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AUTHORITY: 42 U.S.C. 1786.

SOURCE: 50 FR 6121, Feb. 13, 1985, unless otherwise noted.

EDITORIAL NOTE: For nomenclature changes to part 246 see 59 FR 11498, Mar. 11, 1994.

**Subpart A—General**

**§ 246.1 General purpose and scope.**

This part announces regulations under which the Secretary of Agriculture shall carry out the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC Program). Section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, as amended, states in part that the Congress finds that substantial numbers of pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding women, infants and young children from families with inadequate income are at special risk with respect to their physical and mental health by reason of inadequate nutrition or health care, or both. The purpose of the Program is to provide supplemental foods and nutrition education through payment of

cash grants to State agencies which administer the Program through local agencies at no cost to eligible persons. The Program shall serve as an adjunct to good health care during critical times of growth and development, in order to prevent the occurrence of health problems, including drug and other harmful substance abuse, and to improve the health status of these persons. The program shall be supplementary to the Food Stamp Program; any program under which foods are distributed to needy families in lieu of food stamps; and receipt of food or meals from soup kitchens, or shelters, or other forms of emergency food assistance.

[50 FR 6121, Feb. 13, 1985, as amended at 54 FR 51294, Dec. 14, 1989; 58 FR 11506, Feb. 26, 1993]

**§ 246.2 Definitions.**

For the purpose of this part and all contracts, guidelines, instructions, forms and other documents related hereto, the term:

*Affirmative Action Plan* means that portion of the State Plan which describes how the Program will be initiated and expanded within the State's jurisdiction in accordance with § 246.4(a).

*A-130* means Office of Management and Budget Circular A-130, which provides guidance for the coordinated development and operation of information systems.

*Applicants* means pregnant women, breastfeeding women, postpartum women, infants, and children who are applying to receive WIC benefits, and the breastfed infants of applicant breastfeeding women. Applicants include individuals who are currently participating in the program but are re-applying because their certification period is about to expire.

*Authorized supplemental foods* means those supplemental foods authorized by the State or local agency for issuance to a particular participant.

*Breastfeeding* means the practice of feeding a mother's breastmilk to her infant(s) on the average of at least once a day.

*Breastfeeding women* means women up to one year postpartum who are breastfeeding their infants.