



**TEXAS WIC PROGRAM**  
**Department of State Health Services**  
**Food Issuance and Redemption Services Unit - MC 4554**  
P.O. Box 149347  
Austin, TX 78714-9347  
(512) 341-4425 1-800-252-9629 (Texas Only)

May 16, 2011

---

---

**Summer Nutrition Card Pilot**

During the school year, many children receive free and reduced-price breakfast and lunch through the School Breakfast and National School Lunch Programs funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Providing a nutritional safety net for these kids during the summer months is problematic.

Through a grant from the USDA, the Texas WIC Program and the Texas Department of Agriculture Summer Food Service Program are teaming up to test a new way to provide nutrition assistance and access to healthy foods to low-income school-age children this summer. We are going to use the electronic benefit infrastructure of WIC to give low-income families with school-age children access to healthy foods through WIC authorized grocers during June, July, and August, **authorizing the same nutritious foods as WIC and using your WIC EBT system.** The program is the Summer Nutrition Card Pilot.

2500 students of the El Paso's Ysleta School District will participate in the pilot. Families will receive a card, similar to the WIC EBT card, which they can use in stores to buy the same foods authorized by WIC with the exception of infant foods and formula. Since participants may travel outside of the pilot area, **the Summer Nutrition Card may be accepted statewide at any WIC authorized outlet.** Below is an example of the card.

The Summer Nutrition Card transaction will be processed in the register lane using the WIC EBT system and authorized product list (APL). At the end of day your system will bundle together all Summer Nutrition Card and WIC EBT transactions into one claim and submit the claim electronically to the State. You will receive one direct deposit for all valid Summer Nutrition Card and WIC EBT transactions in the claim. WIC LEB, Cost Containment, and Competitive Pricing rules apply to these transactions.

All Summer Nutrition Card transactions will be processed under the terms and conditions of the WIC Vendor Agreement and the policies cited in that agreement which expires September 30, 2011. Attached is a flyer describing the foods that will be loaded to the card. Again, these are the same nutritious foods as prescribed to WIC participants. Also the flyer has answers to frequently asked questions about the pilot. We encourage you to provide copies of this flyer to all of your cashiers.

If you have any questions, please call WIC Vendor Relations at 1-800-252-9629.



For additional information on the Summer Nutrition Card Pilot, see the flyer and the Summer Nutrition Card Pilot Slide Presentation at:

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/wichd/vo/vnews.shtm>

## Vendor's Guide - Summer Nutrition Card Pilot Program



The Summer Nutrition Card Pilot is exploring new ways to feed school-age children during the summer months. The Texas Department of Agriculture – Summer Food Service Program and the Texas Department of State Health Services WIC Program have partnered together to administer the Program. The pilot is 100% federally funded by the United States Department of Agriculture.

The pilot will use the electronic benefit infrastructure of WIC to give low-income families with school-age children access to food benefits through WIC authorized grocers during the three summer months. Families will receive a card, similar to the WIC EBT card, which they can use in stores to buy the same foods authorized by WIC with the exception of Infant foods and formula. Current grocer rules for WIC will apply and be enforced.

2500 students of the El Paso's Ysleta School District will participate in the pilot. Participants may redeem their benefits *June 1<sup>st</sup> through August 21<sup>st</sup>*. Since participants may travel outside of the pilot area, the Summer Nutrition Pilot Program card may be accepted statewide at any WIC authorized outlet.

### Each child will receive EBT benefits for the following food:

- 100% Juice
- Milk
- Cheese
- Cereal
- Eggs
- Fruits and Vegetables
- Dry or canned beans
- Peanut butter

- Tuna or salmon
- Whole grains:
  - whole wheat bread
  - oatmeal
  - brown rice
  - corn or whole wheat tortillas



# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Is the Summer Nutrition Card the same as the WIC EBT card or the Lone Star SNAP card?**

- No, the Summer Nutrition Card is a different program from WIC and SNAP.

## **What foods can be redeemed with the Summer Nutrition Card?**

- All of the foods and sizes authorized by the WIC Program, with the exception of infant food and formula, may be redeemed with the Summer Nutrition Card.
- A store's declared WIC traditionally least expensive brands (LEB) of food are the same for the Summer Nutrition Card.

## **Does the store's WIC EBT System need to be changed to accept the Summer Nutrition Card?**

- No. The Summer Nutrition Card transaction will be processed in the register lane using the WIC EBT system and authorized product list (APL). At the end of day your system will bundle together all Summer Nutrition Card and WIC EBT transactions into one claim and submit the claim electronically to the State. You will receive one direct deposit for all valid Summer Nutrition Card and WIC EBT transactions in the claim. WIC LEB, Cost Containment, and Competitive Pricing rules apply to these transactions.
- All Summer Nutrition Card transactions will be processed under the terms and conditions of the WIC Vendor Agreement and the policies cited in that agreement which expires September 30, 2011.

## **How much time do customers have to use the Summer Nutrition Card each month?**

- They can buy their June food from June 1 to June 30.
- They can buy their July food from July 1 to July 31.
- They can buy their August food from August 1 to August 21.
- Any unused food left on the card for a particular month will be lost if they do not buy it before the end of that month.

## **What if the Summer Nutrition Card is damaged or does not work?**

- Have the customer call the West Texas Food Bank at **915-595-1060**.
- If grocers have questions, please call Texas WIC Program Vendor Relations at 1-800-252-9629.

## **What will happen at the grocery store?**

- Customers should separate their Summer Nutrition Card food from their other food prior to checkout.
- They should tell the cashier that they will be using their Summer Nutrition Card.
- Customers should insert their Summer Nutrition Card into the reader and enter their PIN. They should leave the card in the reader until the cashier tells them to remove it.
- Cashiers must determine if the LEB items to be scanned are the store's declared traditionally least expensive brands of milk, juice, cheese, beans, green split peas, lentils, brown rice, whole wheat bread, whole wheat and corn tortillas.
- After all items are scanned, have the customer review the Items Purchased Receipt or display screen.
- Have the customer press "Yes" or "No" to accept or reject the purchase. Only the customer performs this function.
- After the Ending Balance Receipt prints, give the receipt to the customer and tell her to keep it to use on her next shopping trip.
- Tell the customer, "Please remove your card." The card reader will beep until the card is removed.

The Texas Department of Agriculture is committed to enhancing the health of all Texans.

The Texas Department of State Health Services is an equal-opportunity provider.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**USDA Funding Disclaimer:** Summer Food Service Program is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Adjudication and Compliance, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 260-1026, (866) 632-9992 (toll free) or (202) 401-0216 (TDD).