

TIP OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

The Women, Infant and Children (WIC) Program is called upon by the President, Congress, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), and the American public to account for its stewardship of appropriated funds and to provide responsible program management. This accounting entails adequate and appropriate monitoring of its food delivery systems to prevent fraud, waste and abuse from occurring and to safeguard program benefits. The annual Integrity Profile (TIP) report provides assurance that the Program is fulfilling this responsibility. The report describes the practices employed by State agencies to deter fraud, waste and abuse as well as actions and outcomes in response to abusive vendors. Through fraud and abuse prevention and detection, we can assure the American public and Congress that all reasonable efforts are being taken to ensure program integrity.

Data Collection Objectives

The overall objectives of the TIP subsystem are: (1) to describe all actions taken by State agencies to monitor vendors, including on-site monitoring and investigations, (2) to describe the characteristics of the WIC vendor population, and (3) to account for fraud and abuse prevention efforts, including training to prevent errors. In order to do this, case data is provided for each authorized vendor. The collection of data on an individual vendor basis facilitates data accuracy and enables FNS to obtain information that cannot be obtained through aggregate data alone.

Reporting Requirements

The TIP subsystem contains three OMB approved forms used to capture pertinent data from State agencies: The State Agency Profile of Integrity Practices and Procedures (FNS-698), The Integrity Profile TIP Report (FNS-699), and, the TIP Data Entry Form (FNS-700). FNS-698 describes State Agency vendor management policies and practices, FNS-699 captures aggregate data pertaining to State agency operations and FNS-700 is comprised of data pertaining to each authorized WIC vendor. State agencies must submit their data into the subsystem by February 1 of the fiscal year following the end of the fiscal year for which the data pertains.

Integration With STARS

Since approximately 90% of all WIC vendors are also authorized by the Food Stamp Program (FSP), the TIP subsystem was developed and integrated into the Food Stamp Program (FSP) Store Tracking and Retailer Subsystem (STARS). This integration allows users to match TIP data with retailer data from STARS to obtain information on store types as well as vendors disqualified by FSP that should be referred to WIC for disqualification. This integration also enables FNS to match WIC and FSP redemption data in order to identify stores whose total WIC redemptions potentially represent 50 percent or more of their total food sales.