

New Hampshire WIC Policy & Procedure Manual

Chapter 8 CERTIFICATION, ELIGIBILITY & COORDINATION OF SERVICES

A. Eligibility Determination & Documentation

Adjunctively/Automatically Eligible

Purpose To provide expedited income eligibility screening for those who currently participate in other Federal or State programs with the same or more strict income guidelines.

Policy The local agency shall require applicants and participants determined to be adjunctively or automatically income eligible for WIC to provide proof of their eligibility for that other Federal or State program, such as SNAP, Medicaid, and FANF/TANF.

Authority CFR 246.7(d)

Procedure An applicant may be certified as adjunctively eligible in place of providing proof of income, at certification and recertification.

The local agency shall accept a participant or applicant who can provide proof of enrollment in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly Food Stamp Program), Financial Assistance to Needy Families (FANF/TANF), or Medicaid adjunctively/automatically eligible for the WIC Nutrition Program.

WIC staff may verify proof of adjunctive eligibility prior to the certification appointment within the same month.

If a member of the family is a FANF recipient, a SNAP recipient, or if a member of the family is a pregnant woman or infant receiving Medicaid, they are adjunctively eligible for WIC.

An applicant or participant who is adjunctively eligible should not be subject to the WIC income eligibility guidelines.

A verbal income for the household shall be declared and entered into StarLINC for all applicants and participants certified as adjunctively eligible. Proof of income is not required for adjunctively eligible participants/ applicants. Proof of enrollment in the qualifying program is required.

Adjunctive eligibility shall be documented on the Proof of Income StarLINC screen along with the program that they are enrolled in and the proof of enrollment that was shown.

Unique situation: Certification of infant and mother based on mother's active Medicaid Status—(mom was enrolled on WIC during pregnancy with Medicaid, continues to have Medicaid coverage at time of delivery and at time of WIC certification--prenatal Medicaid coverage continues until 60 days post-partum).

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Three scenarios:

1) **Mom is on WIC and Medicaid While Pregnant**

An infant born to a mom on Medicaid is automatically eligible for Medicaid for 12 months. We can presume the infant to be WIC eligible for the 12 month certification period since the mom's Medicaid status was already confirmed. A 30 temp cert is not required in this situation.

2) **Mom is *Not* on WIC but had Medicaid While Pregnant**

An infant born to a mom on Medicaid is automatically eligible for Medicaid for 12 months. Agency must verify this.

Ways to verify active Medicaid during the pregnancy:

- *Use the automated call-in Medicaid verification number to verify mom active enrollment in Medicaid during the pregnancy. Staff will need to enter a date before the infant birthdate in the 'from date'. This will show if Medicaid was active during the pregnancy and will qualify both mom and the infant. A 30 temp cert is not required in this situation. NOTE: not all agencies have this capability.*
- *Mom may provide written documentation of Medicaid enrollment during her pregnancy.*

In the scenarios presented above, if mom doesn't have the infant's NH Medicaid notification, put an admin note in the infant's record to collect the NH Medicaid number and verification at their next scheduled WIC appointment. Document on the income screen that the infant has Medicaid and check the box: "Applicant is a member of family in which there is an infant receiving or participating in Medicaid". The Adjunctive Income Proof selected should be the method that the mother's NH Medicaid was verified.

3) **Mom is *Not* on WIC or on Medicaid While Pregnant**

Mom would need to provide the infant's Medicaid documentation to establish adjunctive eligibility for the certification. If mom does not have documentation for the Infant's Medicaid status yet, the WIC staff shall do a temporary certification and provide 30 days of benefits. If documentation is not provided within 30 days, the local agency would have to terminate the participant.

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Adjunctively eligible participants may not be disqualified from the WIC Program solely because they, or certain family members, no longer participate in one of the above named programs. If it is determined that the participant or another household member receiving WIC benefits is disqualified during a certification period, it is necessary to reassess their eligibility based on the income screening procedures used for applicants not adjunctively eligible.

Exception No exceptions