

Virginia WIC Retailer Advisory Meeting Minutes

Date: Jan 15, 2026

Time: 2:00 PM EST

Location: Webex

State WIC Office Attendees: Paula Garrett, Todd Osborne, Bob Altermatt, Brian Tun, Jennifer Trower

Facilitator: Amy Romero

- The meeting started at 2:00pm

Paula Garrett (Program Director) provided an update for the Division

- Welcome Bob Altermatt officially as the Vendor Manager
- Todd Osborne is the acting Program Manager
- A continuing resolution was approved to end the government shutdown which includes funding for WIC for the full federal fiscal year (Oct 1-Sept 30). So, if another shutdown occurs in that time, WIC will not be affected.

Todd Osborne (Acting Program Manager) provided an update for the WIC Program

- New food packages are coming in April, and this will include a new food list. Look for updates from the vendor team
- Always let the vendor team know what they can do to help

Bob Altermatt (Vendor Team Manager) provided an update for the vendor team

- Food lists will likely mail later in the spring. You will hear from us as soon as we are ready to send
- New food rules will necessitate changes for the minimum stocking list. You will hear from us with plenty of time to make changes. Some of these changes will be better!
 - For example, no designation on type of cheese.
 - Adding canned fish because it will be part of all women and children's packages
 - Removing liquid and frozen juice
 - More to come!
- New minimum stocking around April, don't change anything yet

Miscellaneous

- We will provide training and resources regarding the new food list and minimum stocking requirement changes.
- It will be important to SCAN all items instead of assuming an item is not WIC. There will be unusual items that will work! Ask all cashiers to scan every item and never decide on eligibility by just looking at it.

The Date for the next meeting is April 16, 2026 at 2:00pm EST.