



January & February 2009 Update

The Fresh Choices 2009 Status Report provides local agency staff members and coordinators an inside look at the work going on at the State office in preparation for the new food package changes. Every other month this report will highlight information from the workgroups that comprise Oregon's effort to prepare for the new WIC regulations mandated by the USDA.

Food Review Workgroup

Team Lead: Karen Bettin, karen.bettin@state.or.us

In early April, the Food List will be sent to the printer and out for translation. At that point, we will put a copy of the final Food List on the website. If you are referring to the new Food List already, you will want to get the new version and destroy previous copies, since a few clarifications have been made over the past couple of months. One of the major clarifications is that it will be possible to get mixed frozen vegetables and mixed frozen fruit with the fruit and veggie voucher. A session or two at the Statewide Meeting will be referring to the Food List, so we will have copies for staff to review there.

Vendor Team Workgroup

Team Lead: Maria Menor, maria.menor@state.or.us

The Vendor Team was busy with the following activities:

- Sent an initial notification to vendors about the new food package changes (and cc'ed to WIC Coordinators)
- Filmed a new video for checkers on-location at Jack's Family Market and the Marion County WIC clinic in Salem. Vendor team members wrote the script and recruited actors from the state and Salem WIC staff, Albertson's and Jack's Family Market. Editing is now in progress
- Updated other vendor training tools such as the grocery flipbook, check-out summary, Vendor Guide, and reference material for bookkeepers



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- Finalized the minimum stock requirements for vendors to include the new foods
- Updated the Vendor Agreement to incorporate new language such as for the fruit & vegetable cash value voucher

TWIST Workgroup

Team Lead: Kim Word, kimberly.m.word@state.or.us

TWIST Fresh Choices coding is going well, and the OIS team was able to bring back Doug Borresen to help out with the coding. Many of you may remember Doug from the early TWIST coding days - we are very excited to have Doug back, and he was able to jump right in and get started from the get-go!

The TWIST workgroup has been discussing issues around "conversion" - meaning everything that needs to happen to get WIC participants converted over from the old food packages to the new ones. You will hear more from us on conversion as we get closer to the Statewide Meeting, and we will do as much as we can to make the process as smooth as possible for WIC local agencies.

Marketing Workgroup

Team Lead: Nhu To-Haynes, nhu.h.to-haynes@state.or.us

We have nothing to report this month.

Training Workgroup

Team Lead: Kim McGee, kimberly.o.mcgee@state.or.us

Check out the staff resources available on the website at <http://egov.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/wic/freshchoices.shtml>

Save the Date for the 2009 Statewide Meeting. Our next statewide meeting will focus on Fresh Choices. It will be held June 22-23, 2009 at the Lloyd Center Double Tree Hotel. We will be in a new location this time, conveniently located near down town, the MAX train, and the state WIC office. Put it on your calendars!

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