

Retail Vendor Certification

Federal Overview

Certification

Agenda

- ▶ Two Purposes
- ▶ Complex and costly process
- ▶ Retail cash register market
- ▶ Integration funding

- ▶ State Activities – KY & TX

Certification

- Two Purposes:
 - To ensure benefits are deducted correctly; and
 - Payment to the stores is accurate
- ▶ Challenges:
 - How to handle as WIC EBT grows?
 - Is there a way to manage certifications more efficiently and meet the two purposes?

Certification

- ▶ WIC EBT cash register certifications are complex and costly
- ▶ There are many people involved
 - Retail vendor – customer service, IT, network, operations staff
 - Retail vendor's cash register software provider
 - Third Party Processors and value added resellers
 - State agency, FNS and technical consultants

Certification

- ▶ Retail cash register market is ‘fractured’
 - Five or six major register manufacturers
 - IBM, NCR, Retalix, RORC, ICL–Fujitsu, Casio
 - Many others
 - ‘Out of the Box’ solutions for smaller retailers
 - Customized solutions for corporate and mid-sized stores
 - Newer and older versions in use
 - Some chains have customized the ECR software so that it really isn’t close to the original product

Integration funding

- ▶ The Federal funding objective -- pay once to upgrade a cash register system – use in multiple states and retail vendors
 - Updates to the base application that is resold to independent stores and to corporate stores
 - Idea that store X updates Brand Z register in State Y
 - Stores A, B & C in State M can obtain the Store X WIC upgrade
 - Stores D, E & F in State N can obtain the Store X WIC upgrade
 - **Reality is more complex**