



Memorandum

TO: WIC Regional Directors #07-024
WIC Local Agency Directors

FROM: Linda Brumble, Unit Manager (Original Signed)
Nutrition Education/Clinic Services Unit
Nutrition Services Section

DATE: March 9, 2007

SUBJECT: New Healthcare programs -Texas Women's Health Program and CHIP Perinatal

Congress established WIC with a mission to serve as an adjunct to good health care to prevent the occurrence of health problems and improve the health status of the clients the WIC Program serves. Coordination and referrals to health care is a critical component of WIC services.

With that in mind, the purpose of this memo is to inform you of two new health care programs, **Texas Women's Health Program and CHIP Perinatal**. Many of our WIC clients will be eligible and these programs will fulfill previously unmet needs in health care for women. We expect WIC staff to be knowledgeable about these programs and to actively engage in promoting them. The current referral policy, *Policy GA: 08.0 Provision of Food Stamp, TANF, Medicaid, THS and Child Support Enforcement Information to WIC Applicants/Participants*, is being revised to include the new information.

The Texas Women's Health Program (WHP)

The Texas Women's Health Program (WHP) is a new program that will provide low-income women with gynecological exams, related health screenings, and birth control for 12 months through Texas Medicaid. This program is for women who meet the following qualifications:

- Ages 18 to 44. Women can apply the month of their 18th birthday through the month of their 45th birthday.
- U.S. Citizens or qualified immigrants.
- Reside in Texas.
- Do not currently receive full Medicaid benefits, CHIP, or Medicare Part A or B.
- Have a net family income at or below 185 percent of the Federal Poverty Level.

WIC clinics have been designated by the Health and Human Services Commission to offer these applications and they must be available in WIC clinics. Local agency WIC staff should refer all clients to this program. The State Agency is in the process of printing outreach and application materials for the local agencies. Women's Health Program posters (*Need Women's Health Services?*) are available and will be sent to all WIC clinics within the next few weeks.

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To order more copies of the poster, please complete the *Texas WIC Materials Order Form* and fax it to the Publications Coordinator, Nutrition Education/Clinic Services Unit, at (512) 458-7445. (Note: There is no stock number on the poster, so if you need to order more posters, please use stock no. 13-06-12546 and the title on the order form). Other materials (brochures, applications, and revised *Guide to Helpful Programs and Services that WIC Wants You to Know About*) will be sent to you as soon as they are available.

Please print WHP applications directly from the websites below and copy in sufficient quantities for all of your clinic sites until the State Agency is able to provide them.

<http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/WomensHealth/Documents/WHPApplication.doc> (English)

http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/WomensHealth/Documents/WHPApplication_Spanish.doc

WIC clients are adjunctively income-eligible for the WHP. This program is a simple fax application process. All they need to provide is ID, proof of citizenship, and proof of WIC participation. Participation in WIC may be documented by *Verification of Certification (VOC)*, individual certification record, an EBT shopping list, or a current (or future) food voucher. WIC FID/WIC Lone Star cards will not be accepted as a form of participation in the WIC Program.

Note: WIC participants are not required to fill out the information for “other members of the household;” however, this is not clear on the application form. Please ensure your staff is informed about this in case they are asked.

To locate a provider or learn more, see the WHP website:

<http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/womenshealth.htm>.

CHIP Perinatal

CHIP Perinatal provides continuous 12-month coverage for prenatal care to unborn children of pregnant women with household income up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) and who are not eligible for Medicaid because of income or immigration status. This means that an “undocumented” woman may receive prenatal care, including labor and delivery, because it affects the health of her unborn child. Once born, the child will receive benefits that are similar to traditional CHIP benefits for the duration of the 12-month coverage period from which the eligibility was determined. For example, if eligibility is determined when the mother is 3 months pregnant, the unborn child will have 6 months of prenatal coverage, and 6 months of coverage after the birth.

Although WIC clinics are not required to have CHIP Perinatal applications available, WIC staff should refer to this program. Contact your local CHIP outreach coordinator. Applications for CHIP perinatal coverage are available on the Web at:

English, at: <http://www.chipmedicaid.com/english/apply.htm> and

Spanish, at: <http://www.chipmedicaid.com/espanol/apply.htm>, or by calling

1-877-KIDS-NOW (1-877-543-7669), Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Note: The CHIP Perinatal application is the same as the regular CHIP application. You may order CHIP applications at www.chipmedicaid.com. For more information please go to: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/mch/> or <http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/chip/perinatal/index.htm>.

Training

The State Agency encourages all WIC staff to attend trainings describing these programs on IDL. Look for "Critical Referrals to Outside Agencies" IDL offered at various times.

If you have questions or require additional information on the trainings for these programs, please contact Rebecca Turnbow, Nutrition Education Consultant, at (512) 458-7111, extension 2099, or rebecca.turnbow@dshs.state.tx.us. For forms and outreach information, contact Gail Gresham, Nutrition/Breastfeeding Education Consultant, at (512) 458-7111, extension 3352, or gail.gresham@dshs.state.tx.us. For policy information, contact Tiffany Brown, Clinical Nutrition Specialist, at (512) 341-4400, extension 2212, or tiffany.brown@dshs.state.tx.us.