

November 8, 2019

To: All Oregon WIC Vendors
From: WIC Vendor Management Services Team

RE: Attention Required: Bag fees and WIC transactions

Starting January 1, 2020, Oregon law will ban single use plastic bags to customers. Bags offered in stores must be fabric, recycled paper, or reusable durable plastic. For most customers and transactions, stores will be required to charge shoppers at least five cents for each recycled or reusable bag provided. However, the law also gives stores the option to waive such bag fees for WIC shoppers.

WIC Federal Regulations prohibit stores from charging the WIC Program for bag fees. If your store chooses to charge bag fees for WIC transactions, the fee will need to be separate from the WIC transaction and charged to the customer, not the WIC Program.

Actions required:

- Decide if your store will charge bag fees for WIC transactions starting January 1, 2020.
- If your store decides to charge the fee to WIC participants during WIC transactions, work with your POS provider to make sure the bag fee is charged directly to the shopper, not WIC.
- Train all cashiers on how to handle WIC transactions and any bag fees being charged.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Oregon WIC Vendor Team at 1-877-807-0889 or e-mail wic.vendorservices@state.or.us.