

The Vendor Register

WIC and EBT News

April 2014 ~ Vol. 1, Issue 1 ~ Bureau of Nutrition Services

Ohio WIC Meets With Licking County Vendors

On February 13, 2014, Ohio WIC staff met with Licking County vendors at the Licking County Department of Health to hold an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) information session. Licking is one of the counties piloting EBT beginning in June of 2014. WIC staff provided important updates on EBT and answered questions from the vendors.

Attendees included representatives from Cash Saver, Giant Eagle, Ken's Market, Kroger, Lil' Bear, Save-A-Lot, Walmart,

and the Ohio Grocers Association. During the meeting, an overview of the EBT development process was communicated to the vendors.

Some of the talking points were as follows:

- How EBT and the WIC Nutrition Card will impact the vendor community in Ohio
- What kind of technology is being implemented to carry out the transition from paper coupons to all electronic transactions
- Time frames for implementation for both the pilot counties and the remainder of Ohio

Vendors were presented with the opportunity to ask questions and seemed comfortable with the EBT implementation process so far. Ongoing communications with vendors will continue as developments in the EBT pilot program are made.



Vendors Gearing Up For EBT

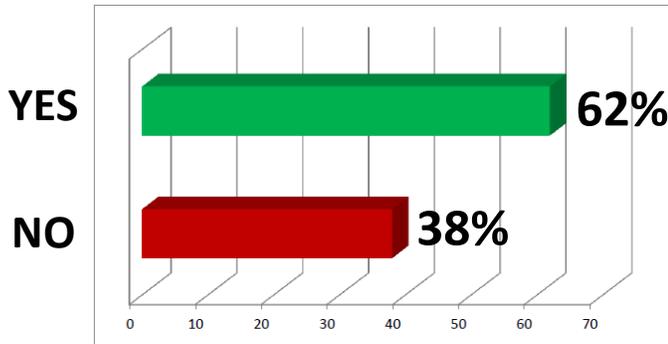
Compliance... Please Remember.....

Ohio WIC has received several complaints from participants who have been asked to provide an identification other than the required State of Ohio WIC program identification card. Vendors may not ask for additional identification; if there is a reason to suspect that coupons are being improperly redeemed, transact the coupons and call the State WIC office at 1-800-282-3435 to report the suspicious activity.

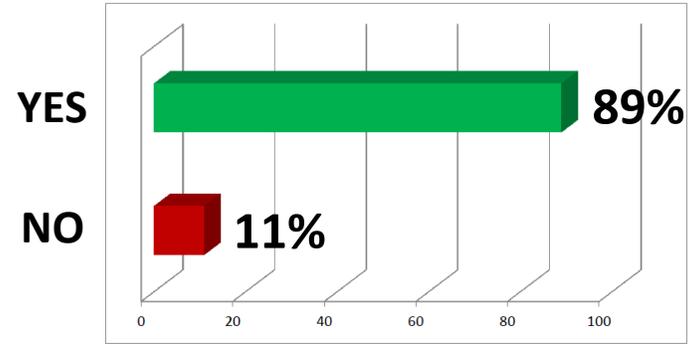
Vendor Satisfaction Survey Results 2014

Ohio WIC recently conducted a vendor survey to gauge satisfaction and obtain valuable feedback. Below are the results of the survey:

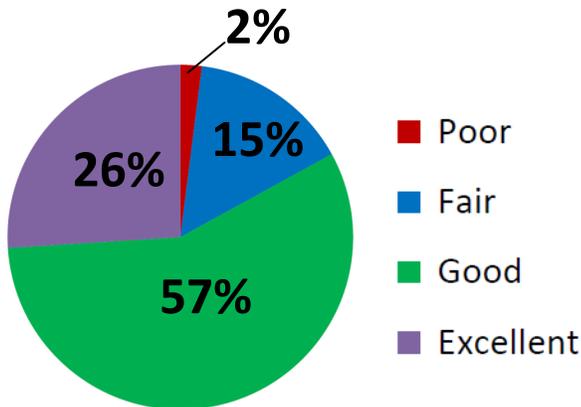
1. Do you know who your Vendor Specialist is or who to contact at the State WIC Office?



