Georgia Department of Public Health

Brenda Fitzgerald, MD, Commissioner | Nathan Deal, Governor

2 Peachtree Street NW, 15th Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3142
www.health.state.ga.us

MEMORANDUM

ACTION MEMO # 13-09

TO: District Health Directors
District Program Managers
District Administrators
District Nutrition Directors
District MIS Directors

FROM: Brenda Fitzgerald, MD, Commissioner

RE: WIC Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) - Public Comment Period

DATE: May 23, 2013

This memorandum is to provide an update on the proposed rules for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program of Women, Infants and Children (WIC) implementation of the Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT). Each State agency is required to implement an EBT system throughout the State by October 2020.

The proposed rules are available at: http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-02-28/pdf/2013-04216.pdf . FNS is seeking public comments on several of the requirements contained in this proposed rule during the 90-day public comment period that ends on **June 29, 2013**.

The EBT provisions included in the proposed rule are: (1) a definition of EBT; (2) a mandate that all WIC State agencies implement EBT systems by October 1, 2020; (3) a requirement for State agencies to submit annual EBT status reports on their progress toward EBT implementation; (4) revisions to cost sharing for retail vendors; (5) minimum lane equipage standards; (6) technical standards and operating rules; and (7) a requirement that State agencies use the National Universal Product Code (NUPC) database.

The proposal also would codify expansion of the definition of participant violation to include selling or offering to sell WIC benefits online.

ACTION:

Georgia State WIC urges you to review the entire rule and provide comments on this new regulation. To assure consideration by USDA all comments must be postmarked on or before, ***June 29, 2013.***

Please submit your comments based on the methods identified in the ruling. You may also provide your comments directly to the Georgia State Agency and we will submit responses on your behalf. Comments submitted to the State WIC office must be sent to Shelleva Orr, slorr@dhr.state.ga.us , at the WIC State Office by ***Friday, June 21, 2013.***

Please note: All comments submitted in response to this proposed rule will be included in the records and will be made available to the public. The substance of the comments and the identities of the individuals or entities submitting the comments will also be subject to public disclosure.

If you have any questions pertaining to the EBT public comment period, please contact Debra Keyes at 404-657-3140.

cc: Yvette K. Daniels, JD, Director, Health Promotions
Debra Keyes, MA, RD, Georgia WIC Director