



WIC During Emergencies and Disasters

Updated September 2021

Information About WIC Benefits During Emergencies and Disasters

LA WIC Participants Evacuating to Other States

Any WIC participant certified on Louisiana (LA) WIC that **evacuates to another state will not be able to use their LA WIC EBT card at out-of-state grocery stores.** Participants must request a transfer of their WIC benefits to that state using a process called 'VOC', which stands for Verification of Certification. The transferring state will honor the existing certification end dates that Louisiana had for that participant. To complete a VOC, the LA WIC participant must call an out-of-state WIC clinic near them to schedule an appointment. The out-of-state WIC Clinic staff will then contact LA WIC Staff to complete the VOC process.

LA WIC Participants Redeeming Benefits in Louisiana

- The Louisiana WIC Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card can be used at any WIC approved grocery store in Louisiana as long as the store has power (regular service or via a generator).
- An LA WIC participant who has benefits on their LA WIC EBT Card and has evacuated to another region of Louisiana **can** use their WIC EBT card at any WIC approved grocery store in that region.
 - Participants can search for WIC approved grocery stores on the two WIC apps currently used by LA WIC: the WIC Shopper App and the Bnft app (images below)



- An LA WIC participant who has evacuated to an open region of Louisiana and needs an appointment can contact the local WIC clinic to schedule an appointment. Participants should call the BABY line (1-800-251-BABY) or use the WIC Shopper App to find the nearest WIC clinic.

Other Information and Resources

- Because of federal regulations, WIC can't give extra formula but they can provide referrals and reach out to food banks and pantries if needed.
- During Hurricane Ida, the State of Texas generously offered LA WIC participants access to their Breastfeeding Hotline. Breastfeeding assistance is available 24/7 for all moms at 855-550-6667.

For More Information and Resources

Visit

LouisianaWIC.Org

Call

1-800-251-BABY

Find Louisiana
WIC Clinics at

Louisianawic.Org/Find

Hurricane Recovery
Information

Hurricanerecovery.La.Gov