



NOV - 4 2002

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

3101 Park
Center Drive

Alexandria, VA
22302-1500

Dear State WIC Director:

In December of 2000 the White House issued an Executive Memorandum citing the continued disparities in immunization rates of low-income children. Because the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) has access to the largest number of low-income children in the country, it was determined that WIC held the greatest potential for helping to improve immunization rates. Most States continue to fall short of the Healthy People 2010 goal to achieve 90 percent or higher immunization coverage rates in this country, and need WIC's help to get children into the health care system to obtain immunizations.

On this CD you will find materials designed to help WIC State agencies implement the August 2001 Final WIC Policy Memorandum #2001-7, Immunization Screening and Referral in WIC. As you know, the policy memorandum standardizes minimum procedures for immunization screening and referral in WIC. These minimum procedures are for use in WIC Programs where infants and children under two are not screened and referred for immunizations by more comprehensive means, and/or by other programs and entities.

We recognize that many State agencies already have immunization screening and referral implementation plans in place and/or are currently doing more than the minimum requirement for immunization screening and referral outlined in the policy memorandum. We applaud those efforts and encourage you to continue. Implementation of the USDA policy does not necessarily mean your current procedures for immunization screening and referral will need to be changed.

However, you may find the information contained on this CD helpful for training new staff, or to clarify issues pertaining to the policy memorandum and/or coordinating with immunization programs. Furthermore, you may find this information helpful since immunization screening and referral procedures will be designated an area of focus for local agency reviews in fiscal years 2004 and 2005.

We hope you find these materials useful in training staff to implement the new policy requirements. Thank you for all that you do for WIC participants.

Sincerely,

PATRICIA N. DANIELS
Director
Supplemental Food Programs Division