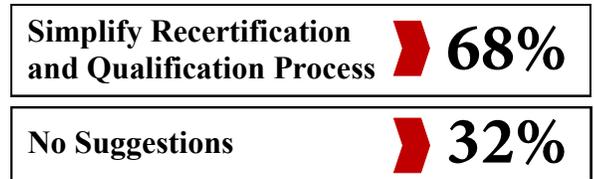
4. Are you satisfied with the application contract process?



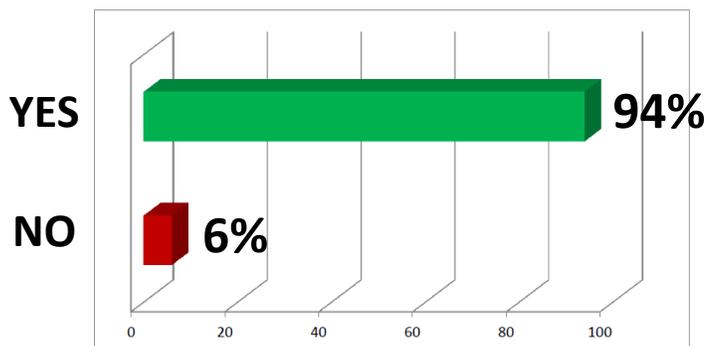
2. How would you rate the response to questions or problems that you have when contacting State WIC?



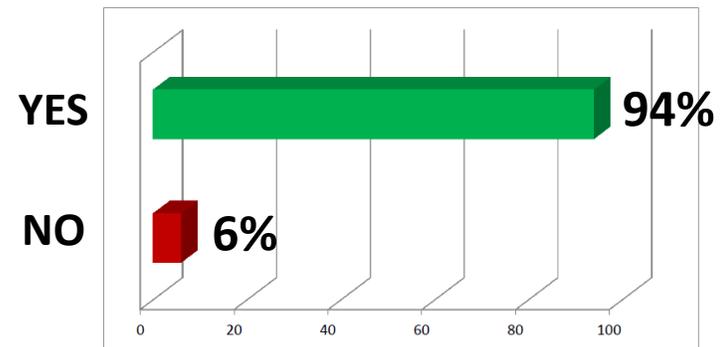
5. If you answered “No” to question 4, what are your suggestions for improving the process?



3. Are you satisfied with the training that is provided/required by the State WIC Office?

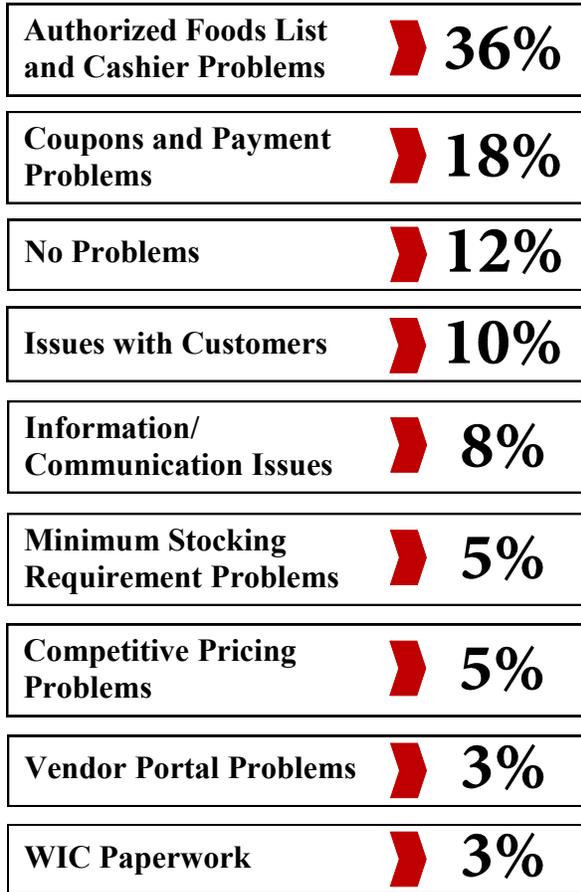


6. Do you think that you receive timely and accurate communications from State WIC regarding news and changes in the WIC Program?

