



Policy 657

Migrant Farmworkers: Definition

April 2, 2021 (*Revised*)

POLICY

Local WIC programs shall report service to migrant farmworkers, using a consistent state-wide definition for migrant farmworker.

PURPOSE

To define migrant farmworkers and indicate how to document them in the WIC data system for reporting purposes.

RELEVANT REGULATIONS

7 CFR §246.2 Definition

7 CFR §246.7(c) & (d)(2)(ix) Certification of participants

WRO Policy Memo 803-X (7/7/94) Loggers as Migrant Farmworkers

OREGON WIC PPM REFERENCES

- ◆ [475—Waiting List](#)
- ◆ [605—Processing Standards](#)
- ◆ [650—WIC Transfers/VOC and WIC Overseas Program](#)

APPENDICES

N/A

DEFINITIONS

Agriculture: Farming, harvesting, nursery work or other activities related to the production of crops. This may include tree farming or timber harvesting, where the crop is not intended for human consumption. It may also include dairy or fishery work, where the crop is animal rather than produce.

Instream migrant: A migrant farmworker or family member who comes into a clinic service area with the harvest stream and leaves the clinic service area, often mid-certification, for employment in the harvest of other crops or to return to her/his home base.

Migrant farmworker: A person whose principal employment is in seasonal agriculture, who has been so employed in the last 24 months, and who establishes, because of that employment, a temporary abode.

Principal employment: Over half of the person's job, as measured by time worked or income generated.

Temporary abode: Temporary abode is established when a job location requires the worker to temporarily move from his or her place of residence. It can also be considered temporary housing established to allow work in short-term, seasonal labor.

Transfer card: Also referred to as a Verification of Certification (VOC), a Transfer Card is an identification card issued to members of migrant farmworker families and to WIC participants planning to relocate, to expedite transfer of benefits.

BACKGROUND

Migrant farmworkers and their families are at risk of poor nutrition due to low or seasonal income, exposure to environmental hazards, inadequate housing and often lack of formal education. For these reasons, migrant farmworker families are a priority for WIC. Migrants must be certified within 10 calendar days of application for WIC services and placed at the top of the local agency waiting list regardless of their priority level, when applicable.

PROCEDURE

- 1.0 Determine whether participant is a migrant farmworker or a member of a migrant farmworker family.
 - 1.1. Participants are to be screened for migrant status when prescreened or certified for WIC or transferred from another state or local agency.
 - 1.2. Questions such as the following can help identify migrant farmworkers:
 - 1.2.1. Do you, or does someone in your family, work in agriculture – the farm fields, nursery, tree farm?
 - 1.2.2. Is that work a major source of your family's income?
 - 1.2.3. In the past two years, have you, or has someone in your family, moved away from your home base to do this kind of work?
- 2.0 In the WIC data system, document participant's migrant status on the WIC Intake Screen.
- 3.0 Refer to [◆605—Processing Standards](#) for information about the processing standards for enrolling a migrant applicant.
- 4.0 Refer to [◆475—Waiting List](#) for information about the standard for a migrant if a waiting list is kept.
- 5.0 Refer to [◆650—WIC Transfers/VOC and WIC Overseas Program](#) for information about requirements for issuing a Transfer Card to a migrant.
- 6.0 It is appropriate for a local program to code a participant as a migrant farmworker if the participant (or member of their family):
 - 6.1. Lives in the local program area but leaves that area to work in short-term, seasonal agriculture.
 - 6.2. Comes into the local program area to work in short-term, seasonal agriculture.

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POLICY HISTORY

Date	* Revised, Reviewed, Released
7/13/2018	Released
4/2/2021	Minor revisions

The date located at the top of the policy is the date of the most recent release. Policies are to be implemented on release date and will become compliance findings 6 months from the release date.

***Released:** Significant changes made to policy. Release notes can be found in the corresponding document on the [Policy and Procedure Manual page](#).

Reviewed: The writer looked at this policy to make sure it was still accurate. Formatting changes may have occurred.

Revised: Minor edits or formatting has occurred without need for release. USDA has accepted a policy and watermark is reviewed.

Date of Origin: Date policy was initially released