

### Nutrition for a Healthy Future

The foods that you get from Women, Infants and Children (WIC) provide nutrients that are important for good health and development. WIC foods are meant to add to what you already buy and are rich in calcium, protein, iron, fiber, and vitamins A, D, and C. Choose the foods that your family likes based on what is listed on your WIC Shopping List and what is available where you shop. WIC nutritionists will offer tips about feeding your children and ideas to improve your family's health and nutrition.



## Successful Shopping Tips

### **BEFORE YOU SHOP**

- Look at your WIC shopping list or recent receipt to check your available benefit balance.
- Check the dates of the benefit period.
   Shop before the "Last Day to Spend" to prevent unused benefits from expiring.
- Bring your eWIC card, WIC Food List, and WIC shopping list or recent benefit balance to the store.

### WHILE YOU SHOP

• Shop for WIC foods at Authorized Virginia WIC Retailers that display the "eWIC Accepted Here" window decal.



- Choose only WIC-approved items from this Food List and make sure you
  have the correct quantities indicated on your WIC shopping list/benefit
  balance. Keep in mind that retailers may not carry all of the items listed
  or pictured.
- Look for WIC shelf labels to identify WIC approved foods in the following categories:
  - Breakfast Cereals
  - Yogurt

- 1% and Skim/Fat-Free Milk
- Peanut Butter

- Cheese
- Juice

### AT THE CHECKOUT

- Some stores require eWIC transactions to be made in specific checkout lanes. Check with customer service if you are unsure which lanes accept eWIC cards as payment.
- Tell the cashier you are using your eWIC card and ask if you need to separate your groceries.
- Use your eWIC card before other forms of payment.
- Keep your receipt after every eWIC card purchase. It shows your available food benefit balance and the Last Day to Spend (LDTS) your current benefits.



## Fruits and Vegetables





Cash Value Benefits are used to purchase WIC-eligible fruits and vegetables. These include fresh, frozen, and canned fruits and vegetables. Your cash value benefits will appear on your shopping list as a dollar amount. If the cost of your fruits and vegetables are more than the dollar amount available on the cash value benefit, you may put something back or pay the difference with another form of payment (SNAP, cash or credit/debit card).

- Canned and frozen fruits and vegetables are often less expensive than fresh fruits and vegetables when they are not in season.
- Some fresh fruits and vegetables won't last long after you bring them home. Buy small amounts more often so that you can eat them without throwing any away.
- Canned and frozen fruits and vegetables can be bought in large quantities when they are on sale because they can be stored much longer.

- Buying fruits and vegetables in their whole form is cheaper. Although pre-cut, pre-washed, and ready-to-eat fruits and vegetables are convenient, they often cost more.
- Organic fruits and vegetables are typically more expensive than similar non-organic varieties. Make your choice based on the factors that are important to you.

### FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

### **☑ BUY**

- Whole, cut, or bagged fruits and vegetables
- Organic or non-organic
- Choose any brand



### **XDON'T BUY:**

- added fats and sugars
- breaded vegetables
- dried vegetables and fruits (including prunes or raisins)
- edible blossoms or flowers
- fruit baskets

- fruit leather/fruit roll-ups
- chili peppers or garlic on a string
- herbs and spices
- salad dressings
- fruit and vegetable trays
- nuts

- olives
- decorative fruits and vegetables (including gourds, painted pumpkins)
- salad bar items

- salad kits with dressing or other food items (including croutons)
- veggie chips
- single serve containers

### FROZEN FRUITS & VEGETABLES

### **☑** BUY

- Organic or non-organic
- Includes frozen beans or peas
- Choose any brand







### **×DON'T BUY:**

- added sugars, artificial sweeteners, syrups, fats, oils, flavorings, seasonings
- herbs and spices
- vegetables with cream, cheese, butter sauces
- combinations with breaded vegetables, rice or pasta
- vegetables with added meats
- soup

- pizza
- popsicles, fruit bars, fruit smoothies
- single serve containers

### **CANNED FRUITS**

### **☑ BUY**

- Organic or non-organic
- Water or juice packed
- Includes unsweetened applesauce
- Choose any brand



