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GAVIN NEWSOM
 Governor

WIC Information Notice		
No. 2021 – 104		
Local Services Branch		Action Needed
Attachments: 0		Action Needed

DATE: October 6, 2021

SUBJECT: New Benefit Amounts for Temporary Fruits and Vegetables Cash-Value Benefit (CVB) Increase

We are pleased to share that the new temporary fruits and vegetables CVB increase was implemented last night. As you know, on Thursday, September 30, 2021, President Biden signed into law the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act of 2022 to avert a government shutdown. The continuing resolution includes supplemental funding and a provision to temporarily increase the WIC CVB for fruits and vegetables from October 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

With this new temporary increase, participants will experience a continuation of increased CVBs, though the amounts have changed. The new CVB amounts align with expert recommendations from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASSEM) for WIC and are adjusted for inflation. WIC WISE has been updated to reflect these changes.

Effective October 1, 2021, the temporary CVB for children and adults will be for the following amounts:

- \$24 per month for children
- \$43 per month for pregnant and non-breastfeeding participants
- \$47 per month for breastfeeding and partially breastfeeding participants, including participants who are breastfeeding multiples or pregnant and breastfeeding (FNS VII x 1.5)



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Per USDA guidance, although the Start Date (i.e., the First Date of Use) of December food benefits must begin in December 2021, the time periods for transacting and redeeming December food benefits may occur after December 31, 2021.

WIC WISE Changes

The CVB extension applies to benefits for October, November, and December 2021.

- Beginning **TODAY**, the extra fruits and vegetables benefit will be added automatically during benefit issuance for October, November, and December. As was the case for the previous \$35 CVB increase, the food prescription will not reflect the increased amount, but the amount will be added at issuance. Staff who want to verify the amount to be issued may check the **Preview** button on the **Issue Benefits** screen prior to issuing.
- Benefits that were already issued for October, November, and December will be handled as follows:
 - October benefits previously issued on 10/1-10/6/21 have been sent EBT and are now available for participants to use. The remaining previously issued October benefits will be sent to EBT on the usual schedule.
 - Previously issued November benefits will be updated during the Auto Issuance (AI) process on 10/31/21.
 - Previously issued December benefits will be updated during the AI process on 11/30/21.

Action

Please communicate the CVB increased dollar amount changes and temporary extension of benefits through December 31, 2021 with your staff and participants. You may use the following talking points:

- WIC participants receive a monthly CVB on their WIC Card for buying fruits and vegetables. The CVB is temporarily changed to \$24 per child per month, \$43 per pregnant and postpartum participant per month, and \$47 per breastfeeding participant per month. This change does not apply to infant food packages.
- The CVB change will be issued from October 1, 2021 through the end of December 2021. The CVB benefits are good for 30 days from the date they are issued. For example, benefits issued on December 27 can still be used through January 26.
- The CVB for fruits and vegetables can be used at any approved WIC store or any farmer currently accepting the WIC Card. Families can find approved WIC

vendors and farmers accepting the WIC Card on the [MyFamily.WIC.ca.gov](https://www.MyFamily.WIC.ca.gov) website.

- Check [MyFamily.WIC.ca.gov](https://www.MyFamily.WIC.ca.gov) for more information.

Contact

For questions, please contact WIC@cdph.ca.gov .