

Preparing for the Future

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STATE AGENCY MODEL BACKGROUND

“Build it once and replicate it many times.” - OMB

- In 2004 OMB directed FNS to plan, develop and deploy model IT systems for use by many state agencies
 - Part of e-government-wide initiatives to maximize IT investments and encourage collaboration at all levels
- FNS, along with State and Local agencies defined the following requirements:
 - Modern Web (HTML/HTTP) technology
 - Standard WIC data elements
 - Open system architecture
 - Modular components
 - Compliance with Federal policy and regulations
- In 2004, through a competitive application process, three consortia of State Agencies were selected to participate

STATE AGENCY MODEL BACKGROUND

	Successful Partners in Reaching Innovative Technology (SPIRIT)	Mountain Plains States Consortium (MPSC)	Crossroads Consortium
Initial Members	Chickasaw Nation, Muscogee Creek Nation, WCD Enterprises, Otoe-Missouria, Inter-Tribal Council of OK, Osage Nation Choctaw Nation Acoma Canoncito & Laguna Hospital Zuni Pueblo Santo Domingo Pueblo Five Sandoval Pueblos Eight Northern Pueblos San Felipe Pueblo	Colorado Utah Wyoming	North Carolina Alabama Virginia West Virginia
Adopted States	Alaska (project in progress) Arkansas Maine (project in progress) Missouri Minnesota Montana Mississippi (project in progress)		
Status	Implemented in 2007 Further adoption on hold	Implementation Fall 2011	UAT Summer/Fall 2012

SPIRIT STATUS

- Grown from initial consortium of 13 ITOs and 120 users to 20 State Agencies and nearly 3500 users
 - Currently distributing benefits to more than 416,000 participants (based on monthly participation)
- Moratorium is in place to provide “strategic pause”
 - Organize and restructure to serve a much larger user base than originally anticipated
 - Plan to accommodate future growth
 - Investigate perceived system shortcomings
 - Ensure sufficient processes are in place
 - Analyze and document lessons learned for future SPIRIT decisions and sharing with other State Agency Models
 - Ensure the technology will meet future WIC requirements
 - Ensure the needs of small and large SAs are addressed

FROM PILOT TO LARGE IT PROGRAM



Federal Oversight

- USDA Leadership
- OMB
- Congress



FNS Administration

- FNS HQ
- FNS Regional
- FNS SSO



Other SAMs

- Mountain Plains
- Crossroads



State and Local Oversight

- State WIC
- State Public Health Agencies
- Tribal Governments
- County and Other Local Agencies



Potential SPIRIT Adopters



WIC Participants



SPIRIT Contractors

- Code Developers
- M&O
- Implementers



WIC Third Parties

- Retailers
- EBT Processors
- Banks
- National WIC Association

ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS/STRATEGIC PLANNING

- Where do we need to go in the future?
 - Federal priorities and compliance requirements (EBT, funding etc.)
 - State and local priorities and requirements
- Are we organized to get there?



BUSINESS CASE

- Analyze and articulate the value of SPIRIT
- Understand the economic impact of decisions made for SPIRIT and other SAMs
- Provide objective analysis for future SPIRIT and SAM decisions
- Provide baseline to optimize use of WIC technology funds moving forward

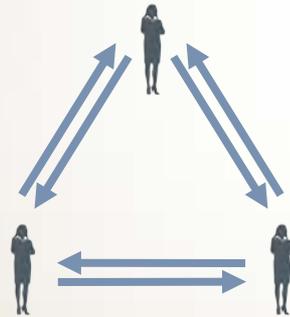
COMMUNICATIONS

How do we keep the 20 SPIRIT State Agencies informed and aligned, along with all the other stakeholders, at the Federal State and Local level?

$$\text{Communication Channels} = [N * (N-1)] / 2$$

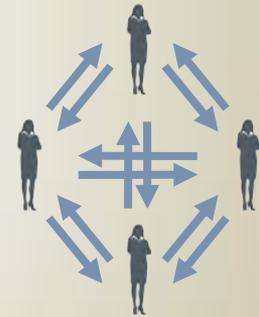
Communications Channels
for 3 Stakeholders

$$[3 * (3-1)] / 2 = 3$$



Communications Channels
for 4 Stakeholders

$$[4 * (4-1)] / 2 = 6$$



$$\text{SPIRIT State Agencies + FNS} = [21 * (21-1)] / 2 = 210$$

$$\text{SPIRIT Users} = [3,500 * (3,500-1)] / 2 = 6,123,250$$

As the program has grown, our communications challenge has grown exponentially

CODE ASSESSMENT

Task:

- Third party evaluation of reported system issues
- Independent recommendations for resolving issues
- Identify areas to optimize design and structure

Benefits:

- Better investment decisions moving forward
- Ensure code is maintainable into the future



MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS RFP DEVELOPMENT

- Support development of M&O solicitation for 13 original SPIRIT State Agencies
- Incorporate performance-based contracting and measurement into solicitation language for stronger contracts moving forward
- Ensure maximum competition for future SPIRIT contracts
- Share performance measurement language and lessons learned with other State Agencies



SUMMARY

- In the past 7 years SPIRIT has gone from concept to pilot to large national IT program
- Current strategic pause will allow identification of valuable lessons learned, address current shortcomings and ensure we are prepared to meet future WIC information technology requirements