# Choose containers that say:

- "In its Own Juice"
- "100% Fruit Juice"
- "Naturally Sweet"
- "Unsweetened"

### **XDON'T BUY:**

- added sugars, artificial sweeteners, syrups, fats, oils, flavorings, seasonings (including cinnamon)
- herbs and spices
- canned fruits with added salt

- fruit cocktail
- cranberry sauce
- cocktail cherries
- pie filling
- single serve containers

### **CANNED VEGETABLES**

### **☑** BUY

- Organic or non-organic
- Regular or low-sodium
- Whole, diced, crushed, or pureed tomatoes; tomato paste
- Choose any brand



### **×DON'T BUY:**

- added sugars, artificial sweeteners, syrups, fats, oils, flavorings, seasonings
- herbs and spices
- cream, cheese, butter sauces
- pickled vegetables (including sauerkraut), pickles, relish, olives
- combinations with rice or pasta

- sauces (including pizza and spaghetti),salsacanned vegetables with added meats
  - balead beans or park and beans
- baked beans or pork and beans

• ketchup, stewed tomatoes, tomato

- dry or canned beans included in the legume category
- soups
- single serve containers

### Whole Grains

### WHOLE WHEAT BREADS

### **BUY**

- 16 oz. (1 pound) package size only
- Choose from the following WIC eligible brands and varieties

### **Best Choice**



100% Whole Wheat Bread

Bimbo



100% Whole Wheat Bread

**Food Lion** 



Wheat Bread



Giant ·····



100% Whole Wheat Bread

**Healthy Life** 



100% Whole Wheat Bread

Kroger...



100% Whole Wheat Round Top Bread



100% Whole Wheat Bread

Nature's Own



Whole Wheat W/ Honey Bread

**Our Family** 



100% Whole Wheat Bread

### Pepperidge Farm ••



100% Whole Wheat Bread



Very Thin 100% Whole Wheat Bread

### Roman Meal



Sungrain 100% Whole Wheat

### Sara Lee



**Shoppers Value** 









Wonder







100% Whole Wheat Bread



100% Whole Wheat Bread



100% Whole Wheat Bread



100% Whole Wheat Bread



#### **XDON'T BUY:**

- organic varieties
- varieties with artificial sweeteners or added ingredients (including herbs, peppers, cheese, cinnamon, raisins)
- English muffins/rolls/buns

### Whole Grains

### WHOLE WHEAT PASTA **☑** BUY

- 16 oz. (1 pound) package size only
- Choose from the following WIC eligible brands and varieties

### **Great Value** Whole Wheat



- Elbows Rotini
- · Linguine · Spaghetti
- Penne
- Thin Spaghetti

#### **Harris Teeter** Whole Grain



- Penne Rigate
- Rotini
- Spaghetti
- Thin Spaghetti

### Barilla Whole Grain



- Angel Hair Flbows
- Rotini
- Spaghetti
- Thin Spaghetti
- Linauine Penne

### **Essential Everyday** Whole Wheat



- Penne Rigate
- Rotini
- Spaghetti
- Thin Spaghetti

### H.T. Traders Whole Wheat



- Capellini
- Fusilli
- Penne Rigate
- Rigatoni
- Spaghetti

- Flbow Macaroni

### Kroger Whole Grain



- Penne Rigate
- Rotini
- Spaghetti
- Thin Spaghetti

### Food Club Whole Wheat



- Penne Rigate
- Spaghetti

#### **Our Family** Whole Wheat



- Rotini
- Spaghetti

### WHOLE WHEAT PASTA

#### Publix

### Racconto



• Penne

SPAGHETTI

Spaghetti

- Capellini
- Flbows
- Farfalle
- Linguine
- Penne Rigate

### Whole Wheat

Rigatoni

Spaghetti

Rotini

• Penne Rigate

Ronzoni

Whole Grain

- Linguine
- Rotini
- Spaghetti
- Thin Spaghetti

### **Signature Select** Whole Wheat



- Flhow Rotini Macaroni Spaghetti
- Linguine • Thin
- Penne Spaghetti Rigate

### Weis Quality Whole Wheat .



- Angel Hair
- Penne Rigate
- Rotini
- Spaghetti

### **BROWN RICE**

#### **☑** BUY

- 16 oz. (1 pound) package size only
- Bag or box containers
- Regular, instant, and quick varieties
- Choose any brand

