



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH
SECRETARY

DANIEL STALEY
DIRECTOR

June 5, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: WIC Authorized Vendors

FROM: Tysha N. Grays, Vendor Manager
Nutrition Services Branch

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely of Tysha N. Grays, is written over the "FROM" field.

SUBJECT: **Moratorium on WIC Vendor Authorization Due to eWIC Implementation**

The North Carolina WIC program is preparing for the implementation of the eWIC system from October 2017 through May 2018. The eWIC system will allow vendors throughout the state to transition from transacting paper food instruments and cash-value vouchers to transacting electronic benefits using a plastic card. To ensure a smooth transition, the program will implement a moratorium on WIC vendor authorization **from August 1, 2017 through May 31, 2018.**

During this time, applications for vendor authorization will not be accepted from the following types of vendor applicants:

1. Vendor applicants that will require the use of single function equipment (separate from the vendor's cash register system) to process eWIC transactions or
2. Vendor applicants, with an integrated system that has not been certified by the eWIC processor to process eWIC transactions. Integrated means that eWIC functionality has been loaded into the vendor's cash register system as another electronic payment tender type.

Due to the moratorium, **North Carolina WIC will stop accepting new applications from prospective vendors that meet the above criteria on July 31, 2017 at 5:00 PM EST.** All new vendor applications received by Local or State Agency staff on or before July 31, 2017 will be processed. In the event a vendor's application is denied for any reason, on or after August 1, 2017, the vendor can only reapply once the moratorium is lifted. In addition, if a vendor's authorization lapses during the moratorium (either due to disqualification or termination), they will be required to wait until the moratorium is lifted to reapply. **Local WIC agencies will resume standard vendor application procedures effective June 1, 2018.**

Should you have any concerns or questions regarding the moratorium or eWIC implementation, please contact the NC WIC Vendor team at NCWICVendorQuestions@dhhs.nc.gov.

TNG/

cc: Local WIC Directors
Local Health Directors

WWW.NCDHHS.GOV
TEL 919-707-5800 • FAX 919-870-4818
LOCATION: 5601 SIX FORKS ROAD • RALEIGH, NC 27609
MAILING ADDRESS: 1914 MAIL SERVICE CENTER • RALEIGH, NC 27699-1914
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER