

641—73.6(135) Certification of participants. The certification process to determine eligibility for WIC services, as defined in 7 CFR 246.7, shall include the following procedures and definitions:

73.6(1) Application. Information on identity, address, family incomes, and nutritional risk must be collected in accordance with the Iowa WIC Policy and Procedure Manual.

73.6(2) Income.

a. The income guidelines used shall be the same as the National School Lunch Program guidelines for reduced price school lunches, which are equal to 185 percent of the current federal poverty guidelines. Definitions of income are mandated by federal regulation and are described in the Iowa WIC Policy and Procedure Manual. Revised dollar figures for the 185 percent poverty level are published annually in the Federal Register and become effective for WIC no later than July 1 following their publication. Copies of the income definitions and monetary guidelines are available from the department.

b. Applicants must provide the contract agency written proof of their income as part of each certification process, pursuant to the Iowa WIC Policy and Procedure Manual.

73.6(3) Time frame for services.

a. The date of initial visit shall be the day on which an applicant first requests services from a contract agency. A visit to another WIC program office to complete a common application form does not constitute an initial visit.

b. Pregnant women shall be certified for the duration of their pregnancy and for up to six weeks postpartum. Pregnant women precertified with referral data require a full certification within 30 days.

73.6(4) Medical equipment.

a. Medical equipment used in conducting WIC clinics shall be subject to approval by the department.

b. Standards for conducting the medical and nutritional assessments on WIC program applicants shall be as described in the Iowa WIC Policy and Procedure Manual.

c. Medical equipment shall be recalibrated in accord with procedures outlined in the Iowa WIC Policy and Procedure Manual.

73.6(5) Documentation of health and nutrition information. Documentation of health and nutrition information in individual participant records shall be as described in the Iowa WIC Policy and Procedure Manual.

73.6(6) Documentation of nonmedical information. Documentation of nonmedical information in individual participant and collective program records shall be as described in the Iowa WIC Policy and Procedure Manual.

73.6(7) Transfer of participant information. Requirements for use and disclosure of confidential applicant and participant information for non-WIC purposes were revised in the Federal Register September 27, 2006, Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 7 CFR Part 246, Miscellaneous Provisions; Final Rule 246.25(a)(4).

a. Designation by chief state health officer. The chief state health officer must designate in writing the permitted non-WIC uses of the information and the names of the organizations to which such information may be disclosed.

b. Notice to applicants and participants. The applicant or participant will be notified at the time of application (in accordance with 7 CFR 246.7(i)(11)) or through a subsequent notice that the chief state health officer may authorize the use and disclosure of information about an applicant's or participant's participation in the WIC program for non-WIC purposes. This statement will also indicate that such information will be used by state and local WIC agencies and public organizations only in the administration of programs that serve persons eligible for the WIC program.

c. Written agreement and policy and procedure manual. The state or local agency disclosing the information will enter into a written agreement with the other public organization or, in the case of a non-WIC use by a state or local WIC agency, the unit of the state or local agency that will be using the information. The department will also include in the Iowa WIC Policy and Procedure Manual, as specified in 7 CFR 246.4(a)(24), a list of all organizations (including units of the department or local agencies) with which the department or its local agencies have executed or intend to execute a written agreement. The written agreement must:

(1) Specify that the receiving organization may use the confidential applicant and participant information only for:

1. Establishing the eligibility of WIC applicants or participants for the programs that the organization administers;
2. Conducting outreach to WIC applicants and participants for such programs;
3. Enhancing the health, education, or well-being of WIC applicants or participants who are currently enrolled in such programs, including the reporting of known or suspected child abuse or neglect that is not otherwise required by state law;
4. Streamlining administrative procedures in order to minimize burdens on staff, applicants, or participants in either the receiving program or the WIC program; or
5. Assessing and evaluating the responsiveness of a state's health system to participants' health care needs and health care outcomes; and

(2) Contain the receiving organization's assurance that the organization will not use the information for any other purpose or disclose the information to a third party.

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