#### 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/

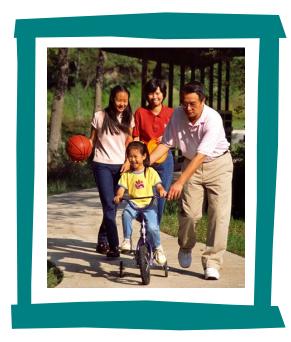




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## **VENA**

## WIC Value Enhanced Nutrition Assessment



## A Positive Approach for Positive Results

**VENA Information for WIC Nutrition Staff** 

# VENA Supports Revitalizing Quality Nutrition Services in WIC

- Provides a positive approach based on desired health outcomes rather than on deficiencies.
- Allows staff and participants to use their limited time to identify individual needs and concerns.
- Complements participantcentered nutrition services by creating a partnership with the participant in goalsetting.
- Improves staff competencies.
- Guides WIC State agencies in developing nutrition assessment policies and procedures.



### Philosophy:

**VENA** is the first step in quality nutrition services.

VENA connects nutrition assessment to effective and appropriate nutrition services that best meet each participant's needs.

**VENA** is an integral part of a continual quality improvement process for WIC.

### **VENA Benefits**

Increases the **VALUE** of the WIC experience through a participant-centered approach.

**ENHANCES** the quality of WIC services by linking WIC nutrition assessment to the subsequent nutrition services (nutrition education, food package, and referrals).

Provides a comprehensive **NUTRITION** assessment that considers the WIC participant's mind and body in addition to environmental influences.

Establishes National standards for the WIC Nutrition **ASSESSMENT** process.