

**SECTION: CERTIFICATION**

**SUBJECT: Certification Requirements: Services/Information Provided by the Local Agency at the Time of Certification**

**ITEM: Alcohol and Drug Abuse**

**Policy**

Local agencies shall increase WIC participants' access to information about the dangers of using alcohol, [drugs](#), and [other harmful substances](#) during pregnancy and while breastfeeding, and screen and make [referrals](#) for counseling and treatment, as appropriate. Local agencies shall also maintain a list of local counseling and treatment programs, hotlines, and self help groups for referring alcohol and other drug users.

**Legal and Federal Authority**

This policy complies with Section 3201 of Public Law 100-690, the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, amended Section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966. Federal regulations were issued on January 26, 1993 for implementation by March 29, 1993, 7 Code of Federal Regulations Part 246 Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children; Drug and Other Harmful Substance Abuse Information and Referrals.

**The Role of WIC**

Local agencies shall meet the alcohol and drug abuse requirements by providing the following:

- (1) Screen and refer, as appropriate, at initial and subsequent certification.
- (2) Provide information at any nutrition education contact.

**INTEGRATION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND REFERRAL ACTIVITIES AT LOCAL AGENCIES**

ROLE	HOW	RESOURCES
<p><i>Disseminating Information:</i></p> <p>Raise awareness of the dangers of drug abuse by disseminating information to all adult participants and the parents/caretakers of infants and child participants</p>	<p>Incorporate drug abuse information into existing program operations using a positive information sharing approach, e.g., nutrition education which includes individual and group education.</p>	<p>Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) materials for WIC participants and WIC professional staff.</p>

ROLE	HOW	RESOURCES
<p><i>Screening:</i></p> <p>Conduct screening of participants only to the extent necessary to determine whether there is possible alcohol and other drug use.</p> <p><i>Referrals:</i></p> <p>Refer to available community programs for assessment and treatment by professionals.</p>	<p>The questions for drug abuse screening should be part of the nutritional assessment. At the time of initial and subsequent certification the counselor shall determine if the participant may have a problem.</p> <p>If responses to screening questions are positive, or indicate that alcohol or drug abuse may be a possibility, an immediate referral for assessment should be made for participants not already in care. Regardless of whether a referral is accepted or rejected, a simple notation should be made on either the participant's case file or family folder documenting that a referral was suggested. If a referral is accepted, an electronic or written notation should be made as to when and to whom the referral was made. Establish linkages with referral agencies to coordinate referrals</p>	<p>Nutrition assessment certification forms in assessing past and present history on alcohol, drug and tobacco use.</p> <p>The list of current local resources maintained by local agencies should include counseling and treatment programs, and hotline and self-help groups for alcohol and other drug users. The directory of local resources shall include the program's name and location, services, provided, hours, cost, eligibility requirements, admission procedures, and contact person. Maintain a current list of resources on drug and alcohol counseling and treatment programs, and self help groups. Establish linkages with Alcohol and Drug programs in the community.</p>