

# WIC Universal MIS-EBT Interface

WIC EBT Users Group  
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Etegrity LLC

# Current FNS Initiatives

- ▶ WIC EBT Operating Rules
- ▶ WIC EBT Technical Implementation Guide
- ▶ WIC Retail Certification Standards
- ▶ WIC Universal MIS–EBT Interface
- ▶ Updates – American National Standard for Financial Services
  - X9.93 – 2008, Financial Transaction Messages – Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT)
    - Part 1 – Messages
    - Part 2 – Files
  - DSTU X9.108–2005, Financial Transaction Messages – Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) – WIC Retailer Interface Standard

# WIC Universal MIS-EBT Interface

Standardizes the functional requirements for the interface between WIC Management Information Systems (MIS) and WIC Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) system used in the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) nutrition program.

# Purpose

- ▶ The document, WIC Universal MIS–EBT Interface, defines and describes...
  - The types of WIC MIS and WIC EBT systems.
  - The interfaces that exist between WIC MIS and WIC EBT systems.
  - The functions supported by a Universal Interface.
    - Core data elements required by defined functions, and
    - Processing rules to be implemented to support the functions.
  - The recommended distribution of functions between the WIC MIS and WIC EBT system.

# Core Assumptions

- ▶ The document, WIC Universal MIS-EBT Interface, supplements the FNS publication, Functional Requirements Document for a Model WIC Information System (FReD) (2009).
- ▶ WIC Universal MIS-EBT Interface functional requirements are independent of selected technology and technical implementation.
- ▶ A WIC State Agency replacing its WIC MIS will consider transferring any WIC MIS updated to comply with the Universal Interface document.
- ▶ A WIC State Agency updating/enhancing its WIC MIS will comply with WIC EBT Universal MIS-EBT Interface guidelines.

# Key Objectives

- ▶ A WIC State Agency selecting a WIC EBT system will not need to consider MIS-EBT interface constraints during WIC EBT system planning (Feasibility Study)
  - MIS technical capabilities
  - Interface related costs

# Advantages

- ▶ A WIC State Agency with a WIC MIS compliant with WIC EBT Universal MIS–EBT Interface guidelines that elects to outsource its WIC EBT system can avoid system modification and integration costs:
  - When converting from paper to EBT.
  - When changing WIC EBT contractor and replacing its WIC EBT system.
- ▶ A WIC State Agency with a WIC MIS that complies with WIC EBT Universal MIS–EBT Interface guidelines can avoid system modification and integration costs if it changes from an in–house to an outsourced WIC EBT system.

# Advantages (Continued)

- ▶ A WIC State Agency electing to outsource its WIC EBT system will realize increased competition and lower 'cost per case month (CPCM)' pricing since there will be no customized MIS-EBT system interface costs.
  - Up front costs, as deliverables; or
  - Amortized costs over the life of the contract (\$/case/month).
- ▶ Most importantly, the time and level of effort required to implement WIC EBT, either an initial conversion from paper to EBT or a replacement WIC EBT system, can be significantly reduced.

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