

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

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

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 participant-centered nutrition services by creating a partnership with the participant in goal-setting.
- 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.