



United  
States  
Department  
of  
Agriculture

Food and  
Nutrition  
Service  
  
3101 Park  
Center Drive  
Alexandria, VA  
22302-1500

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Dear «Contact»:

As you are aware, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has contracted with Abt Associates to conduct a multi-year national evaluation of the *Loving Support* Peer Counseling program. The evaluation consists of two “phases.” In Phase 1, data collected from a web-based survey to State WIC agencies provided a wealth of important information about the *Loving Support* Peer Counseling program. Since the administration of this survey in 2008, approximately six years have elapsed and funding for the *Loving Support* Peer Counseling program increased from approximately \$15 million to approximately \$80 million. As a result, we are preparing to conduct a second round of this survey as part of Phase 2 of the evaluation, to learn how States have used these additional funds and what changes States may have made in the policy guidance, training procedures, and monitoring they provide to local WIC agencies with *Loving Support* Peer Counseling programs.

We will begin asking State WIC agencies in your region to complete this follow-up survey in the next few weeks. The survey will again be web-based and will ask State WIC Agencies about how *Loving Support* peer counseling is being implemented in their State. Specifically, it includes questions on State staff that work on *Loving Support* peer counseling, training, support, and policy guidance that the State provides to local WIC agencies, and what types of data the State WIC agencies collect from local WIC Agencies about their *Loving Support* Peer Counseling programs. In response to feedback received during the first round of the survey, we have shortened the length of the survey overall and clarified questions that agency staff found confusing. Given that participation in the survey is voluntary, we would

like your support in encouraging State WIC agencies in your region to complete the second round of this survey. The deadline for survey completion is [DATE].

Enclosed is a copy of the letter that FNS will send to State WIC Agencies to solicit their participation in the survey. Study staff from Abt Associates will be sending these letters on [DATE].

Thank you for your assistance with this effort. If you have any questions, please contact Joe Robare, Project Officer for the WIC Peer Counseling Study, at FNS by phone (703-305-2128) or email (Joseph.Robare@fns.usda.gov), or the Abt Project Director, Carter Epstein. She may be reached toll-free at 1-855-311-2461 or by email at Carter\_Epstein@abtassoc.com.

Sincerely,

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Enclosures:

Letter to State WIC Agencies

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