Category/Subcategory – Federal Background

WIC EBT Business Rules Evolution
Business Rules

- National Category/Subcategory Table before 2006
  - Simpler – fewer categories and subcategories
  - Based on the WY design
  - FNS sought State agency input from those planning systems at the time

- Next: Updated to add subcategories for milk types

- Most Recent: Major update when 2009 Interim Food Rules were implemented
Business Rules

- Broadband ‘000’ optimizes Participant choice.
- Establish a Common Benefit Quantity (Unit) across Category
- Subcategory assignment (sub–zero/non–broadband) limits choice
- Infant formula cannot be issued in the broadband category – specific formula assigned to subcategory
- Each UPC & PLU must be assigned to one food category/subcategory.
Food Rule Updates

- Lower fat milks became default milk type
- Added Yogurt as a substitution
- Added whole grain cereals
- Added infant fruits & vegetables and infant meats
- Added Whole Grains
- Added Cash Value Benefits for fruits and vegetables (Cat 19)
- Dropped Carrots
Business Rules

- Issuance Business Rule – Choice at clinic or vendor aisle
  - Each participant will be authorized a specific quantity of a category/subcategory
  - The family benefit may assigned to:
    - Broadband 000 for maximum choice in store aisle
    - A specific 000 subcat only requires decision at the WIC clinic
Business Rules

- USDA Encourages adoption of the National Cat/Subcat Table

- State flexibility in:
  - Product Description for receipts
  - Benefit Unit
  - Subcategories if necessary
At the checkout:

POS receipts use Category/Subcategory, Benefit Unit and quantity

Helps Participant know what foods and quantities they have available
- Before shopping
- After Shopping
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