

Project Implementation Webpage  
FAQ June 2013

<p><b>What is the schedule for the MIS/EBT implementation?</b></p>	<p>The high level schedule looks like this:</p> <p><u>Activity:</u>  Contracts for MIS, EBT and QI contractors finalized  Kick-off meeting  Planning Phase with Contractors  Design Phase  Development Phase  Pilot Phase  State Wide Rollout</p>	<p><u>When:</u>  May -August 2013  September 2013  September 2013 - January 2014  February - May 2014  June 2014 - May 2015  June - October 2015  October 2015 – March 2016</p>
<p><b>Why is it taking so long to install the new WIC Management Information System (MIS) and EBT?</b></p>	<p>Even though we are transferring and installing existing systems, rather than writing new software, this is a very complex and expensive project. That means there are many checkpoints and review processes that add time. For example, we completed our Implementation Advance Planning Document (IAPD – the proposal to implement the MPSC MIS and online EBT) in September of 2011, but it was not approved by FNS until March 2012. We finished writing the Requests for Proposals (RFP) for the contractors in September of 2012, and it took from then until the end of February 2013 for state agencies and FNS to review and approve the RFPs. Once we select a winning bidder, it takes a few weeks for a state “external review” of the contractor, and then several more months to get approval for the contract, before it can be signed. With the very public news of failed IT projects recently, there is a lot of scrutiny.</p> <p>Once the contractors are working, we may find that the work goes more quickly than we planned - we scheduled conservatively in case there are hang ups.</p> <p>The pilot will happen in 6/2015, which is only one year and a couple of months after the work has actually begun on Implementation. A lot of time is spent on planning and procurement --- kind of like the adage "measure twice and cut once" ....</p>	
<p><b>Why did Vermont choose the MPSC MIS?</b></p>	<p>Our alternatives analysis of different options for the MIS scored MPSC as the clear leader. We wanted to find a system that would require few, if any, modifications. The MPSC MIS meets all of the FNS functional requirements and closely tracked the Vermont functional requirements. It is in operation in three states with high levels of satisfaction, and code was going to be readily available for transfer and implementation. The MPSC interview process closely tracks Vermont’s. Functions important to Vermont WIC are easily configurable in the MPSC, such as the VENA prompts, referral lists, etc. The scheduling model “looks” and “feels” much like our current scheduler. Also, because MPSC is a SAM system, FNS reimbursement for implementation was more favorable.</p>	
<p><b>Will the MIS be internet-based?</b></p>	<p>No, the system will be located on the State of Vermont’s security protected Network. The MIS will be accessed by authorized WIC staff via the normal login to the State/AHS Network.</p>	
<p><b>What kind of EBT system is Vermont implementing?</b></p>	<p>Vermont WIC has chosen online EBT, externally hosted (that is, not hosted and operated by the state, but by a contractor).</p>	