



**State of Louisiana**  
Department of Health and Hospitals  
Center for Community and Preventive Health

Greetings -

On May 2nd, the State was notified by USDA Under Secretary Kevin Concannon that the Federal agency was imposing a moratorium on new WIC-authorized vendors in Louisiana effective immediately. The Federal moratorium now replaces the State's self-imposed moratorium and will not be lifted until such time that Louisiana demonstrates to USDA that all required corrective actions have been satisfactorily implemented and evaluated.

Therefore, as the State continues to develop a series of corrective actions required to be in compliance with USDA cost containment guidance, we will not be accepting any new vendor applications unless conditions outlined below are met:

- 1) **Participant Access** - If the State determines that there is a lack of adequate participant access in the geographical area of the requesting vendor, an application may be approved to provide better Program access to participants.
- 2) **Transfer of ownership** from one WIC-authorized vendor to another WIC-authorized vendor that has a current master or corporate agreement in place - As of May 1, 2014 an application may be approved for a vendor with a current master vendor agreement for a newly purchased store if: a) the vendor purchases a previously WIC-authorized store location; and b) an application is filed by the new owner within six months of the previous vendor's termination from the Program.
- 3) **Temporary Closure** – An application may be approved for an existing authorized WIC vendor that was temporarily closed for physical renovations or other reasons if: a) the closure was for less than six months; b) there was no change in ownership; and c) the vendor was not in a disqualified period for a sanction.

Even if a store falls into one of the categories above, an application will only be considered if the store has a clean WIC business integrity record and meet all Federal and State vendor authorization criteria. **All new applications will be vetted and approved by USDA prior to authorization.**

The State agency will keep vendors apprised as details regarding the Federal moratorium may change.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Karen".

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