

PREMIER PUBLICATION

WIC News

For Local Agency Staff

Introducing the California WIC Card!

As you have probably heard, the California WIC Card is coming! The WIC Card will replace the current paper food checks and will provide an easier way to issue food benefits, as well as improve the shopping experience for WIC families and vendors.

Each family will receive one WIC Card for all of their family's food benefits. The WIC Card will provide a more convenient way for families to shop for WIC foods and provide flexibility to get just what they need at each shopping trip. In addition, families will not lose their WIC food benefits if their WIC Card is lost, stolen or damaged.

For more information:

Visit wicworks.ca.gov
or contact us at
WICCard@cdph.ca.gov

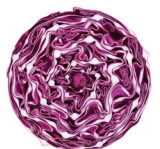
Implementation Schedule

In order to implement the new WIC Card, we must replace WIC's current computer system with a new system, called WIC WISE (WIC Web Information System Exchange). The new card and the new computer system will be rolled out throughout California in waves, beginning with a pilot period in Napa and Solano Counties.

The pilot local agencies will "Go Live" on May 6, 2019. The Go Live date is the first day a WIC local agency site begins issuing the WIC Card to participants and using WIC WISE. A new wave will go live approximately every 3 weeks starting mid-August 2019. A detailed map on page 2 of this publication shows the specific areas of the pilot and 10 waves, as well as each Local Agency's Go Live date.

Considerations for the rollout waves included:

- Geography and distance between local agencies
- Variation of food costs per region
- Number of WIC local agencies and WIC authorized vendors per wave
- Facilities for training
- Weather
- Staffing and training enrollment size



Each wave consists of a 6 to 8 month period of planning, training, and implementation activities for local agencies and authorized vendors, prior to your local agency's Go Live date. Also prior to your Go Live date, your agency will get new equipment necessary for the transition. Staff will also have computer based and instructor led training. You will receive more details as your agency's Go Live date gets closer.

Ways to stay informed

We are committed to keeping you informed about the exciting changes coming to the California WIC Program, which will have a positive impact on WIC families, local agencies, and vendors. The new monthly publication, WIC News, will provide information about the transition to the WIC Card and WIC WISE. We will produce 3 versions of WIC News, each targeting a specific key stakeholder audience including WIC Local Agencies, WIC Authorized Vendors, and community partners.

A broadcast of WIC News will also be available each month. You can access all WIC News resources by visiting our website at wicworks.ca.gov and the Local Agency SharePoint Site (LASS).

The California WIC Card and WIC WISE updates are also being communicated through various meetings, conferences, monthly webinars, WIC Watch and the LASS.

We will also provide materials and resources throughout the implementation process including posters, brochures, and other handouts. These materials will be posted at wicworks.ca.gov and LASS.

If you have any questions we encourage you to contact us at WICcard@cdph.ca.gov.



California WIC Card and WIC WISE Implementation Rollout Waves

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



California Department of Public Health, California WIC Program
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