### **X DON'T BUY:**

- · organic varieties
- varieties with added sugars/artificial sweeteners/salt/saturated fats/oils/flavorings
- rice mixes
- specialty rice including jasmine, basmati, wild

#### **×DON'T BUY:**

- organic varieties
- refrigerated or frozen varieties

- varieties with added ingredients (including seasoning, vegetables, protein, fiber)
- pasta meals



### Whole Grains

### **▼ BUY**

- 16 oz. (1 pound) package size only
- Choose from the following WIC eligible brands

### **TORTILLAS**





Kroger · · · · · · · ·



Fajita





Essential Everyday • • • |





**Food Club** 









Hy-Top

Yellow Corn Yellow Corn



Whole Wheat



Corn

Whole Wheat

Fajita





Yellow Corn





Fajita





Whole Wheat Whole Wheat Restaurant Style

### **TORTILLAS**

Ortega

Whole Wheat







Whole Wheat

**Signature Select** 



Whole Wheat

Tio Santi



Whole Wheat

Wegmans



Whole Wheat



Weis

Whole Wheat



Yellow Corn

#### **×DON'T BUY:**

- organic varieties
- · refrigerated varieties
- varieties with added ingredients (including herbs, peppers, cheese)
- corn tortilla chips
- hard shell tortilla/taco shell, taco kits
- wraps, flatbreads, pita

### Legumes







### DRIED PEAS, BEANS, LENTILS CANNED BEANS

### **⋈** BUY

- 16 oz. (1 pound) package size only
- Choose any brand and single variety

### **XDON'T BUY:**

- organic varieties
- varieties with added fats, oils, sugars, meats, flavors
- combination, mixes
- dried beans with seasoning packets
- soup mixes
- fresh and frozen immature varieties (including green peas, snap peas, green beans) that can be purchased using WIC Cash Value Benefits

### **⋈** BUY

- 15 oz. to 16 oz. can size only
- Choose any brand and single variety
- Regular, low-sodium, salt-free

### **XDON'T BUY:**

- organic varieties
- varieties with added fats, oils, sugars, meats, flavors
- combination, mixes
- fresh and frozen immature varieties (including green peas, snap peas, green beans) that can be purchased using WIC Cash Value Benefits

### PEANUT BUTTER





Butter

### **☑** BUY

- 16oz. to 18oz. jar size only
- Choose WIC approved national and store brands
- Choose from the following varieties:
  - Chunky
- Extra crunchy
- Creamv Crunchy
- Smooth

### **×DON'T BUY:**

- organic or natural varieties
- blends
- low-fat or reduced-fat
- low-sugar
- low-sodium

- · honey roasted
- · fortified, added vitamins freshly ground
- whipped
- peanut spreads

### Canned Fish

Available to women who are fully breastfeeding, mostly breastfeeding multiples, or pregnant with more than one baby.

TUNA

### TUNA

### **☑** BUY

- Chunk light, water packed tuna only
- 5.0 oz. to 6.5 oz. can size only
- Choose any brand

### SALMON

### **☑** BUY

- Alaskan or Pink salmon only
- 7.5 oz. or 14.75 oz. can size only
- Choose any brand

#### **XDON'T BUY:**

- organic or flavored varieties
- low-sodium

- pouches, single serving, lunch packs, or ready to serve
- solid, white, and/or albacore

## Shopping Tip

### 1 CONTAINER OF LEGUMES

1 pound (16 oz.) package dry mature beans, peas, or lentils



### OR

4 (15-16 oz.) cans mature beans



### OR

1 (16-18 oz.) jar of peanut butter



### Milk | Eggs | Cheese | Yogurt <

### Cow's Milk





- Choose the best value or WIC eligible brand only
- Gallon, Half-Gallon, and Quart size containers only

