PURPOSE:
To provide an overview of the eligibility requirements for WIC Program participation.

POLICY:
I. Local agency (LA) staff must certify an applicant for program participation if the applicant meets WIC eligibility requirements for category, residency, income, and nutritional risk.
   A. A family representative may apply for WIC program participation on behalf of an infant or child. (Refer to eWPPM 290-00).
   B. A caretaker is an individual designated by a participant or family representative to act on their behalf. (Refer to eWPPM 290-10).

PROCEDURES:
I. The following eligibility criteria must be met and documented in the WIC Web Information System Exchange (WIC WISE) for an applicant to be certified for program participation:
   A. Be in a category served by WIC:
      1. Pregnant (prenatal) individual. (Refer to eWPPM 210-08).
      2. Breastfeeding individual up to one year postpartum.
      3. Non-breastfeeding individual up to six months postpartum.
      4. Infant up to 12 months old.
      5. Child under the age of five years.
   B. Live in California. (Refer to eWPPM 210-06).
   C. Meet income eligibility. (Refer to eWPPM 210-01 through 210-05).
   D. Have an indicator of nutritional risk. (Refer to eWPPM 210-09 through 210-13).
II. Presence at Certification
   A. The applicant must be present at certification unless they meet an approved exemption criterion. (Refer to eWPPM 210-07).
III. Identification (ID) at Certification
   A. The applicant must provide proof of ID at certification. (Refer to eWPPM 270-20).
IV. Miscellaneous
   A. Certification must be performed at no cost to the applicant.
B. The LA must not discriminate against an applicant/participant on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, disability, and/or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

C. WIC allows program participation by foreign citizens, provided they meet the program eligibility requirements. Citizenship status cannot be a factor in eligibility determinations.

AUTHORITY:
7 CFR 246.7(c), (l) and (m)
7 CFR 246.8

CROSS REFERENCE:
eWPPM 210-01 General Income Eligibility Guidelines and Procedures
eWPPM 210-02 Adjunctive Eligibility
eWPPM 210-03 Determination of Income Eligibility
eWPPM 210-04 Income Exclusions
eWPPM 210-05 Income Tables
eWPPM 210-06 Proof of California Residency
eWPPM 210-07 Presence Requirement
eWPPM 210-08 Proof of Pregnancy
eWPPM 210-09 Overview – Nutrition Assessment Requirement for All Categories
eWPPM 210-10 Determining Nutritional Risk – Anthropometric
eWPPM 210-11 Determining Nutritional Risk – Biochemical
eWPPM 210-12 Determining Nutritional Risk – Clinical/Health/Medical
eWPPM 210-13 Determining Nutritional Risk – Dietary
eWPPM 270-20 Proof of Identity
eWPPM 290-00 Family Representative
eWPPM 290-10 Designation of Caretaker