

SECTION: CERTIFICATION

SUBJECT: Eligibility Criteria

ITEM: *Adjunctive Eligibility Guidelines*



Policy

To be adjunctively income eligible for WIC program benefits, an applicant/participant shall be:

1. Certified as fully eligible to receive Food Stamps;
2. Certified as fully eligible or presumptively eligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF);
3. Certified as fully eligible or presumptively eligible for Medi-Cal (Medicaid);
4. A member of a family in which any eligible participant is certified as fully eligible to receive assistance under TANF;
5. A member of a family in which any pregnant woman or infant is certified as fully eligible to receive Medi-Cal (Medicaid); or
6. A participant in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).

An applicant/participant shall provide documentation for any of the above eligibility criteria (see **Documentation** below for more detail). An applicant/participant may be adjunctively income eligible even if his/her income exceeds the income limits established by the WIC program.

Basis for policy

CFR 246.7 (c) (2) and (d) (2) (vi)

Food Stamps

An applicant/participant shall document that he/she is certified as fully eligible to receive Food Stamp Program benefits. Examples of acceptable documentation include: recent aid notification letter, Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) return of “Y” in the Food Stamp field of the Integrated Statewide Information System (ISIS), verbal verification by county eligibility worker, etc.

TANF

An applicant/participant shall document that he/she, or a member of the family, is certified as fully eligible or presumptively eligible to receive TANF benefits. Examples of acceptable documentation include: recent aid notification letter, MEDS return of “Y” in the TANF field of ISIS, current TANF check stub or remittance advice, verbal verification by county eligibility worker, etc.

Medi-Cal An applicant/participant shall provide proof of current eligibility for Medi-Cal benefits or show that he/she is a member of a family in which a pregnant woman or infant is certified as eligible for Medi-Cal (Medicaid). Examples of acceptable documentation include: current aid notification letter, MEDS return of "Y" in the Medi-Cal field of ISIS, verbal verification by county eligibility worker, etc.

The Medi-Cal eligibility aid code of the participant obtained via MEDS is used by ISIS to identify whether the applicant/participant is income eligible for WIC. ISIS compares the aid code assigned to the participant in MEDS against the list of WIC eligible codes. Refer to Appendix 980-1070 for the list of acceptable Medi-Cal Aid Codes.

FDPIR The FDPIR provides an alternative to the Food Stamp Program for households on Indian reservations and low-income Native American Indian households living near reservations. An applicant/participant who participates in the FDPIR shall provide documentation of his/her participation in that program.

Documentation of adjunctive eligibility When a participant is potentially adjunctively eligible for WIC based on participation in one of the related programs listed above, local agency staff must still enter an estimated income amount in the Gross Monthly Income field of the Certify or Recertify Family screen for required reporting to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. An applicant/participant may be adjunctively eligible even if their gross income exceeds WIC's income guidelines. This is because other programs use "net adjusted income" (e.g., less taxes, childcare, etc.) to determine income eligibility. If an applicant/participant is adjunctively eligible, local agency staff shall not require any other documentation of income from the applicant/participant.
