

**Appendix N**  
**WIC and FMNP: Available Expedited ARPA Waivers and Request Process**



Food and  
Nutrition  
Service

October 17, 2023

**SUBJECT:** WIC and FMNP: Available Expedited ARPA Waivers and Request Process

1320  
Braddock  
Place  
Alexandria,  
VA  
22314

**TO:** All FNS Regional Office Supplemental Nutrition and Safety Programs Directors  
All WIC State Agencies  
All WIC FMNP State Agencies

This letter provides information to Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) State agencies and WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) State agencies on available American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (P.L. [117-2](#); ARPA) waivers and a new State agency request process. These waivers will support State agency efforts to develop and test innovative and modern ideas intended to increase WIC and FMNP enrollment and retention, redemption of benefits, and equity in program access in accordance with the waiver authority provided to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) through ARPA.

To support State agencies as they work to improve the customer experience for all applicants and participants, FNS has developed and launched an expedited ARPA waiver request process for a set of waiver topics (see [Attachment](#)). State agencies can visit the [ARPA WIC and FMNP State Agency Waiver Request](#) site to request a waiver using the new process. Both the process and waivers were designed based on extensive feedback from State agencies. The process will be continually improved as additional feedback is received after launch. Additional waivers may also be added to this request process at a later date.

State agencies must adhere to each of their waivers' caveats, conditions, and expiration date. When necessary to reflect current program operations, State agencies are required to update their State Plans, policies, and procedures. Waivers become effective when FNS sends a waiver approval notice to the State agency.

We encourage all State agencies to consider this waiver opportunity, which will be available through September 13, 2024, to allow for processing by the close of the Fiscal Year. FNS appreciates State agencies' commitment to modernizing WIC and FMNP and is eager to learn how service delivery has improved nationwide. State agencies should reach out to their respective [Regional Offices](#) with any questions.

Sincerely,

*Sara L Olson*

SARA L. OLSON  
Director, Policy Division  
Supplemental Nutrition and Safety Programs

AMY M. HERRING  
Director, Office of Innovation  
Supplemental Nutrition and Safety Programs

Attachment:

Table of Expedited ARPA Waivers Available to WIC and FMNP State Agencies

**Attachment: Table of Expedited ARPA Waivers Available to WIC and FMNP State Agencies**

Waiver Name	Waived Regulation(s)	Date Released
<b>WIC Certification</b>		
Separation of Duties	<a href="#">246.4(a)(27)(iii)</a>	10/17/2023
<b>Vendor and Technology/Online Shopping</b>		
Refunds or Exchanges	<a href="#">7 CFR 246.12(h)(3)(ii)(A)</a> <a href="#">7 CFR 246.12(bb)(1)(i)</a> <a href="#">Operating Rule 4.7.8.3.a</a> <a href="#">Voided transactions</a> <a href="#">Operating Rule 4.7.8.4.a</a> <a href="#">Returns</a>	10/17/2023
Last Date of Use	<a href="#">7 CFR 246.12 (x)(2)(iii)</a>	10/17/2023
PIN Requirements	<a href="#">7 CFR 246.12(h)(3)(vi);</a> <a href="#">7 CFR 246.12(bb)(1)(i)</a> <a href="#">Operating Rule 9.1</a>	10/17/2023
Definitions - Vendor	<a href="#">7 CFR 246.2 - Vendor</a>	10/17/2023
Onsite Preauthorization	<a href="#">7 CFR 246.12(g)(5)</a>	10/17/2023
Definitions – Routine Monitoring (On-site)	<a href="#">7 CFR 246.2 - Routine monitoring</a>	10/17/2023
Definitions – Compliance Buy (On-site)	<a href="#">7 CFR 246.2 - Compliance Buy</a>	10/17/2023
Cashier Documented for Compliance Buy	<a href="#">7 CFR 246.12(j)(6)(ii)(B)</a>	10/17/2023
Mobile Pay	<a href="#">7 CFR 246.2 - Food instrument</a> <a href="#">7 CFR 246.12(b)</a>	10/17/2023
Nonprofits at Farmers’ Markets	<a href="#">7 CFR 246.12(v)</a>	10/17/2023
<b>FMNP</b>		
Interactive Training	<a href="#">7 CFR 248.10(a)(4)</a> <a href="#">7 CFR 248.10(d)</a>	10/17/2023
Monitoring	<a href="#">7 CFR 248.10(e)(2)</a> <a href="#">7 CFR 248.17(c)(1)</a>	10/17/2023