

ATTACHMENT 3

THE WIC RESEARCH INFORMATION NETWORK

BACKGROUND

*WIC Works Resource System*¹ is an online data and information system which serves as an education and training resource center for staff of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), USDA and State and local WIC Agencies, public health professional and the public at large. This web-based system has been delivering services since 2000. It began as a joint project between the National Agricultural Library/Food and Nutrition Information Center, USDA/Food and Nutrition Service, and the University of Maryland. The WIC Works mission is “to serve as an encompassing resource for WIC nutritionists and other WIC professionals nationwide.” WIC Works has grown to become an informative and thorough online resource for health and nutrition professionals.

PURPOSE

The *WIC Research Information Network* is envisioned as a new module to the WIC Works Resource System that will facilitate rapid advances in WIC research and translation of research into policy and practice through improved networking and access to information. The purpose is also to facilitate use of research information by program managers, policy officials and the public through access to reliable up-to-date summary information on WIC research findings and progress. In addition, the *WIC Research Information Network* will support a web-based social network for researchers to facilitate ongoing communication and collaboration and stimulate innovative competition involving all aspects of WIC studies.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the grant will be create and maintain the *WIC Research Information Network*. This is envisioned as requiring work to:

- i. Create and maintain a website providing a comprehensive easily searchable catalogue and annotated bibliography of WIC studies (published, near publication, ongoing and planned) with links to the publications, websites, presentations, authors and sponsors, providing swift access to detailed information.
- ii. Develop and routinely disseminate through the web a monthly executive summary of new developments in WIC research that is widely used and highly regarded by program managers and other stakeholders.
- iii. Create and maintain an easily searchable data base of topic-specific executive summaries of research findings on WIC for use by program managers, policy officials and the public.

¹ http://wicworks.nal.usda.gov/nal_display/index.php?info_center=12&tax_level=1&tax_subject=642

- iv. Create and maintain an easily searchable data base of study design documents and questionnaires used in WIC studies, with links to validation studies, data sets and computer code used in analysis.
- v. Create, maintain and provide access to a monitored, refereed social network that enables all people interested in WIC research to register, provide contact information, and use the network to efficiently facilitate ongoing communication and collaboration and stimulate innovative competition involving all aspects of WIC studies.

Evaluation Factors and Criteria *Total Possible = 100%*

The evaluation criteria and weights are detailed below:

Research Merit – Suggested work is likely to enhance the ability of previous, ongoing and future WIC-related research to improve WIC program management, service delivery and policy development. **(25%)**

Overall Approach – Quality of proposed plans for developing and maintaining a secure and robust web-based *WIC Research Information Network* as envisioned as a module attached to the *WIC Works Resource System*, or an alternative that will better facilitate rapid advances in WIC research and translation of research into policy and practice through improved networking and access to information. **(25%)**

Feasibility – Overall approach is reasonable and appropriate while demonstrating experience and ability in the areas of: web-based development and research; supporting a social network for researchers to facilitate ongoing communications and collaborations. **(25%)**

Staffing/Budget/Timeline – The budget should be consistent with objectives and timelines. The amount of funds allocated for staffing and activities should be reasonable based off the procurement strategy. **(25%)**