THE STATE of ALASKA
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of
Health and Social Services

DIVISION OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE
Family Nutrition Programs
Juneau

130 Seward Street, Suite 508
PO Box 110612
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May 20, 2016

Dear WIC Vendor:

Federal regulations require State WIC Agencies to collect vendor shelf prices to ensure that the WIC-approved foods are available statewide at a reasonable cost to the program. **The prices charged by your store directly affect your reimbursement by the program, so it is important that you provide them by the deadline of June 16, 2016.**

We recommend that you review the revised Minimum Stocking Requirements for WIC food items and the new WIC Approved Food List before completing your price survey. The Minimum Stocking Requirements are available on our website at: http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/nutri/wic/vendors/default.aspx. The WIC Approved Food List is available on our website at: http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/nutri/wic/participants/wicfoodlist.aspx

IMPORTANT:

- When completing the survey, please provide the brand name of the product for which you are providing the price.
- Effective March 1, 2016, your store is required to carry a minimum stock of Similac Sensitive powdered infant formula unless granted an exemption. See the Minimum Stocking Requirements for details.
  Similac for Spit Up and Similac Total Comfort are additional formulas which may be prescribed on a limited basis but your store is not required to maintain a minimum stock unless requested by the State of Alaska.

We are collecting shelf prices for all WIC food items. If any required item is out of stock, please include with your price survey an order form or invoice showing that the item has been ordered and record the shelf price on the survey.

The price survey is in Excel, and must be submitted electronically to wic@alaska.gov. If needed, apply for an exemption in order to submit a paper form by mail. All exemption forms must be received **no later than June 3, 2016** so that we can send you a paper form in time to meet the price survey deadline.

The price for each item will be averaged with the prices from other stores in the same peer group. The maximum allowable reimbursement (MAR) will be calculated according to peer group average prices, plus a percentage added by peer group. It is

critical for you to submit your prices by the **June 16, 2016 deadline** so that they are included in the averaging that affects your reimbursements.

In 2017 the WIC program will transition to EBT benefits. This is expected to affect the method of food price collection. However, we expect to collect food prices via price surveys until late 2017.

If you have any questions about the Price Survey, please contact the WIC Vendor Management Unit at (907) 465-3100, or by email at wic@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,

Sandy Harbanuk, M.A.
Vendor Coordinator