THE STATE of ALASKA
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

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**MEMORANDUM**

All LA Memo 13-03

DATE: October 12, 2012

Action: _X___
Information: _X___
Policy: _X__

TO: X-LA Coordinators
X- LA Satellite Clinics

FROM: Kathleen Wayne, RD, MS, LD KW
FNP Program Director

SUBJECT: New WIC Food List

The State of Alaska is transitioning to a new WIC Food List. In June, 2012, the USDA instructed the Alaska WIC program to discontinue the requirement that WIC participants show a photo ID at the grocery store. We created a new Food List booklet modeled on the ones in use in Montana, Maine, and several other states. The booklet serves as a food list, a folder to hold WIC checks, and as a participant's ID.

Training on use of the new Food List was provided for LA Coordinators on Oct 11, 2012. The Vendor group is providing training to stores.

We expect to have the new Food Lists to the LAs by the first week in November. Begin issuing the new Food Lists as soon as you receive them. We are transitioning toward not requiring photo IDs at the store. Photo IDs will still be required at the WIC office for certifications, and, if required by LA policy, at secondary education.

- There will be a transition period, when families who already have warrants will be using photo ID in the store. Families who have the new Food List should begin using it immediately- the new Food List is not for use with Spirit warrants only.

- Review the use of the new Food List with your clients as soon as you receive them. As clients continue to come in over the course of the next few months, continue to issue them the new Food List and explain the changes.

- The transition period helps clients get used to the new system- when photo IDs won't be accepted at the store.

- The transition period will not last until everyone is receiving SPIRIT warrants- we expect that everyone will be using the new Food List only, with no photo ID at the store, by February 1, 2013. Store cashiers will be trained to require the participant's ID folder to compare the signature on the warrant to the signature on the ID folder in order to use WIC warrants. After February 1, stores will no longer accept photo ID in lieu of the participant's ID folder, even though some or all regions will still be issuing AKWIC warrants.

- Families should keep their WIC warrants with their new Food List (a pocket is built in) and hold onto their new Food List. The new Food List is required to use the warrants in the store, even if the client knows the foods they want to buy without consulting it.

- An LA should not need to issue a new Food List each time they issue warrants. Clients should be encouraged to retain their new Food Lists.

- LAs can continue to keep track of the alternate in AKWIC, but that will go away with SPIRIT. Clients are required to chose their alternate(s), and have their alternate(s) sign the Food List. The signature(s) on the Food List will be what the cashier compares to the warrants. This will remove the step for the clinics of voiding and reissuing warrants when a client wants to change an alternate.