### Specialty Milk

**☑ BUY** (As prescribed or listed on your WIC benefit balance)

- Lactose-Free Milk
   Choose any brand, in the following sizes only: 96 oz., Half-Gallon, Quart
- Ultra High Temperature (UHT) Milk Choose any brand
- Soy Milk Choose from the following brands and varieties











Pacific Natural Foods Ultra Soy: 32 oz., shelf stable, original or vanilla flavor







#### Silk:

32 oz., shelf stable, original flavor 64 oz., refrigerated, original flavor 64 oz. 2 pack/128 oz., refrigerated, original flavor

## Shopping Tip

WAYS TO BUY A GALLON

0.25 = 1 Quart

0.50 = Half-Gallon

1.0 = 1 Gallon









4 QUARTS

2 HALF-GALLONS

ONE GALLON

#### **×DON'T BUY:**

- · organic varieties
- ½% milk
- sweetened or flavored varieties
- deluxe skim
- added calcium
- dry, evaporated, condensed varieties

- varieties not listed including buttermilk, goat, almond, coconut, cashew, rice, kefir
- light or fat-free soy milk
- raw/unpasteurized milk

### **EGGS**

### **☑** BUY

- Large, white, grade A or AA
- One dozen carton size only
- Choose any brand



#### **×DON'T BUY:**

- organic varieties
- egg substitutes
- brown eggs
- pre-boiled eggs
- specialty eggs including low-cholesterol (Eggland's Best), Omega-3 enriched



- 16 oz. (1 pound) package size only
- Prepackaged in block or sliced form only
- Regular, reduced-fat, fat-free or low-sodium
- Choose WIC approved national and store brands
- Choose from the following varieties:
  - American
  - Cheddar
  - Monterey Jack
  - Mozzarella (whole or part-skim)
  - Swiss



#### **XDON'T BUY:**

- organic or mixed varieties
- · cheese product, imitation cheese, cheese spread
- blended cheese food
- varieties with added ingredients or flavors, including smoked cheese
- imported cheese
- cheese sticks, string cheese, individually wrapped slices, deli-sliced, cubed or shredded
- variety packs

### YOGURT



### **☑** BUY

- 32 oz. container size only
- Plain or vanilla flavor
- Whole, low or nonfat (As prescribed or listed on your eWIC shopping list)
- Choose WIC approved national and store brands

#### **×DON'T BUY:**

- organic or specialty varieties, including Greek
- varieties with artificial sweeteners and added ingredients like granola, candy, honey, nuts or fruit on the bottom
- drinkable or pouch varieties
- · infant yogurt

### Cold Cereals















- 12 oz. or larger, up to 36 oz. · · · · · · · · · Always Save • Avenue A·····
- A minimum of 51% whole grain cereal
- g = Gluten Free









