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For immediate release

DHHR announces WIC EBT contract award

West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources officials announced that a contract has been awarded to FIS Government Solutions and Custom Data Processing (CDP) for the development of an operating system for the electronic delivery of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children - better known as the WIC Program.

The WIC Program provides nutrition, breastfeeding counseling and education and nutritious foods to supplement the diets of at risk women, infants and children up to the age of 5.

The new system will allow WIC participants to use an electronic debit card, replacing the current paper voucher system. The new debit card will be similar to the State's Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card used for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits.

When in operation, the system will reduce checkout time at the grocery store and enhance the experience for both WIC shoppers and grocers.

The electronic delivery of WIC benefits also offers additional safeguards from loss or theft through personal identification number or PIN protection.

Pilot operation of the program is expected to begin in the fall of 2012 with complete statewide operation scheduled for early 2013.

To learn more about the WIC Program, visit us on the web at <http://ons/wvdhhr.org>. WIC is an equal opportunity provider.

For more information about FIS, go to www.fisglobal.com. Information about CDP is available at www.cdpehs.com.

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