

ACTION BY: Regional Directors
Supplemental Food Programs

SOURCE CITATION: Section 246.7

WIC Program--Certification: Use of Social Security Numbers

The following information has been provided by the Office of General Counsel in a legal opinion regarding the use of social security numbers in the WIC Program.

The Federal Government does not require collection of social security numbers of WIC participants and may not require this unless specifically authorized by law. This interpretation is based on the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. Section 552a note). The States have sole authority to determine whether social security numbers of WIC participants will be required. This interpretation is based on the Tax Reform Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-455). Further, the Federal Government may not prevent States from requiring such information of participants.

Therefore, the requirement of social security numbers from WIC participants is strictly a State option.



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Director
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DISTRIBUTION: 5, 9, 15	MANUAL MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS: New Instruction. Insert in Manual Destroy WIC Policy Memorandum No. D-104.	RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARATION AND MAINTENANCE: SF-100	Page 1 10-22-82
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FORM FNS-620 (10-81)

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