



April 24, 2009

United States
Department of
Agriculture

SUBJECT: WIC Program – Request for Applications for Grant Funds Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

Food and
Nutrition
Service

TO: State Directors
Supplemental Food Programs
All States

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria, VA
22302-1500

On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed into law P. L. 111-5, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). ARRA provides \$100 million to establish, improve, or administer management information systems (MIS) for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC Program), to include changes necessary to meet new legislative or regulatory requirements. We initially discussed our approach in the March 13, 2009 memorandum “Implementation Plan for WIC Technology Funding Provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

Consistent with ARRA, Section 17(h)(10)(B)(ii) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 42 USC 1786(h)(10)(B)(ii), and established technology priorities as outlined in the March 2006 update of the “WIC Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) System Development, Implementation and Expansion – 5 Year Plan”(<http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/EBT/wicebt5yearplan.htm>), the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) plans to award competitive grants to WIC State agencies for technology purposes.

Four Requests for Applications (RFA’s) are attached. The following table provides basic information concerning each RFA. These RFA’s, which are open to all WIC State agencies, will be reviewed by an FNS panel of regional and headquarters staff. All applications will be competitively scored and recommendations for award will be made to FNS senior managers for final selection. FNS reserves the right to award outside of rank order based on the Agency’s priorities and consistent with goals and objectives. Projects may be funded at a lesser amount if deemed appropriate. See individual RFA’s (attached) for specific information.

| RFA for: | Funds May Be Used to: | Prerequisite for Funding | Application Due Date |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| RFA #1 - SAM Transfer Grants | Implement SAM model (includes equipment purchase). | Must have completed Feasibility Study / Alternatives Analysis and have approved IAPD | June 26, 2009 |
| RFA #2 - EBT Planning Grants | Conduct feasibility study, paper cost analysis, retailer surveys, and other EBT planning work. | None. | May 29, 2009 |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| RFA #3 - EBT Implementation Grants | Implement EBT, to include clinic and local agency equipment and cards, card devices, EBT processor (or staff for in-house processing) retailer equipment, training, travel, etc. | Must have completed EBT planning activities, to include cost evaluation indicating EBT affordability. | May 29, 2009 |
| RFA #4 - WIC Technology Grants – Misc. Projects | Enhance/update MIS to implement food package changes and achieve EBT readiness; conduct MIS planning; fund PAPD's; and conduct other MIS projects (see RFA). | Must have received FNS approval of APD documents, if appropriate (see RFA). | June 26, 2009 |

State agencies with existing cooperative agreements with FNS for EBT and SAM planning, development, and/or implementation will be contacted under separate cover to apply for ARRA funds. These State agencies are also eligible to apply for funds under the attached RFA's, as appropriate.

Funding received under ARRA will be subject to specific reporting requirements for tracking and reporting separately from other WIC Program funds. Reporting requirements will include project expenditures, obligations, and progress/status reports. "Current Recovery Act Reporting Requirements" provides additional information on potential reporting requirements. However, please note the reporting requirements guidance has not been finalized by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). We will provide further information as it becomes available.

Questions pertaining to these grants should be directed to Lael Lubing at 703-305-2161 or Laurie Hickerson at 703-305-2965.

Sincerely,

for *Debra Davis*

DEBRA R. WHITFORD
Acting Director
Supplemental Food Programs Division

for *Lael Lubing*

LAEL J. LUBING
Director
Grants & Fiscal Policy Division

Enclosures