Indiana

WIC Certification Requirements

December 1, 2014 – New policy sent to local agencies
New form for signatures

Policy start date – December 8, 2014

WIC signature page for certification

Modified to include citizenship question
Step 1. Eligibility for Public Benefits

- **Eligibility for Public Benefits**
  This section is not required by federal law; however, as required by Indiana Code 12-32-1, this section must be completed by all applicants who are 18 years of age and older.

- I verify, under the penalty of perjury, that I am:
  - 1) a United States citizen; or
  - 2) a Qualified Alien (as defined under 8 U.S.C. 1641).

- A person, who knowingly or intentionally makes a false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation in the verification above commits a Class D felony pursuant to Indiana Code 12-32-1-7.

- ___________________________________________   ___________________________________________
  Printed Name of Adult Applicant   Signature of Adult Applicant
IC 12-32-1

- The code went into effect in 2011 and did not allow state or federal funds to go unqualified aliens.

- IC 12-32-1-5
  Verification required; exceptions; health care provider alternative

- It is believed that this section could have been used to exempt WIC as a health program
Is WIC a health program?

- WIC had not been effected why now?
- Indiana WIC is now viewed as welfare program based on the IC 12-32-1.
Local Agency Responses

- Many questions and State Office calls
  - Who is a “qualified Alien”
  - What about the breastfeeding mom and baby
  - What about the children
  - How will client trust us if they have to tell citizenship

On Wednesday 12/3 the state announced a webinar for Thursday Morning to answer questions

1. Local Agencies were told not to answer questions - refer clients to legal counsel
Local Agency Responses

- At least 3 agencies called NWA

- My goals as a local coordinator
  1. Learn why this was happening in IN
  2. Advocate for the policy to be changed
  3. Get the policy changed
Advocacy Efforts

- NWA helped draft a letter to be sent to legislators.
- The letter was forwarded to all coordinators to use in advocacy efforts.
- The Coordinators Association Steering Committee sent a letter to the Governor in February.
- Several agencies have expressed concern in phone calls and letters to the Governor, the State Health Commissioner, and to state legislators.
NWA

- NWA - recommendations to be involved in the state politically and with other organizations

- I wished for more connections

- NWA had connections!

- After 3 conference calls there was a person to take leadership of the issue in Indiana
Advocacy Group

- Indianapolis Jewish Community Relation Council
  - Director of Government Affairs, David Sklar

- Where did the requirement for WIC to be included in IC 12-32-1 originate? Supposedly not the Governor’s office.

- Thoughts were there was progress in working with the staff of the Governor Pence’s Office
- Stalled right now
- Continues to work on the issue
Results in Tippecanoe County

- Tippecanoe County (caseload 4500) number has been 14
  1. Only 1 declined in the last month
  2. In our community it has been on Facebook
  3. Breastfeeding mothers not eligible have come back requesting formula

Questions:
  1. Are people saying they are qualified and they are not?
  2. Have they stopped coming in based on word of mouth?
Other Indiana Counties

- Marshall County (caseload 1200) 10 clients
- Elkhart County (caseload 6750) estimates 100 clients
- Allen County (caseload 12,400) report none effected

- Very hard to know the effects even in counties that are trying to track what is happening
Local Agencies in Indiana

Thank you NWA!
For be an advocate
For Local Agencies
And
WIC Participants!