



“Pearls of Change” Training Program

What is the “Pearls of Change” training program? The “Pearls of Change” is a six-month training program to help local WIC agencies tailor and reinforce use of motivational interviewing (MI) to best fit their WIC individual education sessions. Offered through an application process, the training will be conducted by the California WIC Branch’s Training and Career Development Unit (TCDU), in partnership with local WIC agencies and MI consultant Steve Malcolm Berg-Smith. Similar to *Finding the Teacher Within*, the program will be implemented through a combined leader and educator training model. Unique to this training will be mentoring of staff through observation and feedback.

During the training program, there will be opportunity for:

- **educators** to deepen their understanding of MI, practice MI, and discuss effectiveness of the approach. (Training will include an orientation, skill reinforcement, practice activities, and reflection.)
- **supervisors and agency leaders** to attend a series of three workshops: a 2-day Leader Orientation/Mentoring workshop, a Train-the-Trainer workshop, and a Wrap-Up Leader workshop.
- **agency mentors** to observe WIC staff during 2-3 individual education sessions and to provide support and feedback.

A Five Year Plan

The WIC Branch plans to rollout the “Pearls of Change” training program over five years, in approximately six-month phases. Each year the Branch will offer two training programs: one in the Winter/Spring and one in the Summer/Fall.

We anticipate that approximately 30 local agencies will participate in the training program. Very large agencies will most likely rollout their own training using State-developed training resources. We will also be offering some MI workshops to agencies not participating in the “Pearls of Change” training program.

The first training will begin in the Winter/Spring of 2007. Three agencies: Tulare County, Ventura County, and Sutter County will be participating.

Local Agency Selection

Local agencies interested in the “Pearls of Change” training program must complete a written application and phone interview. The WIC Branch is especially interested in local agencies that have: (1) already implemented a *Finding the Teacher Within* revitalization of their group education and (2) had staff attend the basic MI training.

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More Information

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