



Bureau of Nutrition and Health Promotion

Friday Facts

Week ending Issue: March 9, 2012 – Issue #133

Policy

From the WIC Program Goals Manual — 140.10 Status Report on Food Delivery Plan for FFY2011

The Iowa WIC Program has begun the process for transition to an electronic benefit transfer (EBT) system. Currently some steps have been completed and others are in progress related to this action plan.

- A planning contractor has been hired and the final report is expected to be completed by March 2012.
- Once the planning contractor final report is complete, Iowa will move forward with Quality Assurance Contractor and the Implementation Advanced Planning Document and Implementation Contractor Request for Proposal.

The Iowa WIC Program was involved in several other significant training activities including the following:

- CVVs and Farmer’s Market Training: Iowa continues to hold an agreement with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) allowing participants to use their cash value vouchers at the Iowa Farmers Market (FM). Don Gourley again assisted IDALS with training the approved farmers market. This year approximately 80 approved markets or 200 individuals were trained from March-June 2011. These trainings were completed using both the Iowa Communication Network (ICN) and face-to-face sessions.
- EBT Activities: The EBT planning team has been working on many projects during the transition process.
 - Between May and June 2011 four members traveled to three different states to learn more about the options and processes regarding EBT.
 - In March 2011 the first grocery vendor informational meeting was held with approximately 15 individuals in attendance. Then in June 2011 an EBT Vendor Informational meeting was held with approximately 30 individuals in attendance.
 - During the month of June 2011 a survey was conducted to identify the EBT capability of Iowa WIC clinics. The survey results were tabulated and analyzed in July 2011 with 100% participation from the local agencies.
- Missouri Flood 2011: Flooding along the Iowa and Nebraska border of the Missouri River began in May 2011. Predictions detailed that the flooding would be large and last for an extended period of time due large amounts of precipitation in the northern Missouri River watershed. Due to this, Iowa and Nebraska allowed participants to cash checks outside of their home state if they were displaced due to flooding. This open ended agreement became effective on June 13, 2011.

– Iowa WIC Information Network (IWIN) Data System Updates: Several builds/patches were tested and installed into IWIN over the last year including:

- Banking interface process changes (banking requirement) received November 2010 and installed January 2011.
- Build 1.5.2c and 1.5.2d included several updates to clinic services, vendor management and farmers market. Received December 2010 and installed January 2011.
- Build 1.6 included an upgrade from SQL 2000 to SQL 2008. Received October 2010 and installed March 2011.
- Build 1.7 primarily including farmer's market updates received January 2011 and installed March 2011.
- Build 1.8 including many updates and corrections to clinic services. Received July 2011 and anticipate installation August 2011.

Information

Participant Education and Cereal Purchases

Thank you to all agencies for your hard work to make the food package changes successful. Overall things have gone very smoothly with only a little confusion. Cereal continues to be confusing for both participants and grocery stores. During clinic please be sure that participants know they can only purchase the store brand cereal flavors of corn flakes, bran flakes, toasted oats and crisp(y) rice. Also please be sure they know that there have not been any changes to the hot cereals allowed for purchase. As with any foods, the approved foods list should be followed and this information can be found on page 19.

New WIC Logo

The new WIC logo is now available for use by local agencies on materials such as websites, Facebook pages, newsletters, brochures and any materials requiring the nondiscrimination statement as outlined in Policy #320.70. To receive the logo electronically, local guidance and the style guide, contact your consultant.

WIC Income Guidelines

The new WIC income guidelines will not be released until we receive more information from the National Office. It is uncertain at this point whether we will receive more information before April 1st or not. Until we receive more information, the current income guidelines will be used.

Don't forget...



If a participant comes to clinic to be certified and was previously certified as a VOC, please check the certification end date. If the VOC end date is in the future, the participant must be terminated and a new application created. If you do not do this, IWIN will continue to use the old VOC certification end date since it is in the future. Do not edit or delete the VOC information as that will provide incorrect historical data.

EBT Updates

FNS Website

The Food and Nutrition Service's (FNS's) website through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) contains a section about EBT. On this website is a link to a map that indicates what stage a state is in the EBT process (planning, design/development, pilot/expansion, statewide implementation, or no EBT activity). The website also has more detailed information about where a state is in the planning or implementation process and whether they have implemented an offline or online system. This information can be found at the following link: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/ebt/wicebt.htm>.

Dates to Remember

2012

- March 29-30, 2012 – Maternal and Breastfeeding Nutrition Core Workshops
- May 17, 2012 - May Breastfeeding Conference
- August 21, 2012 – WIC Contractor's Meeting
- August 29-30, 2012 – Infant and Child Nutrition Core Workshops
- October 26, 2012 – 2012 Iowa WIC Training
- October 30, 2012 – Communication and Rapport Building Core Workshop

Available Formula

Product	Quantity	Expiration Date	Agency	Contact
Similac PM 60/40	3 cans	10/2012	Johnson County Public Health	Chuck Dufano @ 319-356-6042
EleCare Unflavored Formula	30 cans - 14.1 oz Powder 4 cans 1 can 4 cans 2 cans 5 cans 1 can 7 cans 6 cans	11/2012 12/2012 2/2013 6/2013 8/2013 9/2013 10/2013 11/2013	North Iowa Community Action Organization	Carla Miller @ 641-423-5044 ext.24