

## September 2013 Update

The procurement process for the contractors for our MIS and EBT Implementation Project continues:

- EBT- Collection of signatures on the final contract, as required by various state agencies for procurements of this type, continues. As we reported in the August update, this process was begun in the month of August when the contract language was officially approved and has continued now into October.
- MIS – With approval of contract language by numerous entities in the state, and by the contractor and FNS, this contract also is wending its way through the state agency signature process.

Vermont WIC received notice from the Food and Nutrition Service before the end of September that we received funding in the amount of \$3.8 million for our MIS / EBT implementation. This almost fully funds the MIS and the EBT systems per our request to FNS. The only outstanding funding issue is for development of the interface between the MPSC MIS for online EBT. We've requested that FNS provide the funding to Vermont WIC to work with our MIS contractor on this interface, which would then be made available in the next official release version of the MPSC MIS for any other state desiring an online EBT solution. We're awaiting word on that request.

MIS/EBT Implementation team members attended the Vermont Grocers Association annual convention in late September, and staffed a table in the Exhibition Hall. Donna Bister conducted a seminar on the upcoming change from home delivery to retail EBT. The team made contact with grocers, POS vendors, wholesalers and others, informing them about the project.

The same three members of the project team attended the National WIC Association biennial Technology Conference and checked in with other WIC agencies transferring the MPSC MIS system, and also with food manufacturers, wholesalers, Point of Sale vendors for retail grocers, FNS officials and others currently engaged in MIS and EBT implementation projects. Our MIS, EBT and Quality Assurance (QA) contractors also sent representatives and so were able to start their discussions in preparation for initiation of the simultaneous MIS and EBT implementations in Vermont.

We expect activity for the projects to increase significantly in late October should the contracts complete the signature process. A Kick-Off Meeting for the project has been set for November 13<sup>th</sup> in Burlington, and contractors will hold meetings all day November 14<sup>th</sup> as well with key stakeholders and each other to formally launch the four-month planning phase that will result in the detailed project plans and schedules.