

July 2013 Update

We are in the midst of our procurement phase, with all three contracts --- Quality Assurance (QA), Transfer and Implementation of the Mountain Plains States Consortium MIS (T&I) , and Online EBT Implementation and Hosting (EBT) --- all still in process.

- QA. The contract negotiations were finalized, and the contract itself is now wending its way through the state's many involved entities. (No fewer than 16 individual entities must review and sign off on each contract before work begins.)
- T&I. A contractor has been selected and negotiations on the terms and conditions is underway and ongoing. Once VDH WIC and the contractor are happy with the resulting language, the contract will go through the 16 entity review mentioned above.
- EBT. A contractor has been selected and negotiations are terms and conditions are underway and ongoing. Ditto next steps once VDH WIC and the contract settle on language.

All three procurements are also undergoing a mandatory review by Vermont's Division of Information and Innovation (the state IT agency), to assure the procurement process was conducted properly, assess risks and determine whether the project should move forward and contracts be signed.

This "external review" is being conducted simultaneously with contract review and signing. DII will not provide the final required signature until and unless the external review gives the project a "Go" signal. Our State Project Manager successfully negotiated this simultaneous process to shorten the overall procurement timeframe, which has been known to take 3-6 months following the selection of the winning bidder.

At this point, we may still be on track for a late September kick-off with all three contractors, but believe that at least QA and perhaps EBT will be ready by then.

With the cooperation of the project's Readiness Coordinator Network (RCN) (a cadre of WIC staff from each District Office), we've been conducting a "Name the New WIC MIS" contest. All District Office staff are allowed to vote. Dozens of suggestions were narrowed to five finalists, and after 128 ballots were cast, the results were too close to call, so a run-off is being held among the top three names. The winning name will be provided to a graphics designer for development of possible logos. The RCN at the August or September monthly meeting will select the logo, and from that day forward, all our references to the system will use the new name.