



Memorandum

#11-069

TO: WIC Regional Directors
WIC Local Agency Directors

FROM: Linda Brumble, Unit Manager
Nutrition Education/Clinic Services Unit
Nutrition Services Section

DATE: May 27, 2011

SUBJECT: Summer Nutrition Card Pilot

This summer, the Texas Department of Agriculture Summer Food Service Program and the Department of State Health Services WIC Program are teaming up for the **Summer Nutrition Card Pilot** to test a new way to provide nutrition assistance and access to healthy foods to low-income school-age children. Pictures of the Summer Nutrition Card and accompanying materials are shown on page 2 and page 3 of this memo.

During the summer months eligible children have access to nutritious meals at locations participating in the Summer Food Service Program. However, historically participation in the program has been low. The Summer Nutrition Card Pilot is one of five pilots in the nation that will determine if this is a better system to provide families with nutritious food for the summer. Through a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Summer Nutrition Card Pilot will use the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card infrastructure and provide the children the same foods currently offered to WIC families. This is not part of the WIC Program. Only the EBT card system and WIC food package are being adapted from WIC.

The pilot will take place in the El Paso area, specifically for randomly selected 2500 children in the Ysleta Independent School District. The card distribution and participant training will be done by the West Texas Food Bank. Families will receive a card, similar to the WIC EBT card and will be able to use it in WIC approved stores to buy the authorized foods. Since participants may travel outside of the pilot area, the Summer Nutrition Card may be accepted statewide at any WIC authorized outlet. The pilot will take place from June 1, 2011 until August 21, 2011. If you receive a call from a participant or WIC vendor on any questions, complaints or for a lost or stolen card, please refer them to the **West Texas Food Bank** at **915-595-1060**.

If you have questions, or require additional information, please contact Angela Gil, Nutrition Education Consultant, at (512) 341-4590 or angela.gil@dshs.state.tx.us.



Welcome!

Summer Nutrition Card 2011

A photograph of a diverse group of smiling children of various ethnicities, including African American, Hispanic, and Caucasian, huddled together and looking towards the camera. They are wearing colorful clothing and appear to be in a school setting.A smaller version of the Summer Nutrition Card graphic from the top of the page, tilted slightly, positioned over the bottom of the children's photo.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and administered by Texas Department of Agriculture and Texas Department of State Health Services. The Summer Nutrition Card Pilot is a project for Summer 2011 to explore new ways to feed children during the summer months. Ysleta Independent School District is the only school district in Texas participating in the pilot.

2011 Summer Nutrition Card Shopping Guide

Effective June 1 through August 21, 2011



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