

DECEMBER 2018 EDITION

# WIC News

For Vendors

**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 vendors, local agencies, and community partners. You can find this information on our website [www.wicworks.ca.gov](http://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](mailto:WICcard@cdph.ca.gov).

## Preparing for Go-Live

We are hard at work to ensure California WIC's successful transition to the WIC Card!

The process of switching from paper food instruments to the WIC Card involves outside contractors with expertise to provide for an effective and efficient transition. Much of this support includes assisting authorized vendors from training through implementation. Support teams are already at work to ensure that stores have the right equipment for WIC Card transactions.

Using the WIC Card will improve the shopping experience for authorized vendors, as well as the WIC shopper. Many of the steps involved in conducting a WIC transaction at the cash register will become electronic and more discrete. Authorized vendors must continue to accept paper food instruments until all California WIC participants have received their WIC Card and all non-expired paper food instruments have been redeemed.

## WIC Card Vendor Kickoff Sessions

Vendors can also sign up to attend one of the California WIC Card Vendor Kickoff Sessions being held at WIC Training Centers statewide. These interactive sessions help prepare California's vendors for the transition from paper food instruments to the new WIC Card.



For more information about signing up please visit: <https://signup.com/go/WmuKPNT> for details and to register. There is also an electronic version of the **California WIC Card Vendor Kickoff Presentation** posted to the CDPH/WIC website at [www.wicworks.ca.gov](http://www.wicworks.ca.gov). To view, select the "Grocers" tab, "Vendor Education" tab, and look under "Vendor Training Tools" to find the **California WIC Card Vendor Kickoff Presentation**.

## Ways to Stay Informed

CDPH/WIC is committed to keeping you informed about the exciting changes coming to the California WIC Program. We will be releasing additional information through:

- Monthly WIC News Publication
- Vendor Alerts
- Monthly Vendor Stakeholder Webinars
- Local Vendor Liaison Visits

## Monthly Vendor Stakeholder Webinars

WIC authorized vendors are invited to participate in monthly Vendor Stakeholder Webinars that last from 30 minutes to one hour.

Vendors can register for a webinar by going to <https://wicworks.webex.com>. Select the tab "Webex Events" that will take you to a list of webinars to choose from. Identify the "WIC Vendor Stakeholder Webinar" session you want to attend, select "Register," and enter the requested information. You will receive an email confirmation of your registration that includes instructions on how you can participate on the day of the webinar.

## Vendor Annual Training Newsletter

The **2018 California WIC Vendor Annual Training Newsletter** is here! This year's newsletter contains important information about the WIC Card, authorized WIC foods, WIC Program changes, and more. The Annual Training Newsletter can be used as a guide to highlight important WIC updates and to remind vendors and store staff of their responsibilities as authorized vendors. California WIC is undergoing exciting changes with the WIC Card; we recommend sharing this informative newsletter as a training resource for store staff to learn more about upcoming changes. Staff training improves the level of service provided to your store customers who are WIC participants, and we value your contribution.

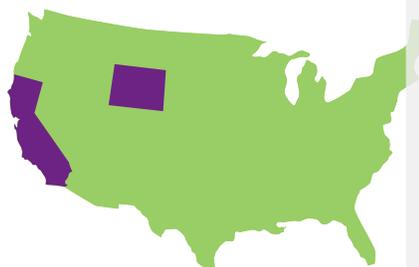
All WIC authorized vendors are required to meet an annual training requirement by reading the 2018 California WIC Vendor Annual Training Newsletter and then logging in to the **Vendor WIC Information eXchange (VWIX)** system by December 28, 2018 to certify completion of this requirement. To certify completion of your annual training, log into **VWIX** at <https://vwix.ca.gov/>, select the "Annual Training" tab, click on the drop down box under "Select Training", select your "Training ID", click on the box for each store you wish to complete training for, click "Begin Training", read the entire Newsletter, enter in the requested information, and click "I Agree" to complete your certification.

### 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 email [WICcard@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:WICcard@cdph.ca.gov) and/or call toll free (855) WIC-STOR or (855) 942-7867.



California Department of Public Health, California WIC Program

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1-800-852-5770 | <https://wicworks.ca.gov>

