

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
DIVISION OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

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Reply to: **All Local Agencies Memorandum No-12-02**

Date: October 31, 2011

TO: X-LA WIC Coordinators
X-Satellites

FROM: Kathleen Wayne *KW*
State WIC Manager

Information- X

Policy-
Action-

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

SUBJECT: Fact Sheet on Alaska WIC Program Proposed Grantee Infrastructure Changes in FY 2014

The Alaska WIC program is seeking feedback on proposed grantee infrastructure changes that can be incorporated into the FY 2014 competitive grant process.

In 2006, the Alaska WIC Program knew that the current WIC grantee infrastructure posed sustainability problems during times of flat or reduced federal funding. That same year, a contractor, CTG, Inc., was hired to conduct a management analysis of the Alaska WIC infrastructure to make recommendations for possible cost and infrastructure efficiencies. Following recommendations from the CTG Report, the WIC Program Office is proposing five (5) strategies for the FY 14 competitive grant process. We are creating several teleconferences to collect feedback on the State's proposed infrastructure changes and gather other ideas about possible cost and infrastructure efficiencies.

Please see the attached Fact Sheet on Alaska WIC Program Proposed Grantee Infrastructure Changes in FY 2014 to understand this communication process. Please also refer to the 2006 report on **WIC Grantee Caseload & Funding Formula Analysis**, which can be located at:
http://hss.state.ak.us/dpa/programs/nutri/downloads/WIC_Final_Report_V4.pdf

If you have questions, please contact Kathleen Wayne 465-8636.



Alaska WIC Program Proposed Grantee Infrastructure Changes in FY 2014 Fact Sheet—October 2011



During State Year 2012, the Alaska WIC Program will collect feedback from current and potential WIC Grantees on program cost and administrative efficiencies to be implemented in the FY 2014 competitive grant process.

Current System—

The Alaska WIC Program serves approximately 26,000 women, infants, and children through 28 fixed clinic locations with 235 additional communities served on an itinerant basis. The state conducts local agency and clinic operations by allocating funds to 16 grantee organizations.

The WIC Program is in the process of implementing the SPIRIT Client Information System. SPIRIT is a computer system in the public domain that will be implemented “as is,” utilizing the “out-of-the-box” functionality. The SPIRIT system has an anticipated implementation date of December 2012.

Recommendations for Program Changes--

In 2006, the Alaska WIC Program knew that the current WIC grantee infrastructure posed sustainability problems during times of flat or reduced federal funding. A contractor, CTG, Inc., was hired to conduct a management analysis of the following program areas:

- Identify alternatives for WIC service areas;
- Identify a methodology for projecting WIC caseload within a service area;
- Develop recommendations for a Local Agency caseload standard (e.g. the minimum percentage of assigned caseload that a Local Agency must serve);
- Develop recommendations, if appropriate, for a minimum number of clients that would be served by a Local Agency and/or a staffed WIC clinic; and
- Develop recommendations for a formula by which funding is distributed to Local Agencies.

Implemented Recommendations —

The following grantee infrastructure changes have been implemented:

- WIC caseload performance standards (FY 10)
- Grantee Funding Formula (SY 09-12)

Proposed Changes—

The WIC Program Office proposes the following grantee infrastructure changes for FY 14:

1. One grant award per each service area (subcontractors are allowed but contracting local agency must ensure subcontractor's compliance to WIC USDA and State agency requirements)
2. Satellite clinics at specified sites within a service area
3. Caseload for each regional provider of 1,000 WIC clients or more
4. Registered Dietitian on staff—not a contract employee
5. Provide computer workstations, Internet connection, IT technical support



Alaska WIC Program Proposed Grantee Infrastructure Changes in FY 2014 Fact Sheet—October 2011



Proposed Collection of Comments and Feedback:

- The WIC Program Office will conduct six (6) regional teleconferences to collect feedback on proposed FY 14 Competitive WIC Grantee Infrastructure changes.
- The WIC Program Office will create an updated version of the CTG report called, “Phase II: WIC Cost Efficiencies and Streamlined Grantee Processes” that will analyze comments from the six (6) regional teleconference and collect additional program information to make recommendations for the FY 2014 and the 2018 Competitive WIC Grant processes.

Current Service Structure		Proposed FY 14	
Service Areas	# Grantees	Service Areas	# Grantees
Aleutian/Pribilof Island ¹	1		
Anchorage	3	Anchorage	1
Bristol Bay ¹	1	¹ Southwest Alaska including Bristol Bay/Kodiak/Aleutian/Pribilof Island	1
Fairbanks	2	Interior	1
Kodiak Island ¹	1		
Kotzebue ²	1	² Western and Northern Alaska including Kotzebue/Norton Sound/North Slope	1
Mat-Su/ Kenai Peninsula ³	1	³ Southcentral including Mat-Su; Kenai Peninsula; Valdez/Cordova	1
Norton Sound ²	1		
North Slope ²	1		
Southeast	2	Southeast	1
Valdez/Cordova ³	1		
Yukon-Kuskokwim	1	Yukon-Kuskokwim	1
total	16		7

*As indicated in the table, several of the former WIC service areas could possibly be combined or renamed into adopted Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) service delivery regions and/or are consolidated so that there are no regions with fewer than 1,000 participants to meet the WIC regional criteria.