



Department of Health

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WIC Vendor Bulletin 2016-8

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## Competitive Prices

The RI Department of Health WIC Program serves over 28,000 Rhode Islanders. More people are coming to WIC for services, and we need to make our food “budget” serve these additional folks. Excessive pricing on WIC checks means fewer people can be served.

If a store is charging more for WIC foods than other stores, it makes sense for WIC to “take its business elsewhere,” just like any smart shopper would.

- If your WIC prices are higher than other similar sized WIC stores, your WIC payments will be reduced (refer to Vendor Policies).
- If your WIC prices remain high, you will be asked to reduce your prices. If you fail to do so, your WIC agreement will be terminated and you will be disqualified.

### **If you get a notice that you are charging more than other stores, you must:**

- Find a way to lower the prices you are charging WIC.
- Repay WIC for the excess dollar amount WIC paid to you.

WIC Vendor staff will suggest ways to reduce prices, but it’s your responsibility to find a solution. Remember, your inventory price list is only a guide used to compare stores prices, but the prices you actually put on the WIC check is what counts.

The Department stresses the importance of your compliance with all provisions of the Vendor Participation Agreement in order to keep your current and future authorization in the WIC Program.

### **Participation as a WIC Vendor is Voluntary and a Privilege.**

If you have any questions or concerns, please call the Vendor Unit in the WIC State Office at 222-4630, 222-4637, or 222-4633.

Si necesita ayuda en entender esta carta, por favor, llame al 222-5918 donde le ayudarán con la traducción.

