

Proven Solutions For Planning and Implementing Electronic Benefit Transfer

WIC EBT Consulting Services

Supporting Electronic Benefit Transfer Initiatives

Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) is well recognized by both federal and state government agencies as being a superior solution for the distribution of benefits —especially food benefits — using commercial infrastructure for the distribution network. The technology is well established in the SNAP program and is now being proven to be equally efficient for WIC. Agencies, participants, and vendors that have moved to EBT are its strongest proponents.

However, the move is not without challenges; it is a major paradigm shift with multiple paths for implementation. MAXIMUS has been at the forefront of EBT since its inception more than twenty years ago.



Our resume shows a continuous and successful track record of both innovations within the industry and in assisting our clients to plan for and implement successful EBT projects. We offer our WIC clients the most extensive expertise and experience available in the industry both in getting their information systems ready for EBT and with the actual implementation of EBT.

Electronic Benefit Transfer Program Services

Our staff's in-depth EBT knowledge provides a variety of consulting services and program support to ensure an effective and efficient EBT initiative from program inception to "go live" and beyond. We understand the technology, personally know the industry participants, and have a good working relationship with Food and Nutrition Service (FNS).

Snapshot

Planning Support

- Feasibility studies
- Alternatives, cost-benefit, requirements, and best practice analysis
- Specifications definition
- Advance Planning Documents

Procurement Support

- Develop/validate detail program and system requirements
- Preparation of procurement documents
- Contract negotiation assistance

Design, Development and Implementation QA Support

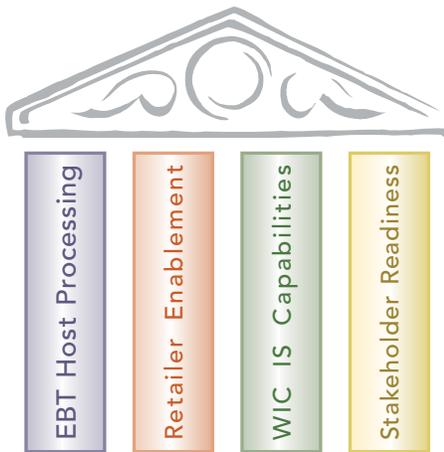
- Gap analysis for EBT readiness
- Technical and system conversion support
- System acceptance testing
- System conversion support
- Vendor oversight
- Pilot evaluations

EBT: Online vs. Offline Platforms

We've Been Here Since the Beginning

MAXIMUS has been a supporter of the WIC EBT program since the beginning. Our body of work includes:

- 1991–1993: Completed a study for the USDA FNS to determine the feasibility of sharing a common EBT system between the Food Stamp and WIC Programs
- 1999–2003: Worked with the USDA FNS to write the FReD-E, including the requirements related to EBT readiness
- 1997–2010 Chaired the ANSI standards committee that developed the ISO 8583 and X9.93 technical interface specifications that have made nationwide EBT possible and affordable
- 2007–2010 Greatly contributed to the development of standards for WIC EBT operations, including EBT Operating rules
- 2008–2010 Served as chair and greatly contributed to the development of a Universal Interface specification designed to standardize the interaction between an EBT and an MIS technology platform



The Four Pillars of an EBT Solution

The process to choose between online and offline platforms is one of the first decisions that needs to be made by WIC management as they determine eWIC feasibility for their agency. MAXIMUS understands and has worked with the various current WIC EBT technologies. We also know states' technical environments and requirements for making existing WIC information systems EBT-ready. We recognize that the choice of technology is ultimately based on the agency's desire for improved clinic operations and cost effective service to its participants.

We'll be Here Through 2020

Through the Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, FNS has set the goal for all state WIC agencies to transfer to an EBT system by 2020. While this direction will revolutionize the WIC program, it will not be an easy undertaking for state agencies. This requirement will necessitate that state agencies have as much expertise and understanding of the world of EBT in order to move successfully from the planning phase to the implementation phase with the system best meets their needs.

One Focus, One Source

MAXIMUS has maintained a single focus on government service since 1975. It is our sole purpose, and our dedicated professionals help government agencies provide essential human services with a caring attitude and deep subject matter expertise. We invite you to contact MAXIMUS to discuss how our capabilities can support your needs.

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