

New Hampshire WIC Policy & Procedure Manual

Chapter 8. CERTIFICATION, ELIGIBILITY & COORDINATION OF SERVICES G. Dual Participation, Participant Rights and Responsibilities, Fair Hearing Procedures, and Sanction System

Ethnicity and Race

Purpose To determine ethnic and racial participant data to understand the racial and ethnic background of participants, to evaluate and ensure equity, to prevent discrimination and for reporting compliance.

Policy Local agency shall ask all applicants to the WIC Program their ethnic and racial background.

Authority CFR 246.8(3), 246.25(3)(ii) as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

Procedure Ethnicity and Race Screen:
Local WIC staff shall screen all applicants at initial Certification appointments.

Staff shall explain the race and ethnicity questions are asked for adequate program planning and statistical purposes. Such as; this information is requested solely for the purpose of determining the State's compliance with Federal civil rights laws, and your response will not affect consideration of your application, and may be protected by the Privacy Act. By voluntarily providing this information, you will assist us in assuring that this program is administered in a nondiscriminatory manner.

The answers or lack of answer to the questions, do not affect participation in the program in any way.

Staff shall use the StarLINC Ethnicity and Race Screen in a 2 question process:

- Ethnicity:
Are you/your child Hispanic or Latino (or may use "Spanish origin")?
- Race:
What racial background do you consider yourself/your child to be?

Up to five race categories may be selected in StarLINC. The following are the Federal race categories and definitions. Staff shall use the definitions (See Race and Ethnicity Chart.) to help assist someone to determine race however staff shall accept what race an applicant determines even if it does not agree with the stated definition.

- (1.) American Indian or Alaska Native - A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.

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- (2.) Asian - A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- (3.) Black or African American - A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.
- (4.) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander - A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.
- (5.) White - A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.

The StarLINC pick-list has the following individual race categories:

American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, Black, African American, Native Hawaiian, Other Pacific Islander, and White.

Refer to the Federal Race categories and definitions chart attachment.

For applicants who do not know their or their child's ethnicity or race or who declined to answer, WIC staff shall select the "caregiver declined to answer" checkbox and complete the ethnicity and race category using their best judgment and inform the applicant of this action.

Exception

There are no exceptions to this policy.