



Planning for WIC EBT

Choosing an EBT Technology

FNS EBT User Group Meeting
August 22, 2012

WIC EBT alternatives



WIC EBT

State-Owned System

(Transfer System, Modification of a Transfer System for a New Technology, or the Development of a New System)

Outsourced System

Online

Offline

Online

Offline

State-hosted
(O&M by state
staff or contractor
staff)

Contractor-hosted
(O&M by
contractor staff)

State-hosted (O&M
by state staff or
contractor staff)

Contractor-hosted
(O&M by
contractor staff)

Processor-hosted

Processor-hosted

Not
implemented

Implemented in
KY

Implemented in
NM, WY, TX,
Pueblo of Isleta
and Cherokee
Nation

Not
implemented

Impl. in MI, NV,
Chickasaw
Nation, planned
in MT, OK, OR,
VA, VT, WA, WI
and WV

Not
implemented but
planned in AR,
PA

Outsourced, technology-neutral
acquisition planned in CO and IA

Impacts to stakeholders



Focus on the alternatives that are practical for you

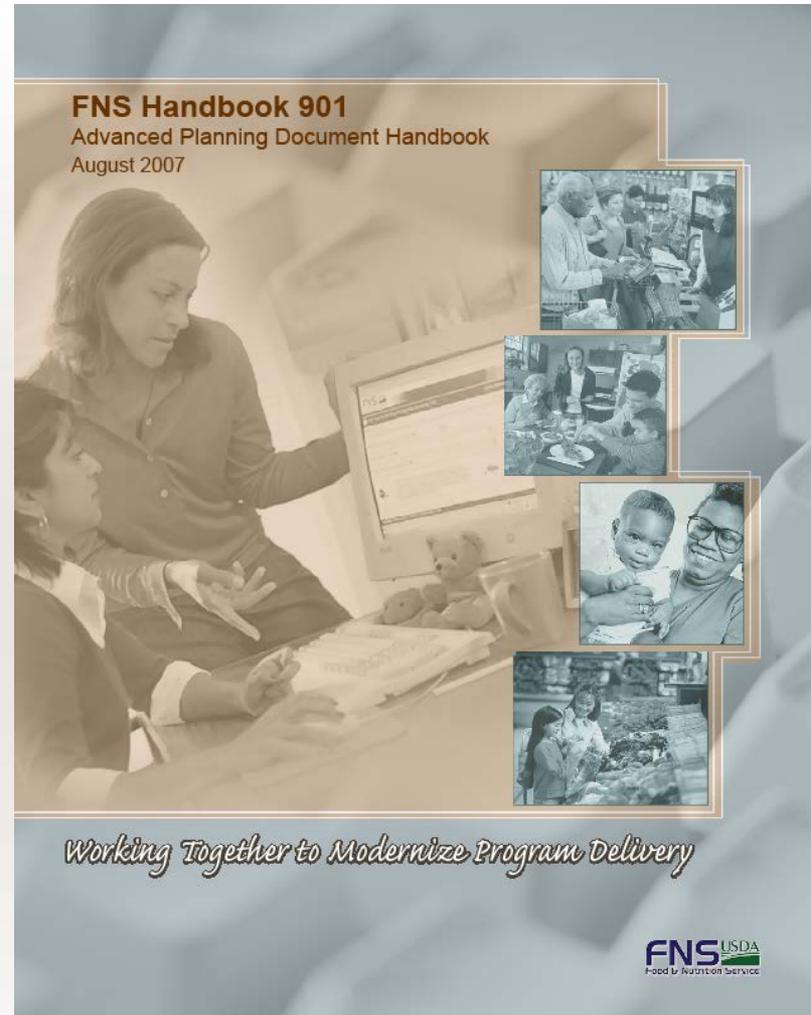
Stakeholder Group	State-Owned System	Outsourced System	Online System	Offline System
WIC Agency	X	X		
Agency or State IT	X	X	X	X
WIC Clinics			X	X
Retailers			X	X
Participants			X	X

Each stakeholder group is impacted differently

FNS Handbook 901 - WIC EBT Feasibility



- WIC IS Capability
- WIC Business Capacity
- Retailer Technical Capabilities
- Retailer Equipage
- Financial Considerations
- Infrastructure Considerations
- Electronic Card Options
- Recommend a Technical Solution
- Recommend a Plan



How this plays out



- Electronic card options is not a separate deliverable – it is the impact of card technologies to each critical area:
 - Possible changes to the MIS
 - Ability to bring an EBT system in-house
 - State agency and statewide telecommunications infrastructure
 - Impacts on state agency resources and policies
 - Impacts on clinic processes
 - Impacts to participants
 - Readiness and enablement of WIC vendors
 - Costs

How this plays out



- Retailer technical capabilities and retailer equipment should be combined into one deliverable
- Analysis should include identifying wholesalers, value added resellers (VARs) and third party processors (TPPs) providing services to your WIC vendors

The retailer analysis is one of the more labor intensive activities of the planning phase. It should begin early in the planning process to allow time for WIC vendor surveys, EBT education, and feedback from WIC vendors, wholesalers and VARs.

