CHANGES IN VENDOR INFORMATION

Any changes to the information provided on the vendor application must be communicated to Georgia WIC. Georgia WIC requires the vendor to provide advance written notice of any changes in vendor information including ownership, store location or cessation of operations. It is recommended that vendors use a traceable method of delivery of such notices.

Changes in Store Location or Information

The vendor must provide Georgia WIC with at least twenty-one (21) days advance written notice of any changes in store location or information provided on the most recent vendor application. Each store is authorized based on the ownership and physical address that exists at the time of authorization, and authorization is not transferable to another store location. Therefore, if a change in store location is ten (10) miles or more from the original store location, the vendor must complete and submit an updated application (non-corporate vendor) or corporate attachment form (corporate vendor) ***and*** sign a new vendor agreement. If the change in store location is less than ten (10) miles from the original store location, the vendor must only complete and submit an updated application or corporate attachment form.

If Georgia WIC discovers that a change in location has occurred before a notice is received, then the vendor authorization number will be immediately terminated. All food instruments submitted for payment will be returned unpaid and Georgia WIC will establish a claim for reimbursement of redemptions.

The vendor must also provide Georgia WIC with written notice of any other change in business or contact information listed on the vendor application, including store name, hours of operation, telephone number and e-mail address(es).

Changes in Store Operation and Sales Information

The vendor must provide Georgia WIC with written notice of any changes made to the "Operation and Sales" section of the vendor authorization application and "Operations, Sales, and Banking Information" section of the Corporate Attachment Form. Specifically, any change pertaining to the types of non-taxable food and non-food items sold by a vendor that are not SNAP or WIC eligible.

Cessation of Operation

The vendor must provide Georgia WIC with at least twenty-one (21) days advance written notice of any changes to the operation or cessation of its business or cessation of business and the effective date. Georgia WIC will acknowledge the receipt of this information.

WIC-authorized vendors must provide Georgia WIC with at least twenty-one (21) days advanced written notice of any plan to cease operations, whether temporarily (e.g., remodeling) or permanently (e.g., store closure). An agreed upon cessation date for accepting and processing WIC food instruments will be established and adhered to. All WIC operations will be suspended during the time that a store is closed. The store location is unable to redeem WIC Food Instruments. In order to determine store readiness, an updated application review and satisfactory site visit are required before WIC operations resume. If

Georgia WIC discovers that an authorized location has temporarily closed without receipt of prior notice, the vendor authorization number will be immediately terminated. All food instruments submitted for payment will be returned unpaid and Georgia WIC will establish a claim for reimbursement of redemptions.

Changes in Ownership (including addition of owner)

The vendor must provide Georgia WIC with at least twenty-one (21) days advance written notice of any changes to the ownership, corporate structure, and management of its business or cessation of business and the effective date. Georgia WIC will acknowledge the receipt of this information.

If business changes involve the addition of new owners, corporate officers, partners, and/or affiliates, a vendor must include the full name, social security number, and date of birth for each individual in its notice to the Department. New people added to an existing business, or who acquire the business must pass the Department's Business Integrity checks. A vendor will be immediately terminated from the program if it fails to provide the Department with advance written notice of such changes and fails to provide the requisite information the Department needs to conduct its Business Integrity checks.

For locations where none of the initial owners retain any ownership interest or for locations ceasing operation, the vendor authorization number will be terminated on the effective date of the change. Any food instruments submitted for payment after the effective date will be returned unpaid. If the vendor wishes to change the effective date, a written notification is required. Otherwise, the vendor authorization number will be terminated, as originally confirmed. Once termination occurs, a vendor must submit a new application and meet all current selection criteria. New owners must submit an application, since WIC vendor agreements are not transferable.

If Georgia WIC discovers that a change in ownership has occurred before notice is received, then the vendor authorization number will be immediately terminated. All food instruments submitted for payment will be returned unpaid and Georgia WIC will establish a claim for reimbursement of redemptions.

Upon the sale of the store, the authorized WIC vendor should inform the new owner that the Georgia WIC Vendor Agreement is non-transferable and that the new owner must submit an application to be considered for authorization as a WIC vendor. If the new owner submits a Vendor Application, then the new owner will be required to provide proof of purchase of the store from the previous WIC vendor.

If a vendor is disqualified from Georgia WIC, the vendor shall not continue operating as a Georgia WIC vendor by selling, assigning or otherwise transferring ownership to the vendor's partners, members, owners, officers, directors, employees, relatives by blood or marriage, heirs or assigns. Similarly, upon or after the assessment of a sanction, the vendor may not withdraw from the program, close the store or transfer ownership of the store to the vendor's partners, members, owners, officers, directors, employees, relatives by blood or marriage, heirs or assigns. Failure to abide by this provision may subject the vendor to civil liability, fines, and penalties.

Reporting and Changing Shelf Prices

Shelf price surveys are used to identify stores that are in compliance with competitive pricing criteria.

USDA regulations require the Georgia WIC Program to "ensure that a vendor selected for participation in the program does not, subsequent to selection, increase prices to levels that would make the vendor ineligible for authorization." USDA regulations require a shelf price survey to be completed at least every six months following authorization.

Each vendor is required to submit the shelf prices for WIC food items carried in each store location. Georgia WIC collects mandatory shelf prices quarterly, but reserves the right to collect shelf prices outside of that time frame at its discretion. All "cost plus 10%" store locations must submit the final price charged for a food item.

Georgia WIC may request shelf prices for as many or as few items as it desires. Should an authorized Georgia WIC vendor change prices subsequent to authorization, the vendor is requested to inform Georgia WIC of such changes within forty-eight (48) hours of implementing the new prices. The vendor should make the changes at https://sendss.state.ga.us/sendss/Wicpricing.wiclogin. To access the database, please use the password provided in the notice for shelf price collection. In the event the vendor fails to update Georgia WIC of such changes, WIC may rely on the latest submission of shelf prices by the vendor in determining its current shelf prices.

Pricing must be submitted for all food items sold or anticipated being sold at each store location. Failure to submit shelf pricing for an item subsequently redeemed is a sanction-able violation (see "Sanction System"). Collection of shelf prices does not constitute either approval or denial by Georgia WIC of the actual shelf prices that the vendor charges WIC participants.