reasons if:
 - a. the vendor was closed for less than 6 months, and
 - b. there was no change of ownership, and
 - c. the vendor was not disqualified, and
 - d. the vendor ownership is current on all payments of vendor claims, if applicable.



Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program
3901 Lennane Drive, MS 8600, Sacramento, CA 95834
P O Box 997375, MS 8600, Sacramento, CA 95899-7375
(916) 928-8500 Internet Address: www.wicworks.ca.gov

-
4. **Meet all federal and state vendor authorization criteria.** Even if a store meets one of the above exemption criteria, the vendor must also meet all federal and state rules, regulations, and vendor authorization criteria.
-

**How to Apply
for an
Exemption**

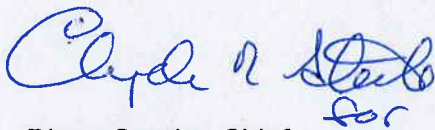
Vendors that want to apply for an exemption must contact California WIC by email at WICVENDORINFO@cdph.ca.gov, or by toll free call at (855) WIC-STOR or (855) 942-7867. The exemption request must include the following:

1. Name and address of store
2. Vendor ownership name
3. Contact person's name, telephone number, and email address

California WIC will evaluate the store location, and if the vendor meets the Moratorium Exemption Criteria, the vendor will be given application documents to complete and submit within 15 business days of receipt of request. All documents are subject to review and approval prior to authorization.

Questions

If you have any questions, please contact your Vendor Consultant or call toll free at (855) WIC-STOR or (855) 942-7867. You can also contact the WIC Vendor Management Branch by email at WICVENDORINFO@cdph.ca.gov.



The image shows a handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Diane Sparks" with a stylized flourish. Below the signature, the word "for" is written in a smaller, simpler blue ink.

Diane Sparks, Chief
Vendor Management Branch
California WIC Program