Shredded Wheat

Corn Flakes **Best Choice** 





Bite Sized Frosted



Corn Crisps





Shredded Wheat **Best Choice** 



Flakes



Happy O's



Honey Oat Clusters



and Rice

Maple & Brown Sugar Frosted Shredded Wheat

### **Best Choice**



Multi Grain Happy Os



Strawberry Shredded Wheat



Wheat Crisps



Best Yet •

Bran Flakes



Corn Flakes



**Crispy Rice** 



Bite Size Frosted Shredded Wheat

### Best Yet · · · · Essential Everyday · · ·



Honey and Oats Flakes



Strawberry Shredded Wheat



Bite Size Frosted Shredded Wheat



Bite Size Strawberry Frosted Shredded Wheat



Bran Flakes



Corn Flakes



Crispy Hexagons

### **Essential Everyday**



Crispy Rice



Crunchy Corn Squares



Crunchy Rice Squares



Crunchy Wheat Squares



Honey Oats & Flakes



**Toasted Oats** 



**Nutty Nuggets** 

### Cold Cereals



= A minimum of 51% whole grain cereal



### Food Club



Bite Size Frosted Shredded Wheat



Bran Flakes



Corn Flakes



**Corn Squares** 



Crisp Rice



Honey and Oats with Honey and Oat Clusters

#### **Food Club**



**Oatmeal Squares** 



Rice Squares



Strawberry Frosted Shredded Wheat



**Toasted Oats** 



Twin Grain Crisp



Wheat Squares

Food Lion · · · ·



Bite Sized Frosted Shredded Wheat

#### **Food Lion**



Corn Flakes



**Crispy Hexagons** 



Crispy Rice



Enriched Wheat Bran Flakes



Multigrain Tasteeos



Oats & More with Honey



Strawberry Shredded Wheat





Tasteeos



**Toasted Rice** 





Berry Berry Kix



Blueberry Chex



Cheerios



Cinnamon Chex



Corn Chex

### General Mills •



Fiber One Honey Clusters



Honey Kix



Kix



Multigrain Cheerios



Rice Chex



Total Whole Grain



Vanilla Chex

### General Mills.



Wheat Chex



Wheaties

### Giant•



Bran Flakes



Corn Flakes



**Corn Squares** 



Crispers



Crispy Rice

### Cold Cereals



= A minimum of 51% whole grain cereal







Frosted Shredded Wheat



**Honey Crunchin Oats** 



**Nutty Nuggets** 



Oats and O's



Oats and O's Multigrain



Rice Squares



**Bran Flakes** 

**Great Value** 



Corn Flakes



**Corn Squares** 



Crunchy Honey Oats



Crunchy Nuggets



Frosted Shredded Wheat



Oat Crunch

**Harris Teeter** 



O's Oat Cereal

**Great Value** 



Multi Grain O's



Rice Crispers Cereal



Rice Squares



Shredded Wheat



Wheat Squares



Bran Flakes



Corn Flakes

### Harris Teeter



Crisp 6



**Crispy Rice** 



Bite-Sized Frosted Shredded Wheat



Frosted Shredded Wheat Strawberry



**Nutty Bites** 



Oatmeal Squares Brown Sugar



Rice Squares

Harris Teeter · · · I Hy•Top



**Toasted Oats** 



Bran Flakes



Corn Flakes



**Toasted Oats** 





Bite Size Frosted Shredded Wheat



Corn Flakes

Kellogg's



Corn Squares

### IGA



Crispy Corn & Rice



Crispy Rice



Enriched Bran Flakes



Rice Squares



Tasteeos



All-Bran



Corn Flakes

### Cold Cereals



= A minimum of 51% whole grain cereal







Frosted Mini Wheats

Little Bites



Frosted Mini

Wheats Original



Frosted Mini Wheats

Raspberry



**Rice Krispies** 





Crispix

Kiggins.

Corn Flakes



Crispy Rice



Bite Size Frosted Shredded Wheat

Kroger.



