



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Food and  
Nutrition  
Service

3101 Park  
Center Drive

Alexandria, VA  
22302-1500

March 25, 2015

Dear WIC State Agency Director:

As you may know, the National WIC Association (NWA) will hold its annual Technology and Program Integrity Conference "WIC to EBT by 2020 – Empowering WIC Consumers, Protecting WIC Integrity," September 27- 30, 2015, at the Renaissance St. Louis Grand Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri. This meeting is an excellent opportunity for you and your staff to network, share, and learn about current requirements as well as evolving trends as WIC moves steadily into its next 40 years of operation.

The Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is working in collaboration with NWA to address improving WIC's service delivery at the clinic and State agency levels, through enhanced Management Information Systems (MIS) as well as quality data collection and information security. At the same time, the conference sessions will focus on ensuring that WIC State agencies are knowledgeable of the latest in MIS and Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) technologies that will accomplish nationwide implementation of WIC EBT by 2020!

Given FNS's ongoing emphasis on WIC program integrity, this year's conference includes specific sessions dedicated to WIC program integrity, which will provide opportunities to discuss critical topics such as sound vendor management practices, mitigating participant abuse such as online sales of WIC benefits and strengthening participant integrity efforts. I hope that you will give serious consideration to attending this important and timely conference, as well as to allowing your State agency vendor manager, EBT coordinator, and other staff you may deem appropriate, to attend and participate. WIC Program funds may be used to fund your travel expenses and registration fees.

Additional information regarding registration/accommodations and a tentative agenda are available at <https://www.nwica.org/events/info/nwa-2015-technology-program-integrity-conference-copy>.

We look forward to seeing you and your staff in September. If you have any questions, please contact your FNS Regional Office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debra R. Whitford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

DEBRA R. WHITFORD  
Director  
Supplemental Food Programs Division