

May-Jun-Jul 2013

Presenting the Ohio WIC EBT Card

Ohio WIC recently hosted a contest, open to State and local WIC program and agency staff, WIC participants and the general public, to name and design our EBT card. We selected two winners and, using their ideas as inspiration, have named and designed our EBT card, which we are pleased to share with you now.

We are applying for our Issuer Identification Number (IIN) for the cards, and once we have our IIN, will move forward with purchasing our card supply.

Ohio WIC EBT Email Address Now Available

To facilitate our communications regarding all things WIC EBT-related, we now have an Ohio WIC EBT email account available for immediate use! We will be using this account to send important EBT information to you, and we ask that you use this account to contact us for anything EBT-related. The address for this account is: OhioWICEBT@odh.ohio.gov

Updated WIC EBT Technical Implementation Guide Now Available!

In an article titled Preparing for WIC EBT Implementation! in the Winter 2013 issue of The Ohio WIC Grocers Corner, we provided you with information about the WIC EBT Operating Rules and the WIC EBT Technical Implementation Guide (TIG), which could be accessed from a specific USDA webpage. Please note that the 3-9-12 version of the TIG has been replaced by an updated version dated 9-30-12.

In addition, a separate, two-page document summarizing the changes to the TIG is also available. This document, titled "Updates to the Technical Implementation Guide," dated 9-30-12, is available from the same webpage.

To access any of these documents, please click on the following link or enter the address into your internet browser:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/EBT/operatingrules-implemguide.htm>

Then click on the specific document link:

WIC EBT Operating Rules (PDF, 12-21-10)

WIC EBT Technical Implementation Guide (PDF, 09-30-12)

Updates to the Technical Implementation Guide (PDF, 09-30-12)

Ohio WIC EBT Expansion Plans

We are happy to announce that USDA has approved our EBT Implementation Advance Planning Document! This approval allows us to continue moving forward with our plans for statewide implementation of WIC EBT in Ohio!

We plan to pilot EBT in Licking County, located in Vendor Region 4, beginning in March 2014. We will then begin statewide rollout in May 2015 and be fully implemented in the state of Ohio by calendar year 2016.

Statewide implementation will be rolled out in four phases and by vendor region. We want to ensure that WIC-authorized vendors in each region are prepared to accept WIC EBT cards before we convert the WIC clinics and participants in those regions to EBT. For planning purposes, please refer to the list below for the phases, corresponding vendor regions, counties and implementation time frames.*

Phase A – Vendor Region 4	Phase B – Vendor Region 3	Phase C – Vendor Region 1	Phase D – Vendor Region 2
Implementation May 2015	Implementation July 2015	Implementation September 2015	Implementation November 2015
Athens	Adams	Allen	Ashtabula
Belmont	Brown	Ashland	Columbiana
Carroll	Butler	Auglaize	Cuyahoga
Coshocton	Champaign	Crawford	Geauga
Fairfield	Clark	Defiance	Lake
Franklin	Clermont	Delaware	Mahoning
Gallia	Clinton	Erie	Medina
Guernsey	Darke	Fulton	Portage
Harrison	Fayette	Hancock	Stark
Hocking	Greene	Hardin	Summit
Holmes	Hamilton	Henry	Trumbull
Jackson	Highland	Huron	Wayne
Jefferson	Logan	Knox	
Lawrence	Madison	Lorain	
Meigs	Mercer	Lucas	
Monroe	Miami	Marion	
Morgan	Montgomery	Morrow	
Muskingum	Preble	Ottawa	
Noble	Shelby	Paulding	
Perry	Warren	Putnam	
Pickaway		Richland	
Pike		Sandusky	
Ross		Seneca	
Scioto		Union	
Tuscarawas		Van Wert	
Vinton		Williams	
Washington		Wood	

*Please note that implementation time frames are subject to change based upon unforeseeable circumstances.

Please send any questions to OhioWICEBT@odh.ohio.gov.

Important WIC EBT Equipment and Lane Information Coming Soon!

Please be looking for some very important information to be coming your way in July regarding stand-beside Point of Sale (POS) devices and WIC EBT minimum lane equipment requirements!

Over the past few years, we conducted surveys and contacted our authorized WIC vendors about their Electronic Cash Registers (ECR) systems. We learned that some vendors have systems that cannot be integrated for WIC EBT (meaning they cannot incorporate the functionality into their existing cash register systems), whereas other vendors do have such systems. Vendors that cannot be integrated will be provided with a State-owned stand-beside POS device, while other vendors will need to ensure that their ECR system providers are planning to integrate their systems for offline WIC EBT.

We will be sending letters to all authorized vendors; these letters will inform vendors if they are getting a stand-beside POS, and for vendors not getting a POS, the letters will inform them of the minimum number of lanes that need to be equipped for transacting offline WIC EBT.

In the WIC EBT environment, not every lane is required to accept WIC. We determined the minimum number of lanes that stores need to equip for WIC EBT based upon the stores' volume of WIC sales.

These letters will provide more information, including the ECR system information we have on file for the vendor; if this information needs corrected or updated, you will need to report this to us.

We will be emailing these letters to vendors for whom we have email addresses, and mailing the others through U.S. postal service.

Ohio WIC EBT Information Available on the Web!

We now have a page available on the Ohio Department of Health website for Ohio WIC EBT information and updates. Please be sure to check our website on a regular basis to ensure that you have the latest WIC EBT information. To access this page, go to www.odh.ohio.gov and click on the WIC (Women, Infants & Children) link, and then click on the EBT link.