

June 3, 2011

**Expanded Immunization Services RFP
Questions and Answers**

- 1. In an effort to prevent the duplication of effort, would the Health Department be willing to coordinate with the winning bidder to allow them to perform shot record screenings and complete Immtrac consent forms for the WIC clients?**

***Policy Number GA:06.0 of the WIC Policy and Procedures Manual was provided as supporting documentation for this request.**

Response: While it is the Health Department's goal to reduce the duplication of efforts as much as possible, the purpose of this RFP to ensure that immunization services are readily available for the WIC clients who chose to take advantage of the service during the course of their WIC visit. First, the shot record/immunization screening is just a portion of the screening that occurs during a WIC interview and is not a burdensome task. Second, a review of Policy No. GA:06.0 indicates that the purpose of the policy is to encourage the exchange of health and medical information between local agencies and health care providers by *way of the applicant/participant*; not a direct exchange of the information. In other words, when an agency provides information to the applicant, the agency should encourage the applicant to share it with the other agency so the other agency does not have to duplicate the screening process with the same client.

- 2. Policy No. GA:05.0 of the WIC Policy and Procedures Manual provides that a local agencies that do not have available health services shall enter into a written agreement with another health agency that does provide such services. Is WIC willing to enter such an agreement with the selected bidder?**

Response: WIC's current process of referral is to provide clients with a list of service providers from which they can choose. In any facility where there is an immunization clinic, the Department can agree to encourage clients to visit the clinic in the building, however, the Department cannot agree to refer its clients exclusively to the clinics in the building (the selected proposer) and withhold pertinent information from them, such as location that may be more convenient for the client. . It is the Department's goal to equip the WIC clients with all the available options.

Of course the Department wants the winning bidder to flourish as a result of being located in the vicinity of a WIC site. We believe that such a partnership would greatly benefit the clients.