



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

May 5, 2014



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
Governor

**VENDOR ALERT 2014-05**

TO: WIC VENDORS

SUBJECT: UPCOMING CHANGE TO CHILD'S FRUITS AND VEGETABLES FOOD INSTRUMENT

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**Purpose** The California Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is notifying vendors of an upcoming change to the child's Fruits and Vegetables Food Instrument (FI). These changes will be effective June 2, 2014.

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**Background** On March 4, 2014, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) finalized changes to WIC Food Packages (7 CFR Part 246). These changes included an increase in the dollar amount for children's fruits and vegetables purchases. Information regarding these changes can be obtained at [http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/03-04-14\\_WIC-Food-Packages-Final-Rule.pdf](http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/03-04-14_WIC-Food-Packages-Final-Rule.pdf). California WIC will be implementing these changes per the USDA mandate.

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**Food Instrument Change** Beginning June 2, 2014, Fruits and Vegetables FIs issued to WIC participants will increase in value from \$6.00 to \$8.00. Vendors may begin accepting the new FIs from participants on June 2, 2014.

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**Action for Vendors** Vendors must continue to honor unexpired child's Fruits and Vegetables FIs issued prior to June 2, 2014 for the amount listed on the face on the FI. Vendors should verify the amount printed on the face of the FI prior to acceptance. FIs printed prior to June 2, 2014 may be presented by participants for redemption through early September 2014.

If the value of the fruits and vegetables selected by the participant exceeds the amount printed on the FI, the participant must be permitted to pay the difference with cash, debit/credit cards or EBT. FIs submitted for a reimbursement amount greater than the Maximum Allowable Department Reimbursement rate (such as any additional amount paid by the participant) will be rejected and returned unpaid.

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**Questions** For questions, please contact your Vendor Consultant or call toll free (855) WIC-STOR or (855) 942-7867. You may also contact the WIC Vendor Management Branch by email at [WICVENDORINFO@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:WICVENDORINFO@cdph.ca.gov).

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*Elizabeth Touhey*

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California WIC Program



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