

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
DIVISION OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

FAMILY NUTRITION PROGRAMS
-- JUNEAU

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Reply to: All Local Agencies Memorandum No. 11-06

DATE: July 15, 2011

TO: X – LA WIC Coordinators Information-X
X- LA Satellite Clinics Policy –X
Action – X

Routine (email & hard copy) -X
Urgent (fax & hard copy) -

FROM: Kathleen Wayne, MS, RD, LD
Program Manager

SUBJECT: The Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act (CNA), P.L. 111-296, and FNS
WIC Policy Memorandum 2011-2

The CNA and FNS memo referenced above amends several paragraphs in section 17 of the CNA to reinforce the importance of the promotion and support of breastfeeding as integral element of WIC services and benefits.

Section 17(f)(6)(B) is amended to expand the limitations on State agencies' authority to provide WIC vouchers by a method other than direct pick-up at the local agency. The limitation is expanded to include participants scheduled for breastfeeding counseling. Thus, in instances where clients are scheduled for breastfeeding counseling if the client is able to physically access a WIC clinic, vouchers would only be provided by direct pick-up. AK WIC uses an additional method of mailing nutrition education materials to participants in situations where face-to-face contact is not feasible. At this time, the State is actively pursuing use of technology such as *wichealth.org*, as a preferred method to deliver nutrition education to participants living in remote rural areas. Elimination of mailed nutrition education as an option to service participants in these areas where no WIC staff is present, constitutes a barrier to service access and would not make WIC available to those in greatest need, and in places where alternate sources of supplemental foods, such as food banks, food pantries, commodity foods, etc., are limited or do not exist.

This policy is effective immediately. Please contact Becky Carrillo at 465-8629 if you have any questions about this memorandum.