

## WIC Food List Contents:

Fruits and Vegetables
Whole Grains

## Legumes | Peanut Butter | Canned Fish

Milk | Eggs | Cheese | Yogurt
Breakfast Cereals

## Juice

Infant Food | Infant Cereal | Infant Formula
Frequently Asked Questions


VirginiaWIC.com or www.MYVAWIC.ORG
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## 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
- $1 \%$ and Skim/Fat-Free Milk
- Yogurt
- 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 <br> V BUY

- Whole, cut, or bagged fruits and vegetables
- Organic or non-organic
- Includes individual serving containers


## 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


## FROZEN FRUITS \& VEGETABLES

V BUY

- Organic or non-organic
- Includes frozen beans or peas



## XDON'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


## CANNED FRUITS <br> VBUY <br> - Organic or non-organic <br> - Water or juice packed <br> - Includes unsweetened applesauce <br> - Includes individual serving <br> FRUIT <br> Choose containers that say: <br> - "In its Own Juice" <br> - "100\% Fruit Juice" <br> - "Naturally Sweet" <br> - "Unsweetened"

 containers
## 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
- pouches
: CANNED VEGETABLES V BUY
- Organic or non-organic
- Regular or low-sodium
- Whole, diced, crushed, or pureed tomatoes; tomato paste
- Includes individual serving containers


## XDON'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
- ketchup, stewed tomatoes, tomato sauces (including pizza and spaghetti), salsa
- canned vegetables with added meats
- baked beans or pork and beans
- dry or canned beans included in the legume category
- soups
- pouches


## Whole Grains

## WHOLE WHEAT BREADS

V BUY

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


100\% Whole Wheat Bread

##  <br> 100\% Whole Wheat Bread

 Lewis Bakeries

100\% Whole Wheat Bread

Kern's


100\% Whole Wheat Bread



100\% Whole Wheat Bread

Giant


100\% Whole Wheat Bread
Nature's Own


Whole Wheat W/
Honey Bread

Our Family


100\% Whole Wheat Bread


Whole Grains

## Whole Grains

## WHOLE WHEAT PASTA V BUY

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


## Whole Grain <br> 

- Elbows
- Linguine
- Rotini
- Spaghetti
- Thin Spaghetti

Essential Everyday
Whole Wheat


- Elbow Macaroni
- Penne Rigate
- Rotini
- Spaghetti
- Thin Spaghetti
Giant New
Whole Wheat

| TII |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |

- Elbows • Spaghetti
- Penne • Thin Spaghetti

Great Value Whole Wheat


- Elbows • Spaghetti
- Penne

Harris Teeter Whole Grain


- Penne Rigate
- Rotini
- Spaghetti
- Thin Spaghetti

Kroger Whole Grain


- Penne Rigate
- Rotini
- Spaghetti
- Thin Spaghetti

Food Club Whole Wheat


- Penne Rigate
- Spaghetti

Lowes Whole Wheat


- Penne
- Thin Spaghetti

Food Lion New Whole Wheat


- Penne Rigate
- Thin Spaghetti

Our Family Whole Grain


- Rotini
- Penne Rigate


## WHOLE WHEAT PASTA

Publix Whole Grain

- Penne
- Spaghetti

Ronzoni Whole Grain


Linguine

- Penne Rigate
- Rotini
- Spaghetti
- Thin Spaghetti

Signature Select Whole Wheat


- Elbow • Rotini Macaroni • Spaghetti
- Linguine •Thin
- Penne

Rigate

Weis
Whole Wheat


- Angel Hair
- Penne Rigate
- Rotini
- Spaghetti


## XDON'T BUY:

- organic varieties
- varieties with added ingredients (including
- refrigerated or frozen varieties
seasoning, vegetables, protein, fiber)
- pasta meals


## BROWN RICE

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


## XDON'T BUY:

- organic varieties
- varieties with added sugars/artificial
sweeteners/salt/saturated fats/oils/flavorings


## - rice mixes

- specialty rice including jasmine, basmati, wild


## Whole Grains

TORTILLAS

## V BUY

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

Best Choice. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .


Chi Chi's......................


Whole Wheat Fajita


White Corn


Whole Wheat Fajita
Giant ................

Essential Everyday ..... I


Whole Wheat
White Corn

IGA
Kroger



White Corn


Whole Wheat

## TORTILLAS

Lowes NEw) Mission.............. Ortega

Whole Grains

## Legumes



DRIED PEAS, BEANS, LENTILS CANNED BEANS
V BUY

## PEANUT BUTTER

V BUY
Peanut Butter

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


## XDON'T BUY:

- organic
- blends
- low-fat or reduced-fat
- low-sugar
- low-sodium
- honey roasted
- fortified, added vitamins
- freshly ground
- whipped
- peanut spreads
- fresh and frozen immature varieties (including green peas, snap peas, green beans) that can be purchased using WIC Cash Value Benefits
- 15 oz. to 16 oz. can size only
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


## Canned Fish

Available to women who are fully breastfeeding or mostly breastfeeding multiples.