Corn Flakes



Crispy Rice



**Nutty Nuggets** 



Oat Squares

Kroger · · · · · · · ·



Rice Bitz

Laura Lynn



Bite Size Corn



Bite Size Rice



Corn Flakes



Crisp Rice



Hexa Crisp

### Laura Lynn•



Honey & Oats



Toasted Oats



Wheat Bran Flakes



Lowes Foods •

Bran Flakes



Corn Flakes



Crispy Rice



Frosted Shredded Wheat

### Lowes Foods •



Oats & More with Honey



Tasteeos



Twin Grain Crisp

### Malt O Meal •



Crispy Rice



Frosted Mini Spooners



Strawberry Mini Spooners

**Our Family** 



Bran Flakes



**Corn Biscuits** 



Corn Flakes



**Crispy Hexagons** 



Crispy Rice



Frosted Shredded Wheat



Oats & More with Honey

### Cold Cereals



= A minimum of 51% whole grain cereal







Toasted Oats



Grape Nuts Flakes

**Post** 



Grape Nuts Original



Honey Bunches of Oats Honey Roasted



Honey Bunches of Oats Cinnamon



Honey Bunches of Oats Vanilla

Rice Biscuits



Honey Bunches of Oats Honey Crunch Whole Grain



Bran Flakes



Corn Flakes

**Ralston Foods** 



Crispy Corn and Rice



Crispy Rice



Frosted Wheat



Honey and Oats

Publix •



Toasted Oats



Shredded Wheat



Corn Biscuits



Crispy Hexagons



Crisp Rice



Frosted Shredded
Wheat Bite Size



Tasteeos

#### Ralston Foods • | **Shoppers Value** Signature Kitchens/Select • • BRAN FLAKES FLAKES Corn Cereal Bite-Size Corn Pockets Crispy Rice Wheat Bran Corn Flakes Corn Flakes **Nutty Nuggets Bran Flakes** Shredded Wheat Flakes Signature Kitchens/Select ..... Oats & More Toasted OATS bran flakes Oats & More **Rice Pockets Toasted Oats** Corn Flakes **Toasted Oats Bran Flakes** Crisp Rice with Honey Valu Time Wegmans •

**Toasted Oats** 

**Bran Flakes** 

Corn Flakes

Crisp Rice

**Bran Flakes** 

Corn Flakes

### Cold Cereals







### Wegmans



Oats and Honey



**Rice Squares** 



Toasted Grains Multi Grain



**Toasted Oats** 



Wheat Crunch



Weis



Bite Size Shredded Wheat



Bite Size Strawberry Frosted Shredded Wheat



Bite Size Toasted Corn



Bite Size Toasted Rice



Corn Flakes



Crispy Corn and Rice



**Crispy Rice** 

Weis •



Frosted Shredded Wheat



Honey Oats and Flakes



Multigrain Toasted Oats



**Toasted Oats** 



Wheat Bran Flakes



Wheat Flakes

### Hot Cereals



**■ BUY:**• 11.8 oz. or larger

a A minimum of 51% whole grain cereal



### Best Choice · · · Best Yet · · · · ·



Instant Oatmeal Original



Regular Instant Oatmeal

### Cream of Rice · · · · · · I



Hot Cereal



Instant Hot Cereal

### 



Instant Original



Instant Whole Grain



Original 1 Minute

### Cream of Wheat ....



Original 2 ½ Minute



Whole Grain 2 ½ Minute

### 



Creamy Wheat



Instant Grits Original



Instant Oatmeal Original



### Hot Cereals



(i) = A minimum of 51% whole grain cereal





• 11.8 oz. or larger

#### Food Club



Instant Oatmeal Regular

### Food Lion



Instant Oatmeal Regular



Instant Cream Farina Original

### Giant ....



Instant Oatmeal Original

#### **Great Value**



Instant Oatmeal Regular

#### **Harris Teeter**



Instant Oatmeal Original

### НуТор



Instant Oatmeal Regular

### Kroger



Instant Oatmeal Original

### Laura Lynn



Instant Oatmeal Original

### **Lowes Foods**



Instant Oatmeal Original



### Malt O Meal • •



Chocolate Hot Wheat Cereal



Co Co Wheats



Farina



Original Hot Wheat Cereal

### **Our Family**



Instant Oatmeal Regular

### **Ralston Foods**



Instant Oatmeal Regular

### Signature Select



Instant Oatmeal Original

### Weis



Instant Oatmeal Original



### Juice

### **FROZEN JUICE**



Apple Juice

(For Women Only)



- Unsweetened, 100% single variety fruit juice
- 12 oz. size containers only
- Choose from the following WIC eligible brands and varieties



Always Save apple



Best Choice apple, grape



Best Yet apple



Essential Everyday apple, grape



Food Club apple, grape



Food Lion



Giant apple, grape



Great Value apple, grape



Harris Teeter apple



Hy-Top apple, grape



Kroger apple, grape



Old Orchard apple, grape white grape



Our Family apple



Shurfine apple



Signature Kitchens apple



Tipton Grove



Tree Top



Valu Time



Wegmans apple



Weis apple All brands of 100% orange juice and 100% grapefruit juice in the following container sizes are WIC approved:



64 oz: refrigerated

64 oz: shelf stable

### **XDON'T BUY:**

- organic varieties
- varieties with added sugar or artificial sweeteners
- blended varieties
- fruit drinks, fruit punch, juice cocktail
- reduced acid

infant juice



#### LIQUID JUICE WIC





- Unsweetened. 100% single variety fruit juice
- 64 oz. size containers only, shelf stable or refrigerated
- Choose from the following WIC eligible brands and varieties



