

## Confidentiality of Vendor Information

- I. Confidential vendor information is any information about a vendor (whether it is obtained from the vendor or another source) that individually identifies the vendor, except for vendor's name, address, telephone number, web-site, e-mail address, store type, and authorization status. Except as otherwise permitted, the State agency must restrict the use or disclosure of confidential vendor information to:
  - a. Persons directly connected with the administration or enforcement of the WIC Program or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/Food Stamp Program) who the State agency determines have a need to know the information for the purposes of these programs. These persons may include personnel from its local agencies and other WIC State and local agencies and persons investigating or prosecuting WIC or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNA) violations under Federal or State law;
  - b. Persons directly connected with the administration or enforcement of any Federal or State law. Prior to releasing the information to one of these parties (other than a Federal Agency), the State Agency must enter into a written agreement with the requesting party specifying that such information may not be used or re-disclosed except for the purposes directly connected to the administration or enforcement of a Federal, or state or local law or ordinance.
  - c. A vendor that is subject to an adverse action, including a claim, to the extent that the confidential information concerns the vendor subject to the adverse action and is related to the adverse action (7 CFR 246.26 (e)(1)(2)(3)).
  - d. At the discretion of the State agency, disclosure of all authorized vendors and vendor applicants that have State Agency violation points and/or sanctions which have been imposed will not be given except for only the vendor's name, address, length of the disqualification or amount of the civil money penalty, and a summary of the reason(s) for such sanctions provided in the notice of adverse action. Such information may be disclosed only following the exhaustion of all administrative and judicial review, in which the State agency has prevailed, regarding the sanction imposed on the subject vendor, or the time period for requesting such review has expired.