## TUNA

V BUY

- Chunk light, water packed tuna only
- 5.0 oz. to 6.5 oz . can size only
- Choose WIC approved national and store brands



## SALMON V BUY

- Alaskan or Pink salmon only
- 7.5 oz . or 14.75 oz . can size only
- Choose WIC approved national and store brands


## XDON'T BUY:

- organic or flavored varieties
- low-sodium
- pouches, single serving, lunch packs, or ready to serve


## 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


## Peanut Butter Butter

- solid, white, and/or albacore


## Milk | Eggs | Cheese | Yogurt

## Cow's Milk

```
WIC)
```

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

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


## Specialty Milk

$\checkmark$ BUY (As prescribed or listed on your WIC benefit balance)

- Lactose-Free Milk

Choose WIC approved national and store brands
in the following sizes: only: 96 oz., Half-Gallon, Quart

- Ultra High Temperature (UHT) Milk Choose WIC approved national and store brands
- Soy Milk - Choose from the following brands and varieties


8th Continent Soy: 64 oz., refrigerated, original or vanilla flavor


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


## XDON'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

V BUY

- Any size, white or brown, grade A or AA
- One dozen carton size only
- Choose WIC approved national and store brands



## XDON'T BUY:

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


## CHEESE

## V BUY

- 16 oz. (1 pound) package size only
- Prepackaged in block, sliced or string 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
- String Cheese


## 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
- 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
- Greek yogurt allowed (plain or vanilla)


## XDON'T BUY:

- organic or specialty varieties
- 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

V BUY:

- 12 oz. or larger, up to 36 oz.
(2) = A minimum of $51 \%$ whole grain cereal
g = Gluten Free
WAYS TO BUY UP TO 36 oz OF CEREAL


Totals 36 oz.


Totals 36 oz.


Totals 36 oz


Buy any combination of hot or cold WIC approved cereals, up to 36 ounces.

Always Save.
Alway
sàve


Corn Flakes


Crisp Rice


Toasted Oats


Corn Flakes


Toasted Oats



Best Choice
Best Yet

## 

Wheat Crisps


Wheat Flakes


Bran Flakes


Corn Flakes


Crispy Rice


Crunchy Wheat


Frosted Shredded Wheat

Best Yet.......|


Honey Oats \& More

Essential Everyday


Bite Size Frosted Shredded Wheat w/ Strawberry Cream

Essential Everyday


Crunchy Corn Squares


Crunchy Oat


Bran Flakes


Corn Flakes


Crispy Hexagons


Crispy Rice
Food Club


Bran Flakes


Honey \& Oat Clusters

Toasted Oats


## Cold Cereals

WIC
$\cdots$= A minimum of $51 \%$
g = Gluten Free

Food Club


Corn Squares


Crisp Rice


Honey and Oats with Honey and Oat Clusters
Bite Size Frosted Shredded Wheat


Rice Squares

Food Club


Oatmeal Squares


Bite Size Strawberry Frosted Shredded Wheat
g


Crispy Rice


Toasted Oats


Twin Grain Crisp


Wheat Squares


Bran Flakes

Food Lion .


Bite Size Frosted Shredded Wheat


Oats \& More with Honey


Tasteeos


Toasted Rice


Crispy Hexagons

Freedom's Choice


Bite Size Strawberry Frosted Shedded Wheat


Frosted Shedded Wheat


## Cold Cereals

(8) A minimum of $51 \%$ whole grain cerealg = Gluten Free

## Great Value. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

## Harris Teeter ..............................................................



Bran Flakes


Crisp 6


Crispy Rice


Frosted Shredded Wheat
g


Frosted Shredded Wheat Strawberry Cream IGA


Nutty Bites


Oatmeal Squares


Rice Squares


Toasted Oats

IGA


Bite Size Frosted Shredded Wheat


Bite Size Shredded Wheat Kellogg's


Corn Flakes


All-Bran


Corn Flakes


Corn Flakes Cinnamon

Kellogg's



Frosted Mini Wheats Cinnamon Roll


Frosted Mini Wheats Mixed Berry


Frosted Mini Wheats Blueberry


Frosted Mini Wheats Chocolate


Frosted Shredded Mini Wheats


Frosted Shredded Mini Wheats Little Bites


Frosted Shredded
Mini Wheats Pumpkin Spice


Frosted Mini Wheats Strawberry


Special K Banana


Special K Original


Special K Protien Cinnamon


Crispy Rice


Honey n' Oats

Corn Flakes



Bite Size Rice Squares


Crisp Rice


Frosted Bite Size Shredded Wheat


Oats \& Honey Original


Toasted Oats


Toasted Oats Bag

Breakfast Cereals

## Cold Cereals

natio$=$ A minimum of $51 \%$ whole grain cereal

$$
\mathrm{g}=\text { Gluten Free }
$$




Ralston Foods

Rice Biscuits


I Shoppers Value


Corn Flakes

Signature Select


Tasteeos


Wheat Bran Flakes

Bran Flakes



Corn Flakes


Corn Pockets


Crispy Rice

## Cold Cereals

- 

(8) A minimum of $51 \%$ whole grain cereal
g = Gluten Free

That's Smart


Bran Flakes


Corn Flakes


Crisp Rice


Toasted Oats


Bran Flakes


Rice Pockets


Toasted Oats


Crispy Rice


Oats \& Honey


Rice Squares


Corn Flakes


Crispy Corn \& Rice


Toasted Oats


Crispy Rice

Weis


Bite Size Frosted Shredded Wheat


Multi-Grain Toasted Oats


Toasted Oats
Weis ..............................


