

Vermont WIC Project Implementation Webpage
Update June 2013

Our project continues to move forward but there has been some schedule slippage, due to the lengthy periods of review for the RFPs and contracts, which involves three state agencies and USDA/Food and Nutrition Services.

The Quality Assurance (QA) RFP was released January 11th, and the MIS Transfer and Implementation and EBT Implementation and Hosting were originally released February 28th. The RFP reply deadline for the MIS and EBT contractors was pushed off from May 1 to May 20, to allow potential bidders to review the code for the MIS we've chosen, the Mountain Plains States Consortium MIS. FNS released the code for in late April for the limited purpose of bidder review.

The QA RFP stayed on timeline, and we have selected a vendor. That contract is undergoing review by the Agency for Human Services, Department of Information and Innovation (DII), Department of Health, and USDA/Food and Nutrition Services. No fewer than 16 individual entities must review and sign off on each contract before work begins, and the process has been known to take six or more months. Our State Project Manager has developed a contract review plan and will be monitoring closely to minimize time delays, while allowing appropriate due diligence.

The MIS and EBT proposal review teams are trained and have received their scoring instructions. As soon as the bids are sent to WIC from VT Buildings and General Services (the state procurement agency), the teams will begin their review. When those contractors are selected by Vermont WIC, DII will begin the required "External Review" of all three contractors. With a DII "thumbs up" on the contractor selections, the contract review process will begin for MIS and EBT contracts.

And, if the contract review plan we are using does result in a shorter than budgeted timeframe for contract approval, we may be able to stay on track for a kick-off with all three contractors by the end of September, as currently scheduled.

Meanwhile, the Readiness Coordinator Network (RCN), a cadre of WIC staff from each District Office, has started to meet, learn more about the project, and gather feedback from their colleagues. The state implementation steering committee is developing tools, FAQs and other resources that the RCN will use to prepare WIC staff and participants for the changes ahead. You'll find contact information for the RCN members below, as well as a link to the RCN webpage containing the resources they are using.

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