

WIC EBT STATUS REPORT

(Current as of June 2004)

WIC State Agency	Unique Pilot Features	Card Features	Prime Contractor	Scope of Pilot Project				Status of Implementation	Launch Date
				City/Cty	Clinics	Retailers	Ppts.		
Off-Line Smartcard Projects									
PARTNERS 	Card will deliver WIC food benefits and carry health services information in partnership with a variety of health programs. New England PARTNERS multi-state project includes NH, ME, VT, MA, RI, and CT.	Hybrid card will contain both magnetic stripe and integrated circuit chip on a smartcard. MA and CT will use the magstripe for FSP.	Hitachi America, Ltd. (HAL)	All 6 States NH only (Stafford Cty)	16	70	7,700	Implementation will be conducted in phases. Release 1 is to implement EBT in New Hampshire. Future phases include expansion of EBT with settlement process and development of Electronic Service Delivery system.	Fall 2004
OHIO 	Current pilot has both WIC and FSP participants using same smartcard to purchase benefits. Point of sale smartcard readers exist in lane for retailers.	Smartcard with integrated circuit chip contains both WIC & FSP benefits.	J P Morgan contract through June 2004	Dayton	5	43	11,000	In 2004, FSP made decision to convert to magstripe. WIC will consider extending contract w/FSP until June 2005 on Dayton operation. In meantime, will assess options.	Launched October 16, 2000
NEW MEXICO 	New Mexico is partnering with Texas on a joint procurement for WIC EBT services. Has commercially developed public domain stand-beside software for grocer system. Will utilize integrated software for grocer system.	Smartcard with integrated circuit chip will eventually contain both WIC and FSP benefits.	System is being developed in-house with Texas.	Truth or Consequences and Arrey	2	7	800	TX and NM are working with Krogers, Lowes, Albertsons, and Walmart to develop an integrated solution, i.e., electronic cash register will be connected to the point of sale device.	Launched July 2003
TEXAS 	Texas is partnering with New Mexico on a joint procurement for WIC EBT services. Has developed in-house public domain stand-beside software for grocer system. Will utilize integrated software for grocer system.	Smartcard with integrated circuit chip will eventually contain both WIC and FSP benefits.	System is being developed in-house.	El Paso and Hudspeth Counties	24	83	50,000	Pilot was successfully launched. Nearly all stores are equipped, including 3 integrated retailer chains - Lowe's, PayNSave, Big 8 and Wal-Mart. TX expects to issue benefits to 350-400 participants in June. Largest El Paso clinic will begin issuing benefits in July.	Launched June 1, 2004

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WYOMING 	Wyoming began development in 1995 and is the first state to operate statewide, beginning January 2002. Point of sale equipment stands beside existing retailer equipment in-lane.	Smartcard with integrated circuit chip contains both WIC & FSP benefits.	WY acts as prime; SVS is sub for networking & banking. SVS contract ends 2006.	State-wide	36	95	11,000	WY held a pre-bidders conference in January 2004, inviting contractors to participate in a discussion regarding a potential RFP for securing future EBT services. Will begin procurement process and upgrade WIC MIS in 2004.	Statewide 2002
NEVADA 	Nevada is using the same system as that used in Wyoming. The WIC Inter-tribal Council of Nevada State agency also participates in EBT.	Smartcard with integrated circuit chip.	Stored Value Systems (SVS) contract ends Sept. 30, 2004. Negotiating contract extension.	Reno, Sparks in Washoe County	3 with ITO	32	7,000	NV is operational in Reno/Sparks and is planning to expand to 7 clinics in Las Vegas (Clark County). This will result in two-thirds of caseload receiving EBT benefits.	Launched June 2, 2000
On-Line Magstripe Projects									
MICHIGAN 	Michigan will demonstrate a new hybrid system for WIC EBT using on-line technology with some off-line functionality.	Magnetic stripe card.	J P Morgan	Jackson County	1	21 plus 5 or 6 adjacent counties	4,300	Acceptance testing to occur in August 2004 in Lansing. Will modify MTRAX in spring 2006 for the web.	September / October 2004
WASHINGTON 	Washington will participate in FNS' on-line demonstration project to test the feasibility of delivering WIC benefits using existing retailer equipment with mag stripe card.	Magnetic stripe card.	ISS (subcontractors Maximus & SVS) under contract to FNS.	Pierce County (Tacoma)	1	3	300	In January, 2004, FNS selected Washington to demo the functionality of the on-line system. The state is currently working with SVS to identify what the State needs to do to be ready for the demo (see description below).	Launch February 2005
Related Project(s)									
WIC EBT On-Line Demonstration Project	<p>In April 2003, FNS contracted with Information Systems Support, Inc. (ISS) to test the feasibility of using on-line magnetic stripe cards in retail grocery stores to provide electronic benefits to WIC participants. The on-line demonstration project will replicate retailer point-of-sale equipment in a laboratory setting. If the laboratory test is successful, the most feasible transaction method(s) will be field tested in two grocery chain stores and one independent grocery store, and will include one WIC clinic and approximately 300 households. ISS is subcontracting with Stores Value Systems and Maximus, Inc., on this project. The on-line demonstration project is being conducted over a 19-month period. The base contract will provide in Phase 1, development and laboratory testing, and in Phase 2, a small field test of stand-beside operations in three grocery environments. Added contract options, if implemented, will extend the project up to 24 months from date of initial award or to April 2005. These options would provide for (1) demonstration of on-line WIC EBT using actual in-store equipment and software (i.e., by assisting a retailer to actually integrate the WIC software logic into a store's commercial operating structure; and (2) replication of the small on-line demonstration in up to three additional States.</p>								