



WIC MIS/EBT Implementation Subproject

October 2013 Update

We are pleased to announce that the Procurement phase for our MIS and EBT Implementation Project is complete!

- MIS Contractor – CIBER, Inc.

Ciber developed the Mountain Plains States Consortium's MIS (an FNS State Agency Model, or SAM system) to be transferred to Vermont WIC. Ciber will also develop the "interface" to allow the MPSC MIS to work with our online EBT system. Once the MPSC MIS is installed in Vermont by Ciber, the MIS, which Vermont WIC has named "*Ceres*," will be hosted, operated and supported by state personnel. Ciber also maintains a relationship with the Mountain Plains consortium to develop enhancements to the MIS for implementation by state WIC members of the MPSC User Group, which has been formed by states using the MPSC system.

- EBT Contractor – JP Morgan Chase

JP Morgan Chase is one of the earliest developers and operators of online SNAP EBT as well as WIC EBT systems. Already developed and operating online EBT for Cherokee Nation, OK, and other WIC agencies using the SPIRITSAM MIS. They are currently working on the pilot and roll-out of online EBT for Oregon WIC as well. JPMC will assist Vermont WIC, grocers, IT vendors and third-party processors in implementing the JPMC U-Card online WIC EBT system, and will also host and operate the system for Vermont WIC under contract.

The Quality Assurance contractor, Dynamics Research Corporation (DRC) is already at work with Vermont WIC, developing the tools and plans for monitoring and supporting implementation.

Vermont WIC was the first state agency to be granted permission from FNS for a simultaneous implementation of a new MIS and WIC EBT. This reflected their confidence in our project's early pre-planning work, which all of the contractors and the state's own IT project external reviewer have also praised. It's our intention to carry on the rigorous project management model we've used in the past to oversee and coordinate the work of the contractors, and the preparation by WIC personnel to adopt these new technologies.

The Implementation planning phase for the project commenced in earnest in October. The Kick-Off Meeting for the project was scheduled for November 13th and 14th in Burlington. Our scheduled pilot kick-off in May 2015 may seem like a long time from now, but there is much to accomplish by then. The State Project Manager has already identified over 3000 discreet tasks to be accomplished, and over 200 stakeholders to be engaged in this project.

If you have questions about the project, please be in touch with us by email at wic@state.vt.us.