

Implementation Timeline:

March-April 2006

Final VENA Policy and Guidance issued.

VENA Competency Training pilot and formative evaluation, conducted by the training contractor in Albany, NY.

VENA Implementation Guidance issued.

July-September 2006

Regional VENA Competency Training sessions, in a train-the-trainer format, addressing the following competencies:

- critical thinking,
- rapport building, and
- health outcome-based assessment.

Attendance is required for representatives from all WIC State agencies.

December 15, 2006

WIC State agencies submit to FNS Regional Offices results from their self-evaluations of existing nutrition assessment protocols and identify potential areas for enhancement.

Spring 2007

Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 State Plan Guidance Issued: Includes instructions on VENA Implementation Plan and the amendments necessary to implement Policy Memorandum 98-9: WIC Nutrition Risk Criteria; Revision 8.

August 15, 2007

WIC State agencies submit FY 2008 State Plans to include VENA Implementation Plan and implementation of WIC Policy Memorandum, 98-9, Revision 8.

Fiscal Year 2008 – 2009

WIC State and local agencies revise nutrition assessment policy and procedures, provide necessary staff training, etc., (as described in their FNS approved plans) to implement VENA.

Fiscal Year 2010 (October 1, 2009)

VENA implemented in all WIC State agencies.

Want to know more?

<http://www.nal.usda.gov/wicworks/>



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VENA

WIC Value Enhanced Nutrition Assessment



A Positive Approach for Positive Results

VENA Information for WIC Program Managers

WIC Value Enhanced Nutrition Assessment – A Positive Approach for Positive Results

Why VENA

VENA was developed in response to the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) report which found that traditional diet-assessment methods were not valid to determine an *individual's* WIC eligibility.

To maintain program integrity, and to retain WIC's status as a premier public health nutrition program, FNS (in conjunction with the National WIC Association) developed Value Enhanced Nutrition Assessment (VENA) Policy and Guidance.

VENA defines a quality and comprehensive WIC nutrition assessment, and shifts the focus of the assessment process from eligibility determination to a participant-centered health outcome based process.



VENA Supports Revitalizing Quality Nutrition Services (RQNS) in WIC.

VENA is an integral part of a continual quality improvement process for WIC - RQNS - that focuses on:

- WIC Nutrition Assessment Practices and Processes
- Staff Competencies/Training
- Quality Assurance/Monitoring

VENA Supports FNS Goals

- **Supports USDA Strategic Plan** Goal 4.2 by defining the process and content of a quality and comprehensive WIC nutrition assessment upon which nutrition education, food package selection and referrals will be based.
- **Supports Healthier U.S.** by providing WIC participants with an assessment approach based on desired health outcomes rather than deficiencies.
- **Improves program integrity** by establishing guidance for WIC Nutrition Assessment policies and procedures