

DECEMBER 2018 EDITION

WIC News

For Community Partners



FUN FACT:

Nationally, there are a total of ninety "WIC state agencies" which include states, U.S. Territories, and Indian Tribal Organizations. Forty-five have already implemented electronic WIC food benefits.



It's Coming!

In the Premier issue of WIC News, we shared information about the California WIC Card which will be rolled out statewide beginning May 6, 2019 with a pilot in Napa and Solano Counties. To spread the word, we are sharing information and materials with local agencies, grocers, and community partners. You can find this information on our website www.wicworks.ca.gov. We have added a webpage titled WIC Card—It's Coming! to make it easier for you to locate updates on the website. We also encourage you to email us with any questions about the WIC Card at WICcard@cdph.ca.gov.

Preparing for Go-Live

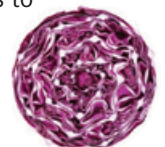
The process of switching from paper vouchers to the WIC Card involves outside contractors with expertise to provide for an effective and efficient transition. Much of this support includes assisting WIC local agencies and grocers from training through implementation.

As we transition to the California WIC Card, we invite you to support our efforts in communicating with stakeholders as well as current and future participants about this exciting change. We thank you in advance for sharing information about the WIC Card and the WIC Program.

Preparing Local Agencies for the WIC Card

California will implement a new Management Information System based on one already being used in other states, including Florida and New York. This new system, called WIC WISE, will allow local agencies to collect data purchasing patterns to better help WIC serve participants.

The new system will allow local agencies to continue providing quality WIC nutrition education and breastfeeding support more easily and effectively. The new system will offer better health data collection and stronger reporting options than the current CA WIC Management Information System. WIC WISE opens the door for more opportunities to provide seamless services to California families in need.



The goal of the California Department of Public Health/WIC Division is for Local Agencies to have a smooth transition to the WIC Card and WIC WISE system. We are working closely with Local Agencies on the design of WIC WISE to ensure it meets daily operation needs. Before their wave goes live, Local Agency staff will be starting their training for WIC WISE to enhance their skills and knowledge of the new system.

Preparing grocery stores for the WIC Card

The shopping experience will improve for authorized grocers as well as the WIC shopper with use of the WIC Card. Most of the manual transactions at the store cash register will now be electronic and more discrete.

Grocers are learning about upcoming changes for the WIC Card roll out in their area, and how they can prepare for the switch from paper checks to the WIC Card.

Support teams are already at work to ensure that stores have the right equipment for WIC Card transactions. Authorized grocers must continue to accept valid paper checks until all California WIC participants have received their WIC Card and unexpired paper checks have been redeemed.



REMINDER:

The California WIC Card implementation rollout waves will begin on May 6, 2019.

A new wave will Go-Live approximately every 3 weeks, with the last wave going live on March 30, 2020.

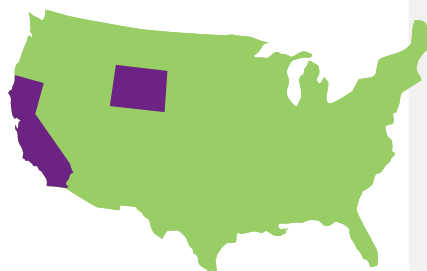
Waves	Go Live Dates
Pilot	05/06/2019
Wave 1	08/12/2019
Wave 2	09/03/2019
Wave 3	09/23/2019
Wave 4	10/14/2019
Wave 5	11/12/2019
Wave 6	12/09/2019
Wave 7	01/21/2020
Wave 8	02/18/2020
Wave 9	03/09/2020
Wave 10	03/30/2020

FUN FACTS:

Wyoming was the first state agency to issue electronic WIC food benefits statewide.

California will take approximately 11 months to implement electronic

WIC food benefits statewide, beginning with the Pilot in May 2019 through the end of the last rollout wave in March 2020.



Questions?

Please visit our website www.wicworks.ca.gov or send us an email at WICcard@cdph.ca.gov

