

Eligibility Criteria for Participation**Policy No. CT- 800.01**

Effective Date: October 1, 2016

No. of Pages: 2

Policy

Local agencies (LA) must certify an applicant for WIC program benefits based on category, residency, income, nutrition risk, and physical presence or valid exception. Foreign citizens, including foreign students residing in the United States, may apply for program benefits provided they meet the program eligibility requirements. Citizenship, immigration status, and Social Security numbers cannot be use as a requirement in eligibility determinations. Discrimination against an applicant/participant on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability and additional eligibility criteria for the Georgia WIC Program participation other than those established by the federal regulations is prohibited. Certification shall be performed at no cost to the participant. All applicants must be physically present at the time of certification or have an approved documented exemption as specified by [Physical Presence Policy](#).

Purpose

To ensure all potentially eligible applicants are allowed to apply for participation in the Georgia WIC Program.

Procedures

- I. Local Agency will verify that WIC applicants fall into one of the following categorical participation types:
 - A. A pregnant woman
 - B. A breastfeeding woman up to one-year post-partum (including a breastfeeding woman who receives no supplemental foods or food instruments, but whose breastfed infant(s) receives supplemental food or food instruments)
 - C. A non-breastfeeding woman up to six months post-partum
 - D. An infant up to 1 year of age
 - E. A child up to 5 years of age.
- II. Ensure applicants meet residency requirements as specified in the [Residency Requirements Policy](#).
- III. Ensure applicants meet the income eligibility guidelines as defined by the [Income Eligibility Requirements Policy](#).
- IV. Assess and document applicants nutritional risk as defined in the [Nutrition Risk Priority System](#) and [Nutrition Risk Assessment Policy](#).

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Authority

7 CFR § 246.7 (c)

7 CFR § 246.8

7 CFR § 246.7(e)(2)(ii),

Definitions/Supporting Information

Applicant –Pregnant women, breastfeeding women, postpartum women, infants, breastfed infants of breastfeeding women, and children under the age of five years who are applying to receive WIC benefits. Applicants include individuals who are currently participating in the program but are re-applying because their certification period has expired.

Breastfeeding Woman – A woman up to one year postpartum who is breastfeeding her infant on the average of at least once per day.

Child – A person who has had their first birthday but has not yet reached their fifth birthday.

Infant – A person under the age of one year.

Non-Breastfeeding Woman – A woman up to six months after termination of pregnancy; i.e., live birth, still birth, fetal death, therapeutic abortion, spontaneous abortion or miscarriage.

Postpartum Woman – A woman up to six months from pregnancy delivery date.

Prenatal or Pregnant Woman – A woman with one or more embryos in utero.