Wheat Bran Flakes


Wheat Flakes
(3) A minimum of $51 \%$ whole grain cereal
g = Gluten Free


## Hot Cereals

## च BUY:

- 11.8 oz. or larger
- Including Grits
(\%)

A minimum of 51\%
g = Gluten Free whole grain cereal

Cream of Wheat ..............................


Instant Original


Instant Whole Grain


Original 1 Minute

Food Club........................


Instant Grits

- 11.8 oz. or larger
- Including Grits
(3) A minimum of $51 \%$
g = Gluten Free

| Food Lion. | . . . . . . | Giant. | . . $\cdot$ | Great Value |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Intant Grits Original | Instant Oatmeal Regular | Instant Cream Farina Original | Instant Oatmeal Original | Instant Oatmeal Original |
| Harris Teeter |  | -•\| | IGA |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { Grits } \\ & \text { Original } \end{aligned}$ | Instant Oatmeal Original | Instant Original Oats | 100\% Natural Old Fashioned Oatmeal | 100\% Natural Whole Grain Quick Oats |

## Hot Cereals

(WIC= A minimum of $51 \%$ whole grain cereal
g = Gluten Free
च BUY: • 11.8 oz. or larger


Instant Oatmeal Original

Our Family


Instant Oatmeal Regular

Laura Lynn


Instant Oatmeal Original

Publix


Instant Oatmeal Original

Malt-O-Mear . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .


Co Co Wheats


Chocolate Hot Wheat Cereal


Farina


Original Hot Wheat



## Juice



100\% single variety fruit juice
12 oz. size containers onlyChoose from the following WIC eligible brands and varieties


Always Save apple
Best Choice apple, grape


Foodranb. Food Club apple, grape
Best Yet
apple
Essential
Everyday
apple, grape

Food Lion apple

Freedom's
Choice
apple
Giant
apple, grape
Great Value apple, grape

Harris Teeter apple

Hy-Top apple, grape

Kroger apple, grape

ORCHARD

|  | Shurfine apple |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | Signature |
| Sughtar | Select apple |
| TptonoGrove: | Tipton Grove apple |
| 4n土E1O5 | Tree Top apple |
| VALUTIME | Valu Time apple |
| Wegmans | Wegmans apple |

## All brands

 of $100 \%$ orange juice and 100\% grapefruit juice in the following container sizes are WIC approved:- 12 oz: frozen
- 64 oz: refrigerated
- 64 oz: shelf stable
weis Weis apple


## XDON'T BUY:

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


## LIQUID JUICE

(For Children Only)

V BUY

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


Apple \& Eve apple
white grape
Best Choice
Best Choice apple, grape, white grape


Essential
ESSential

Best Yet apple, grape, white grape
Essential Everyday apple, grape, white grape

## Foorant. <br> Food Club apple, grape, white grape

 Frabions


Sh Harris
Teeter

harvest
classic.

.


Juîcy Julce

## Food Lion

apple, grape, white grape

## Freedom's Choice:

 appleGiant 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, white grape


Kroger
apple, grape, white grape
Laura Lynn
apple, grape, white grape

Lowes
apple, grape, white grape


Ocean Spray
apple, grape


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
Select
apple, grape
Tytons Girvoe. Tipton Grove apple, grape


That's Smart grape

| 这这10 | Tree Top apple |
| :---: | :---: |
| UTME | Valu Time apple, grape, white grap |
| W | Wegmans apple, grape |
| weis | Weis apple, grape, |

## $\overline{\text { Welch's }}$ Welch's

 grape, white grape
## 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 <br> 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

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.

## 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



## Infant Food | Infant Cereal | Infant Formula

## INFANT CEREAL『BUY

- 8 oz. container size only
- Rice and oatmeal varieties only
- Choose WIC approved national and store brands
- Organic allowed


## XDON'T BUY:

- mixed cereals
- 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
V BUY

- Choose single ingredients or combinations of fruits and vegetables (i.e., apple-banana, apple-sweet potato, etc.)
- Choose WIC approved national and store brands
- Organic allowed

Infant Meats
(Available to exclusively breastfed
infants 6-11 months only)
V BUY

- 2.5 oz. container size only
- Choose WIC approved national and store brands
- Choose from the following varieties:
- Beef and broth/gravy
- Chicken and broth/gravy
- Ham and broth/gravy
- Turkey and broth/gravy

Organic allowed


## XDON'T BUY:

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

Infant Food | Infant Cereal | Infant Formula

## 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. Some labels may be incorrect due to mislabeling. Use this food list to verify. 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 (on back of card)


## 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, scan first then 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 mealsconvenience 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.

VirginiaWIC.com or www.MYVAWIC.ORG
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To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/ files/documents/ad-3027.pdf, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. email: Program.Intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

