



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

3101 Park
Center Drive

Alexandria, VA
22302-1500

SUBJECT: Solicitation for Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 WIC Special Project Grants

TO: WIC State Agencies

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is soliciting applications for FY 2007 WIC Special Project Grants (both Special Project Full Grants and Concept Paper Grants). FNS expects to set aside up to \$1.5 million to support WIC Special State projects. The awards will be made by September 30, 2007 as cooperative agreements, pending availability of funds.

Please note that, in response to requests that State agencies have more time to prepare and submit their grant applications, FNS has advanced the solicitation issuance date this fiscal year by more than 3 months compared to last year. FNS has also advanced the due date for applications by about 2 months -- grant applications must be received by FNS by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Monday, April 2, 2007. This schedule provides State agencies about 6 more weeks to prepare and submit their applications than was available last year.

FNS also is expanding the scope of possible topics for this year's WIC Special Project Grants. As it has done since FY 1999, WIC State Agencies may submit applications under the theme of "Revitalizing Quality Nutrition Services in WIC (RQNS)." The two RQNS focus areas for FY 2007 are: (1) Implementation of Value Enhanced Nutrition Assessment (VENA); and (2) Fit WIC - Healthy Behavior for Life. A second theme (and third focus area) has been added as well: (3) Implementation of WIC Vendor Cost Containment, to allow State agencies to explore efficient and effective means of implementing the vendor cost containment provisions of the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004.

A grant proposal may address one--and only one--of the three designated focus areas. State agencies may not submit more than one proposal for a Full Grant. Concept Papers funded in FY 2006 are assumed to meet an eligible focus area for FY 2007 Full Grant funding.

Extensive dissemination of the results of successful projects is expected at the end of each project, so that other State agencies will have the opportunity to replicate projects and/or learn from the results.

Concept Paper funding, also begun in FY 1999, will continue to be available this year as well. Concept Paper Development funding for FY 2007 will be used to develop a concept into a full grant proposal for the FY 2008 solicitation cycle. Two themes for the FY 2007 Concept Paper solicitation have been designated: (1) Implementation of Value Enhanced Nutrition Assessment; and (2) Implementation of WIC Vendor Cost Containment.

Any State agency planning to apply for FY 2007 WIC Special Project Grant funding should submit an **“Intent to Submit an Application” form by Monday, February 5, 2007**, using the attachment in the Request for Application. A State agency that applies for a FY 2007 WIC Special Project Full Grant may also submit an application for FY 2007 Concept Paper Development funding.

Applications/proposals may be submitted either in hard copy or electronically. Electronic applications must be submitted directly at, <http://www.grants.gov/>. This is a government website designed for electronic submission of applications/proposals. We advise that you allow ample time to familiarize yourself with the system’s requirements. You will need both a Data Universal Number (DUNS) and a Contract Registry Number to access the system. You may contact Dun and Bradstreet at 1-800-234-3867 to obtain a DUNS number if you do not have one already.

Attached are the FY 2007 WIC Special Project Grants Requests for Applications for Full Grants (**Application A**) and the Concept Paper Development Grants (**Application B**). The submission of an application does NOT guarantee funding. Please read the contents of this package carefully to ensure that all required documents are submitted.

Applications should be submitted to:

**Veronica Ferrell, Grants Officer
Food and Nutrition Service, USDA
Grants Management Division
3101 Park Center Drive, Room 738
Alexandria, VA 22302.**

Applications for both packages are due on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Monday, April 2, 2007. It is your responsibility to meet the deadline. Applications submitted by direct e-mail or fax will not be accepted. Late applications will not be considered in the competition. Furthermore, we will not consider additions or revisions to applications once applications are received.

Please carefully review the application package(s). If there are any questions regarding this solicitation, please contact Veronica Ferrell of the Grants Management Division via email at veronica.ferrell@fns.usda.gov.

Sincerely,



Alberta C. Frost
Director
Office of Analysis, Nutrition, and Evaluation

Attachments