

The National Grocers Association (NGA) represents 21,000 independent community grocers and wholesalers across the United States. Independent community grocers account for 33 percent of all grocery sales, exceeding \$250 billion, and more than 1 million American jobs.

Increase Availability of WIC Foods for Participants

- ✦ Ensure a workable food package for retailers
 - Use existing or flexible pack sizes to allow seamless integration of new WIC food package
- ✦ Allow immediate substitutions during declared emergencies and national shortages
 - Require substitutions be outlined in state emergency plans
- ✦ Ensure reliable access to formula

Protect and Streamline WIC Participation for Retailers

- ✦ Prohibit interchange, processing, and related transaction fees on EBT for WIC retailers
- ✦ Expedite and streamline the vendor authorization process
 - Require states to consider WIC applications on an ongoing basis
 - Require states to provide a final response within 45 days of application for new vendors
 - For existing vendors, waive pre-approval on-site inspections
 - Applications should only include supplemental information requests from a SNAP application for retailers who are SNAP authorized
 - States should only require reauthorization every 5 years
- ✦ Make peer grouping definition and assignments public
- ✦ Adjust reimbursement quickly when prices increase
- ✦ Create a national vendor management process that all states are required to use

Expand WIC Access through Grocery Stores

- ✦ Expand access to WIC online and streamline participation for retailers
- ✦ Allow A-50 stores in all states

At the HEART of the community.