

WIC Nutrition Program Public Hearing

June 16, 2017

3:00 – 4:00 pm

WIC Learning Center

63 Fountain St., 3rd Fl.

Framingham, MA 01702

WIC Nutrition Program Public Hearing began with an overview of Federal Fiscal Year 2016 and State Fiscal Year 2017 accomplishments. This was followed by a presentation of the Federal 2017 budget and priorities for the 2018 State Plan.

Public Comments:

Printing

- The State Office prints a large volume of educational materials.
 - Local WIC programs would prefer to order translated materials rather than have these dropped shipped to programs.
 - Monies could be saved through providing local WIC programs with camera ready copies of translated materials.
 - More materials could be posted to the WIC website instead of being printed
 - Could translations of the WIC Food List be available on the phone?

Advertising & Promotions

- Advertise the program at bus stops and through transit ads. While people are waiting, they could read the promotional flyer.

Health Disparities

- Address health disparities through providing breastfeeding support specifically directed to African American women.
- Seek grants to support a full time Family Support Coordinator at local WIC programs
- Increase funding for Family Support Coordinators through cutting back on funding for other projects

Telemedicine

- Explore other means, such as Skype, to provide services remotely
- Increase WICSmart online nutrition education

Appointments

- Allow Community Coordinators to schedule appointments directly into the Scheduler appointment system. Community Coordinators currently return to the office with long lists of potential participants to call. Sometimes they can only reach two or three.

Staff Salaries

- Increase funding so that all local WIC program staff earn at least \$14/hour
- Add COLA to the budget. Other agency staff get raises while WIC staff do not

Dietetic Internship

- Explore the option of a WIC Dietetic Internship. Local WIC programs experience significant turnover of nutritionists because many leave to complete a dietetic internship.