**Always Save** apple



**Apple and Eve** apple white grape



**Best Choice** apple, grape, white grape



**Best Yet** apple, grape, white grape



Essential **Everyday** apple, grape, white grape



Food Club apple, grape, white grape



Food Lion apple, grape, white grape





Giant apple, grape, white grape



**Great Value** apple, grape, white grape



**Harris Teeter** apple, grape, white grape



**Harvest Classic** apple



Hy-Top apple, grape, white grape



**IGA** apple, grape, white grape



**Juicy Juice** apple, grape



Kroger apple, grape, white grape



Laura Lynn apple, grape, white grape



Lowes apple, grape, white grape



Mott's apple



**Old Orchard** apple, grape, white grape



Our Family apple, grape, white grape



**Piggly Wiggly** apple, grape, white grape



**Publix** apple, grape, white grape



**Shurfine** apple, grape, white grape



Signature **Kitchens** apple, grape



**Tipton Grove** apple, grape



Tree Top



Valu Time apple, grape, white grape



Wegmans apple, grape



Weis apple, grape, white grape



Welch's grape, white grape



White House apple

### WIC Encourages and Supports Breastfeeding

Mother's milk has everything a baby needs to grow and stay healthy. Doctors strongly recommend breastfeeding for the first year, and longer if desired by mother and baby.

### Breastfeeding Benefits Babies

- Best possible nutrition
- Reduces the risk of infant illnesses, diarrhea, and SIDS
- Reduces the risk of chronic disease including diabetes, asthma, heart disease, and cancer
- Increases baby's immunity to fight diseases and prevent allergies
- Always clean and safe
- Easy to digest immediately ready to help baby grow

### Breastfeeding Benefits Moms

- Reduces the risk of chronic diseases, breast, and ovarian cancers
- Promotes weight loss after pregnancy
- Always ready and at the right temperature
- Economical and saves money

### Breastfeeding Benefits Families

- Saves money, time, and the environment
- Builds a foundation for a life time of good health
- Prepares babies for interactive play
- Allows babies to stay healthier - moms and dads don't have to miss work

Exclusively breastfeeding mothers and their babies are eligible to receive extra food benefits from WIC. Contact your local WIC office for breastfeeding support and feeding tips.



## Infant Food | Infant Cereal | Infant Formula

### **INFANT CEREAL**

### **☑** BUY

- 8 oz. container size only
- Rice and oatmeal varieties only
- Choose any brand

#### **XDON'T BUY:**

- · mixed cereals
- · organic varieties
- varieties that include DHA, fruit, formula, and/or yogurt

### INFANT FORMULA

Choose the brand, variety, and type listed on your food prescription or eWIC shopping list only.



# INFANT FOOD Infant Fruits and Vegetables

#### **▼** BUY

- 4 oz. container size only
- Choose single ingredients or combinations of fruits and vegetables (i.e., apple-banana, apple-sweet potato, etc.)
- Choose any brand

### **Infant Meats**

(Available to exclusively breastfed infants 6-11 months only)

#### **BUY**

- 2.5 oz. container size only
- Choose any brand
- Choose from the following varieties:
  - Beef and broth/gravy
  - Chicken and broth/gravy
  - Ham and broth/gravy
  - Turkey and broth/gravy

# **Buying Infant Food Fruits and Vegetables**



= 4 OZ.

4 oz.



: 4 OZ.

2 oz. 2 pack



= 8 OZ.

4 oz. 2 pack

### **XDON'T BUY:**

- pouches
- · organic varieties
- · desserts, dinners, or casseroles
- mixtures with added DHA/ARA, salt, sugar, cheese, cereal, or pasta

### Frequently Asked Questions

### Where can I buy my WIC food?

Your WIC benefits can only be purchased at Virginia WIC approved stores. Look for the "eWIC Accepted Here" window decal to identify approved stores. Your local WIC office can also help you find approved stores in your area.

