



United States
Department of
Agriculture

FEB 27 2009

Food and
Nutrition
Service

3101 Park
Center Drive

Alexandria, VA
22302-1500

SUBJECT: Economic Stimulus Funding for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

TO: Regional Directors
Supplemental Food Programs
All Regions

Please forward this memorandum to all State agencies that administer the WIC Program.

On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed into law Public Law 111-5, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The ARRA provides a total of \$500 million for the WIC Program. Of that amount, \$400 million has been provided to support participation should the Secretary determine that costs or participation exceed budget estimates. As specified in ARRA, the allocation of these funds, should it become necessary, would not be required to follow the normal WIC allocation formula. The ARRA also provides \$100 million to establish, improve, or administer management information systems for WIC to include changes necessary to meet new legislative or regulatory requirements. As a result, the ARRA funds will also be used in part to advance the use of electronic benefits transfer in the WIC Program.

Funds provided through the ARRA are intended to be obligated quickly, therefore the Food and Nutrition Service is developing mechanisms to provide funding to State agencies as soon as possible in accordance with the ARRA. More information concerning funding for WIC technology endeavors in accordance with the ARRA will be made available to you soon.

Sincerely,

Patricia Davis

for

PATRICIA DANIELS
Director
Supplemental Food Programs Division

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