
390.30**Homeless Participants****Overview**

Introduction Special effort is required to seek out and serve WIC-eligible homeless individuals. There are no specific regulatory barriers to participation in the WIC Program for homeless individuals.

Definition of homeless A homeless individual is a woman, infant or child who lacks a fixed and regular nighttime residence or whose primary nighttime residence is:

- A supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living accommodations,
- An institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized,
- A temporary accommodation in the residence of another individual, not to exceed 365 days, or
- A public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

Note: A migrant farm worker is not considered a homeless individual.

Residents of institutions The Iowa WIC Program does not provide service to residents of Iowa institutions (e.g., correction facilities).

Related policies See these policies for related topics.

Topic	See Policy
Income eligibility	215.40
Food package tailoring	235.10
Special nutrition education issues	380.25
Outreach	360.40

Homeless Facilities

Applicable conditions

The following conditions apply to homeless facilities where WIC participants stay:

- The facility must not gain financial or in-kind benefit from a person's participation in WIC,
 - WIC foods must not be used in communal feeding, and
 - No homeless facility restrictions or constraints can exist relative to WIC Program participation. The homeless facility cannot restrict the ability of the WIC participant to get supplemental foods and all associated WIC services made available to participants by the WIC agency.
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Verify conditions

If an agency has applicants who are using a homeless facility in the agency's service area, contact the facility **periodically** by phone to verify that the facility meets the conditions above.

The local agency must ensure that the homeless facility is aware that they must notify the local agency if it ceases to meet any of the applicable conditions.