How this plays out



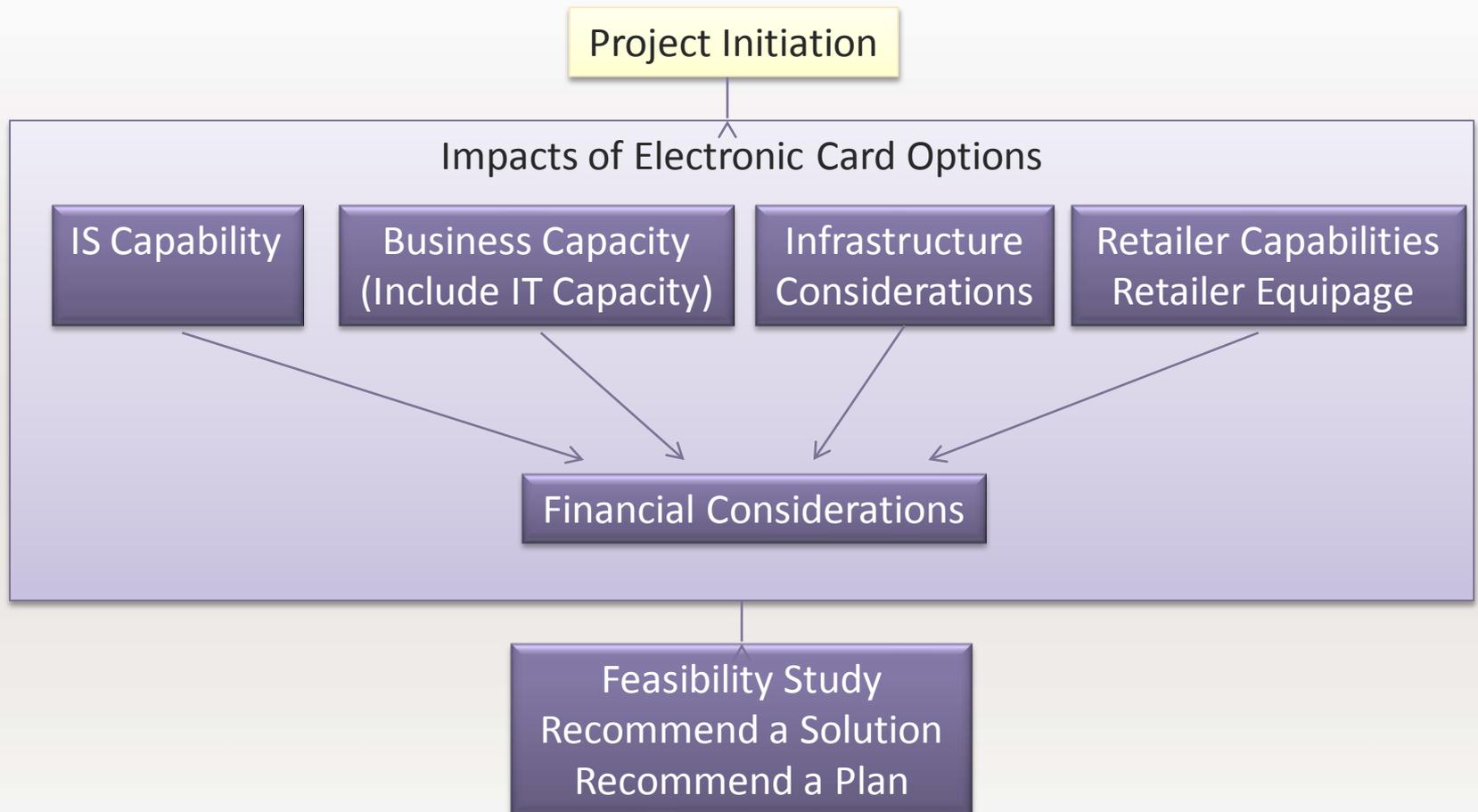
- Financial considerations should ask the question can you afford EBT but it should also address what each technology costs to implement (which may be impacted by available funding from FNS) and what each technology costs to operate.
- EBT costs cannot be calculated until other portions of the planning study are complete –
 - Cost of changes that need to be made to the MIS
 - Cost of impacts to state agency and IT resources
 - Cost of impacts to state agency infrastructure
 - Cost of WIC vendor enablement

How this plays out



- The final Feasibility Study incorporates findings from:
 - WIC IS Capability
 - WIC Business Capacity
 - Retailer Technical Capabilities & Retailer Equipage
 - Infrastructure Considerations
 - Costs (Financial Considerations)
- It includes risks and benefits of each alternative and your selection criteria
- It includes a recommendation for a technology solution and a recommendation for a plan

Planning process order of activities



Making the decision – ask the big questions



- For each alternative ask the question -
 - What modifications need to be made to the IS?
 - Is your agency or IT staff prepared to make these changes?
 - What infrastructure is needed?
 - Does your state agency or state IT shop have these capabilities?
 - How many additional tasks are your state agency staff prepared to take on?
 - If resources are limited, should outsourcing be a priority?
 - What priority do you place on impacts to participants and clinics?
 - Understanding that either technology provides benefits.
 - Participants in remote locations may incur the largest impacts.
 - Are your WIC vendors prepared?
 - What will it take to make them ready?
 - What will you do to keep them enabled?

Feasibility Study
Recommend a Solution
Recommend a Plan

Take advantage of planning activities to educate yourself!

