

## **Key Points for this meeting:**

- WIC is 100% Federally Funded
- Under federal law, WIC must be administered by a State Health Agency. This is an important restriction if the state is considering consolidating certain programs under an existing state agency.
- One issue that would need to be addressed under a proposed reorganization is the confidentiality of WIC data. WIC falls under the Child Nutrition Act, regulated under the Code of Federal Regulation Part 7: 246.1 to 246.28. This Act requires that states follow regulations on keeping all client information confidential. Data sharing would need to be under an MOU that must be approved by USDA and State.
- WIC staffing standards require designated (100%) FTE Nutrition staff to administer program, perform certification and provide services. This means that certain WIC staff cannot be used to perform services for other programs.

## **Federal Fiscal Year 2014**

### **July 56,105 participants**

- Children 1-5 years –29,081
- Women 13,787
- Infants 13237 (half of US infants)

## **ABOUT WIC**

NM WIC participants are assessed by Nutrition staff who take heights, weights and hemoglobin's which are performed to assess risk. A Nutritionist will design a specific food package for that client and schedule follow up nutrition counseling to support mother, infant and children during crucial developmental years. Also, health care referrals are made during the certification process to connect participants with other services which promote health.

NM WIC serves low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk.

Each month, WIC provides an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards for participants to buy foods that will help their children eat healthy. Participants also learn about healthy eating, get support to help on breastfeeding their baby, and find out about healthcare and other services.

## **WIC in NM**

- August 2013-CDC Vital Signs: Obesity Declines among low-income Preschoolers. Nineteen states (NM) reported decreases in obesity among low-income preschoolers. While the changes are small, for the first time in a generation they are going in the right direction.
- The NM WIC program is a significant resource in the state's efforts to prevent obesity in young children age 2-5 years – and to intervene early to reduce this burden.
- NM WIC serves more than half of all NM Babies

## **Who Can Apply**

If a family has have a low income and recently had a baby, are pregnant, or are breastfeeding, or if they have children up to 5 years old. They may be able to get WIC even if a family does not qualify for SNAP.