

APRIL 14, 1999

SUBJECT: WIC Information for Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
State Agencies

TO: Regional Directors
Special Nutrition Programs
All Regions

Section 107(i) of the Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act of 1998 (P. L. 105 -336) requires the Department of Agriculture to provide State agencies that administer the CACFP with information concerning the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). Further, it requires these State agencies to ensure that each CACFP child care center (except for outside-school-hours care centers) and each family and group day care home receives materials that include: (1) a basic explanation of the benefits and importance of the WIC Program, including information on how benefits may be obtained; and (2) the maximum State income eligibility standards for the WIC Program according to family size. Each year, State agencies must ensure that CACFP centers and homes receive updates of the information described above. Finally, they must ensure that the information provided to CACFP centers and homes is, in turn, provided to the parents of children served by them at the time of enrollment.

Attached is the packet of WIC information that was sent to each CACFP State agency. The packet includes the following information:

- (1) A fact sheet developed by the Supplement~ Food Programs Division that provides information concerning the importance and benefits of the WIC Program. We are providing CACFP State agencies with enough copies of this fact sheet for each child care home and center (except for outside-school-hours care centers) in each State to satisfy the requirement that they furnish WIC Program information to participating centers and homes.
- (2) A copy of a chart. "Income Eligibility Guidelines" containing information excerpted from the "Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Poverty Income Guidelines", which is published annually in the *Federal Register*. It provides family size and income information at the 185 percent level of the Federal Poverty income Guidelines. We are also sending State agencies enough copies of this chart for each child care home and center (except for outside-school-hours care centers) in each State to satisfy the requirement that they furnish maximum State income eligibility standards for the WIC Program.
- (3) A listing of all State agencies that administer the WIC Program~ as well as a listing of the local WIC agencies in each region. State CACFP agencies are required to provide this information to child care centers and homes. Please note that the State

As noted above, State agencies must provide CACFP centers and homes with updated information on maximum income limits for WIC on an annual basis. We recommend that State agencies schedule their distribution of the material to coincide with the annual issuance in July of the WIC Program Income Guidelines. This will help ensure that centers and homes and parents have the most current information available. We further recommend that CACFP State agencies use the annual distribution of this information to remind centers and homes of their obligation to make it available to parents, along with information related to WIC benefits and local WIC agencies. The monitoring by State agencies of the distribution of this information should be carried out in a manner determined by the State to be the most useful and effective.

If you have any questions about this information, please feel free to contact your Food and Nutrition Service regional office.

Sincerely,

/ORIGINAL SIGNED/

STANLEY C. GARNETT
Director
Child Nutrition Division

Attachments

APRIL 14, 1999

Dear CACFP State Director:

Section 107(i) of the Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act of 1998 (P.L. 105-336) requires the Department of Agriculture to provide State agencies that administer the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) with information concerning the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). Further, it requires these State agencies to ensure that each CACFP child care center (except for outside-school-hours care centers) and each family and group day care home receives materials that include: (1) a basic explanation of the benefits and importance of the WIC Program, including information on how benefits may be obtained; and (2) the maximum State income eligibility standards for the WIC Program according to family size. Each year, State agencies must ensure that CACFP centers and homes receive updates of the information described above. Finally, they must ensure that the information provided to CACFP centers and homes is, in turn, provided to the parents of children served by them at the time of enrollment.

We have attached a copy of a fact sheet developed by the Supplemental Food Programs Division that provides information concerning the importance and benefits of the WIC Program. We are asking States to provide a copy of this fact sheet to participating centers and homes. In a separate mailing, we are providing you with enough copies of this fact sheet for each child care home and center (except for outside-school-hours care centers) in your State.

We have also attached a copy of a chart, "Income Eligibility Guidelines", containing information excerpted from the "Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC): Poverty Income Guidelines", which is published annually in the *Federal Register*. It provides family size and income information at the 185 percent level of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines. At the present time income eligibility for WIC is set at 185 percent of poverty. Therefore, distribution of this chart by State agencies to child care centers and homes will satisfy the statutory requirement for providing "information on the maximum State income eligibility standards, according to family size, applicable to the program". In a separate mailing, we are also providing you with enough copies of this fact sheet for each child care home and center (except for outside-school-hours care centers) in your State.

Finally, we have attached a listing of all State agencies that administer the WIC Program, as well as a listing of the local WIC agencies in your State. This information, in turn, should be provided to child care centers and homes. Please note that the State listing contains, in some cases, more than one agency per State because the enabling legislation for the WIC Program permits Indian Tribal Organizations to serve as State agencies. The local listing contains the names and addresses of agencies where application for benefits may be made.