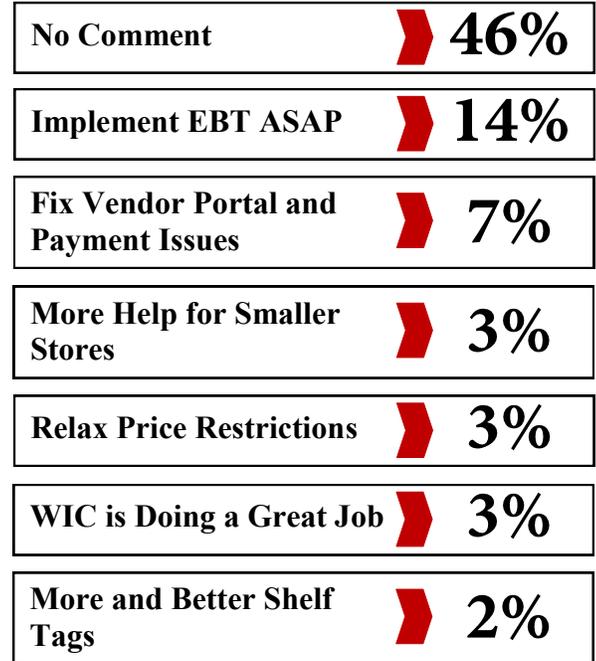


Vendor Satisfaction Survey Results 2014 (continued)

7. What is your greatest challenge in being a WIC Vendor?



8. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?



We appreciate all who participated in this survey. We value your opinions and we will use your answers to help guide decisions in improving WIC services.

Final Food Package Regulations

The United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Services recently released the long awaited final WIC food package regulations. There are a number of provisions included in the regulations, only two of which are required for implementation. The only required changes are the increase of the value from \$6 to \$8 of the fruit and vegetable voucher for children, and the transition from 2% milk to 1% milk. Although the effective date of the rule is May 5, 2014, implementation dates vary for each of the provisions. We anticipate the change in the fruit and vegetable voucher to be effective July 1, 2014 and the change to 1% milk to occur October 1, 2014. Other optional revisions to the authorized foods list are still under consideration. If adopted, those changes would occur after October 1, 2014. State WIC will notify vendors of any and all changes at least 60 days prior to implementation. Should you have any questions regarding the new food package regulations, please contact a Vendor Specialist at 1-800-282-3435.



EBT Implementation

Statewide WIC EBT implementation will be here before you know it. If you have not already done so, please contact your cash register service provider and/or IT staff and make sure that plans are underway to upgrade or modify your cash register systems to operate WIC EBT. If they have questions, they can contact us at OhioWICEBT@odh.ohio.gov

Vendor Specialists

Ohio WIC Vendor Specialists review, research and analyze contract applications received from retail vendors, recommend awarding contracts based on application criteria, conduct onsite visits of applicant vendors and monitor contracts for compliance with state and federal regulations. They also assist vendors with problems and questions. Below is the current staff of Ohio WIC Vendor Specialists and on the following page is a listing of their assigned counties and contact information.



Steve
Miller



Stacy
Kindrix



Christina
Stoughton



Christopher
Mallow



Drema
Tarantelli



Sheila
Anderson

Ohio WIC Vendor Operations

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Scot Wolever,
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Clark	Defiance	Cuyahoga**
Fayette	Fulton/Henry	Gallia
Greene	Guernsey	Hancock/Hardin/ Putnam
Harrison	Licking	Lawrence
Holmes	Montgomery	Meigs
Jefferson	Muskingum	Ottawa
Lucas	Noble	Sandusky
Madison	Paulding	Scioto
Medina	Van Wert	Seneca
Monroe	Washington/Morgan	Vinton
Stark	Williams	Warren
Tuscarawas		
Wood		
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Ashland/Richland	Ashtabula	Adams/Brown
Darke/Mercer	Fairfield	Clermont
Erie/Huron	Hamilton	Clinton
Franklin**	Hocking	Crawford
Geauga	Jackson	Delaware/Morrow/ Union
Logan	Knox	Franklin**
Mahoning	Lake	Highland
Miami	Lorain	Marion
Portage/ Columbiana	Pickaway/Ross	Summit
Preble	Pike	Wayne
Shelby	Trumbull	Wyandot