



POLICY: Local programs shall certify eligible applicants within 10 calendar days of the date of application if the applicant is a pregnant woman or a migrant farmworker (or a migrant farmworker’s family member) who plans to leave the area served by the local program soon. All other eligible applicants will be certified within 20 calendar days. If the maximum caseload is being served, these standards do not apply.

PURPOSE: To ensure that potential participants receive WIC benefits in a timely manner and in order of need, i.e., those groups at highest risk would receive faster service.

RELEVANT REGULATIONS: 7 CFR §246.7(f)—Processing Standards

OREGON WIC PPM REFERENCES: ♦475—Waiting List
♦601—Physical Presence at Certification

TWIST TRAINING MANUAL REFERENCES: Chapter 3, Lesson 100—Applicant Prescreening

DEFINITIONS: *Date of application* The date when an applicant visits a local program during clinic office hours to request program benefits. Most applicants make their first request for WIC benefits by phone; however, the processing time frame begins with the applicant’s first visit to the WIC clinic to request WIC services. For applicants requesting an eligibility appointment by phone, the date of the first visit, regardless of its purpose, is the start of the 10/20 day processing time frame. The 10/20 days are calendar days, not working weekdays.

Maximum caseload The number of participants that can be served by a local program in order to spend 97-103% of the food budget within the current federal fiscal year.

PROCEDURE: 1.0 When applicants initially visit the WIC clinic to request program benefits, follow these steps:

Initial clinic visit to request benefit

1.1 Determine if processing standards apply. If the maximum caseload is not being served, then the standards apply. If the maximum caseload is being served, refer to processing standards in ♦475—Waiting List.

1.2 In the “Applicant Prescreening” function in TWIST, document the applicant’s name, address, contact type (“Walk-in”) and whether the applicant is a migrant farmworker.

PROCESSING STANDARDS, cont.

*(Initial clinic visit
to request benefit:)*

1.3 Determine the applicant’s category: i.e. pregnant or breastfeeding woman, infant, or child.

10 day standard

1.3.1 Offer an appointment for eligibility determination within 10 days of the date of application if the applicant is a pregnant woman, a migrant farmworker, or a family member of a migrant farmworker. If an applicant requests an appointment for a date past the 10 day standard, the local program has the option to document this request in the “Notes” section of TWIST.

EXAMPLE: A pregnant woman comes into the WIC clinic and asks for an appointment to enroll in WIC. She is offered an appointment five days from now, but she is unable to make that appointment. The next available new appointment is two weeks from now, which falls outside of the 10 day standard. The local program may choose to document this to indicate compliance with the processing standards.

20 day standard

1.3.2 Offer an appointment for eligibility determination within 20 days of the date of application for all applicants not defined in ¶1.3.1. If the applicant requests an appointment for a date past the 20 day standard, the local program has the option of documenting this in the “Notes” section of TWIST.

Telephone request

1.4 The date of application and the date of the first visit to the clinic are the same for applicants who make appointments over the telephone.

1.41 In the “Applicant Prescreening” function in TWIST, document name, address and contact type (“Phone”). Offer the next available appointment for eligibility determination.

No shows

1.5 For applicants who are marked “no show” for certification appointments, the processing time frame of 10/20 days ends with the missed appointment. The processing time frame begins again when the applicant reapplies. The applicant must be certified, if eligible, within 10/20 days from the second (new) date of application. In the event of a cycle of making and missing appointments, the 10/20 day standard ends with each missed appointment.

1.6 The local program must make additional appointments available to applicants/participants if the processing standards are not being met due to a lack of available appointments.

PROCESSING STANDARDS, cont.

- Extension request* 1.7 Local programs may request a temporary extension of the 10 day standard to a maximum of 15 days. The request must be in writing to the state WIC program and must include a brief statement explaining the need for an extension and the estimated length of time for the extension. For example, a rapidly increasing caseload or large staff turnover might indicate the need for a temporary extension.
- Physical presence requirement* 1.8 Anyone applying for WIC must be physically present at each certification. This is to maintain the integrity of WIC by helping to prevent fraud. See ♦601—Physical Presence at Certification for more information and exceptions.
- Rescheduling pregnant women*** 2.0 The local program must attempt to contact pregnant women who miss their first appointment for program eligibility determination to try and reschedule the appointment.
- Written procedure required* 2.1 At a minimum, the local program will develop a written procedure for how an attempt at rescheduling appointments for pregnant women will be implemented.
2.2 At the time the appointment is made, the local program will request the applicant’s address and telephone number.
- Appointments for employed adults*** 3.0 Local programs must offer appointment scheduling for employed adults who are applying for WIC as either applicants or participants. This means employed adults must have the option of making an appointment for WIC eligibility determination rather than only having the option of waiting in the clinic to be served on a first come, first served basis. Local programs are encouraged to offer alternative hours to accommodate employed adults.
- Special considerations*** 4.0 For clinics that are open only one day per month, offer an appointment within 10/20 days at another clinic site to applicants visiting the clinic. Applicants may request an appointment for a date past the processing time frame at clinics that are open only one day per month. This request may be documented in the “Notes” section of TWIST. ★

**If you need this in large print or an alternate format,
please call (971) 673-0040.
WIC is an equal opportunity program and employer.**