

## WIC Local Agency Region 1 - Teleconference 10:00 a.m., January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012

The Region 1 Teleconference was held on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012 for all agencies currently providing or interested in providing WIC services within the Municipality of Anchorage. Currently, three agencies provide services in Anchorage: the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA), Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc. (CITC) and Armed Services YMCA of Alaska (ASYMCA).

Each agency was represented at the teleconference. In addition, a representative of the Mat-Su valley local agency also attended the call. Teleconference attendees were: Margaret Duggan, WIC Program Manager, MOA; Pam Phillimore, Assistant Program Manager, MOA; Carol Wren, Director of Employment & Training Services, CITC; Holly Snowball, Manager, Employment & Training Services, CITC; Liz Walsh, RD, CITC; Laura Phillips Elmendorf WIC Program, ASFYMCA; Mary Jo Imig, Executive Director, ASYMCA; Susan Poucher, Alaska Family Services, WIC Program Administrator. CITC also submitted comments via email.

### *Summary of Comments*

The Municipality of Anchorage did not express concerns about the proposed program changes for the FY14 grant changes and felt regionalization made the most sense for cost efficiencies in light of federal funding. No impacts to service were anticipated in light of the proposed program changes.

Only the MOA expressed interest in providing services as a lead agency. One agency, CITC, was not interested in providing services as it would require them to provide services outside its service area, but was interested in exploring partnerships to ensure services to the Alaska Native/American Indian community are continued. Another agency, ASYMCA, did not respond to this question. Two agencies, CITC and ASYMCA, both expressed concerns about the potential loss of clinic locations that serve specific populations. For the ASYMCA, this is the military population at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson (JBER) and for CITC, Alaska Natives at ANMC.

One agency, the MOA, currently has registered dietitians (RD)s on staff, and requires a professional degree for the WIC coordinator position. Another agency, CITC, stated they did not currently have an RD on staff, despite a caseload of over 1000, citing a lack of adequate funding to support one and suggested that this requirement be eliminated for agencies that meet performance standards.

Staff from CITC commented that the expected administrative savings might not materialize, and that there may be additional costs as a result of lost in-kind donations of space and equipment. Staff from CITC also had a number of suggestions, such as regionalizing areas serving under the 1,000 target caseload number, or underperforming agencies instead of all agencies. Staff from CITC also suggested regionalizing RD services rather than by grantee. Other comments about the proposed impacts of the changes made by the CITC WIC staff were to the statewide impacts of regionalization, and not specific to the Anchorage area.

### *Analysis of Comments*

The region served by this teleconference was the Municipality of Anchorage, where three separate agencies are proposed to combine under one agency. Only one of the three agencies currently has a Municipality wide service region, the other two serve specific populations within the Anchorage area. The Municipality of Anchorage saw very little impacts in the proposed program changes because the MOA has a large program, and already meets all of the new requirements, or has the capacity to implement them. Because the service area is urban and the proposed boundaries would not require the Anchorage area grantee to serve additional communities, the travel requirements are minimal within the proposed Anchorage service area, and increased travel costs and time, and rural-urban concerns did not come up as issues.