

Indiana

WIC Certification Requirements



**DECEMBER 1, 2014 – NEW POLICY SENT TO LOCAL AGENCIES
NEW FORM FOR SIGNATURES**

POLICY START DATE – DECEMBER 8, 2014

WIC SIGNATURE PAGE FOR CERTIFICATION

MODIFIED TO INCLUDE CITIZENSHIP QUESTION

Step 1. Eligibility for Public Benefits



- **Eligibility for Public Benefits**
- This section is not required by federal law; however, as required by Indiana Code 12-32-1, this section must be completed by all
- **applicants** who are **18 years of age and older.**
- I verify, under the penalty of perjury, that I am:
- 1) a United States citizen; or
- 2) a Qualified Alien (as defined under 8 U.S.C. 1641).
-
- A person, who knowingly or intentionally makes a false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation in the verification above commits a Class D felony pursuant to Indiana Code 12-32-1-7.
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- _____
- **Printed Name of Adult Applicant** **Signature of Adult Applicant**

IC 12-32-1



- **The code went into effect in 2011 and did not allow state or federal funds to go unqualified aliens.**
- **IC 12-32-1-5
Verification required; exceptions; health care provider alternative**
- **It is believed that this section could have been used to exempt WIC as a health program**

Is WIC a health program?



- WIC had not been effected why now?
- Indiana WIC is now viewed as welfare program based on the IC 12-32-1.

Local Agency Responses



- **Many questions and State Office calls**
 - Who is a “qualified Alien”
 - What about the breastfeeding mom and baby
 - What about the children
 - How will client trust us if they have to tell citizenship

On Wednesday 12/3 the state announced a webinar for Thursday Morning to answer questions

1. Local Agencies were told not to answer questions - refer clients to legal counsel

Local Agency Responses



- At least 3 agencies called NWA

- My goals as a local coordinator
 1. Learn why this was happening in IN
 2. Advocate for the policy to be changed
 3. Get the policy changed

Advocacy Efforts



- NWA helped draft a letter to be sent to legislators
- The letter was forwarded to all coordinators to use in advocacy efforts
- The Coordinators Association Steering committee sent a letter to the Governor in February
- Several agencies have expressed concern in phone calls and in letters to the Governor, the State Health Commissioner and to state legislators

NWA



- NWA - recommendations to be involved in the state politically and with other organizations
- I wished for more connections
- NWA had connections!
- After 3 conference calls there was a person to take leadership of the issue in Indiana

Advocacy Group



- **Indianapolis Jewish Community Relation Council**
 - Director of Government Affairs, David Sklar
 - Where did the requirement for WIC to be included in IC 12-32-1 originate? Supposedly not the Governor's office.
 - Thoughts were there was progress in working with the staff of the Governor Pence's Office
 - Stalled right now
 - Continues to work on the issue

Results in Tippecanoe County



- Tippecanoe County (caseload 4500) number has been 14
 1. Only 1 declined in the last month
 2. In our community it has been on Facebook
 3. Breastfeeding mothers not eligible have come back requesting formula

Questions:

1. Are people saying they are qualified and they are not?
2. Have they stopped coming in based on word of mouth?

Other Indiana Counties



- Marshall County (caseload 1200) 10 clients
- Elkhart County (caseload 6750) estimates 100 clients
- Allen County (caseload 12,400) report none effected

- Very hard to know the effects even in counties that are trying to track what is happening

Local Agencies in Indiana



**Thank you NWA!
For be an advocate
For Local Agencies
And
WIC Participants!**