

## **Breastfeeding Promotion and Support**

- I. All pregnant WIC participants must be encouraged to breastfeed unless contraindicated for health reasons (e.g., HIV-positive, illegal drug use, use of contraindicated drugs and/or medications, etc.).
- II. All staff including clerical, reception, administrative, and nutrition staff are encouraged to promote and support breastfeeding throughout the course of their daily tasks during interaction with WIC participants. (Refer to FNS Grow and Glow curriculum.)
- III. All WIC prenatal and postpartum participants will receive counseling/education which:
  - a. Integrates breastfeeding promotion into the continuum of prenatal care and postpartum care.
  - b. Includes an assessment of participant's knowledge, concerns and attitudes related to breastfeeding at the earliest opportunity in the prenatal period.
  - c. Provides prenatal and postpartum education based on this assessment.
- IV. Prenatal counseling/education should include helping the mother to communicate effectively with hospital staff, physician and/or her health care provider about her decision to breastfeed.
  - a. The participant's family and friends should be included in breastfeeding education and support sessions, whenever possible.
  - b. Clinics must have a referral list of lactation and breastfeeding services and resources available in their community that they can refer clients to for promoting and extending breastfeeding duration rates.
- V. A mechanism must be implemented in each WIC clinic to incorporate a method of positive peer influence into breastfeeding education (e.g., peer support counselors, bulletin boards featuring successful breastfeeding WIC participants, peer testimonials in classes, peer discussion groups, etc.).
- VI. Local agencies are required to obtain permission from the State Breastfeeding Coordinator, State Nutrition Coordinator or State WIC Program Manager before

allowing formula manufacturer representatives to provide education at local clinics.

- a. Formula manufacturer representatives are authorized to provide product specific education in the form of research articles, scientific and evidenced based fact sheets and nutritional content tables. They are not authorized to give out incentives or gifts to local WIC Staffs.
- b. Formula manufacturers/distributors may be invited to sponsor or exhibit at WIC conferences provided that they agree not to:
  - i. Display standard infant formulas.
  - ii. Hand out sample formula products to staff.
  - iii. Hand out promotional items with formula manufacturer names, brands, logos or product images.
- c. Formula manufacturers/distributors that sponsor or exhibit at WIC conferences may:
  - i. Provide information and education to WIC staff on special formulas including items listed in part V, a (above).
  - ii. Use signs and banners with the company name and logo.
- d. The following businesses may not sponsor or exhibit at WIC Conferences:
  - i. Businesses who resell infant formula obtained from sources not approved by the State agency.
  - ii. Businesses convicted of violations of business integrity.
  - iii. Businesses having a conflict of interest with Utah WIC Program Policy.