### Are WIC eligible foods identified at the store?

WIC approved stores will use shelf labels to identify WIC eligible foods in the following categories: 1%/fat-free milk, cheese, yogurt, juice, peanut butter, and breakfast cereals. Eligible foods in the other categories are identified within this food list.

### Do I have to buy every item on my shopping list at one time?

You do not have to buy all your foods at one time. Buy what you need. As food items are purchased with your eWIC card, these items will be deducted from the available balance.

### Can I use my eWIC card at any checkout lane?

Some stores require eWIC transactions to be made in specific checkout lanes. Check with customer service if you are unsure which lanes accept eWIC cards as payment.

## Do I have to separate my WIC foods from other foods that I am buying?

Although it is not required to separate your WIC foods at all stores, it is a good practice to follow. You may also want to present any coupons ahead of time, so that the cashier knows how to best ring up your purchase.

### What should I do with my eWIC card after my benefits are used for the month?

You will use the same eWIC card every month to redeem your WIC benefits. It's important to keep your card safe with the black strip clean and free from scratches. Do not store your card near your cell phone, magnets, or hot places like the dashboard of the car; this could cause your card to stop working.

### When will I be able to use my WIC benefits?

Your WIC benefits will be in loaded onto your eWIC card at 12:00 midnight on the First Date to Spend (FDTS) and will expire at 12:00 midnight on the Last Day to Spend (LDTS).

# What happens if all of my WIC foods are not purchased this month, will these benefits roll over to the next month?

No, any benefits that are not used will expire on the Last Day to Spend (LDTS) and cannot be used later.

### How do I check my benefit balance?

- Check your last store receipt from the current month
- Perform a balance inquiry at the store
- Call customer service at 1-877-677-5963

### Can I change the foods listed on my shopping list?

If you have concerns about your WIC food prescription, contact your local WIC office. Food substitutions may not be made at the store. WIC foods can only be exchanged for the exact same item. WIC foods cannot be returned to the store for cash, credit or exchanged for different items.

# What if I run out of food and I have already used all of my WIC benefits?

The WIC program is only meant to "supplement" your diet. The foods you receive at WIC are not intended to meet all of your nutritional needs. You will need to purchase additional foods on your own, including infant formula.

Your local WIC office can offer referrals to food assistance programs as needed.



# Why did the cashier tell me that the item I am trying to buy is not allowed using my eWIC card?

If a food is not allowed as an eWIC purchase, it might be because:

- you do not have enough benefits left
- it is not on your food prescription
- it is not a Virginia WIC eligible food
- it is not in the Virginia WIC APL (Approved Product List) If this happens, keep your receipt, take a picture of the food and barcode, and contact your local WIC office.

### What should I do if I have problems at the grocery store?

If you have a problem at the grocery store, ask to talk with the store manager. If the issue cannot be resolved at the store, contact your local WIC office to discuss your concerns. You may be asked to provide the following:

- Store name, address, and phone number
- Date and time of the incident
- Name(s) of store personnel involved (store manager, cashier, etc.)
- Food item name, UPC (barcode), package size
- Copy of store receipt
- Details of the incident

### Money Saving Tips

- Check store ads for sales.
- Create a weekly meal plan based on food prices.
- Make a shopping list and stick to it. Avoid shopping while you are hungry.
- Use your store discount/loyalty card and coupons.
- Compare brands— store brands often offer similar products for less money.
- Look at the top and bottom shelves stores
   often stock the higher priced items at eye level
   on the middle shelves.
- Buy fresh produce when it is in season it will cost less and taste better than out of season produce.
- Take the time to prepare your own meals convenience foods, pre-cut fruits and vegetables, instant rice/oatmeal tend to cost more than if you prepare them yourself.

- Buy in bulk —larger packages often cost less than several small packages. Just be sure that you have storage space and will be able to use the item before it goes bad.
- Reach to the back of the shelf for the freshest items — especially for meat, dairy, fruits and vegetables.
- Shop wisely...not all stores offer the same selection.





### QUESTIONS?

Just call 877-835-5942 or

Contact your local WIC clinic at:

Please note that every store may not carry all of the Virginia WIC approved foods. This list is subject to change as new food options become available.













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