



**United States  
Department  
of  
Agriculture**

Food and  
Nutrition  
Service

Midwest Region

77 W. Jackson Blvd.  
20<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, IL  
60604-3591

*March 8, 2017*

Dr. Jerome M. Adams, MD, MPH  
State Health Commissioner  
2 North Meridian Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Dr. Adams:

Thank you for your letter of February 22, 2017, renewing your request to use Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) funds to pay for clinic staff's time to conduct blood lead testing in the East Chicago and Hammond WIC clinics. Since your previous request in September 2016, the State has declared an emergency which affects these clinics as they are located within the USS Lead Superfund site.

In October 2016, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) was unable to approve the Indiana State Department of Health's (ISDH) request to use WIC funds to pay for blood lead testing in East Chicago because, as explained further in our previous correspondence, lead screening is not an allowable WIC nutrition services and administration (NSA) cost. Although an emergency declaration has been issued by Governor Eric Holcomb, a State emergency declaration does not provide the legal authority for FNS to use federal WIC NSA funds to pay for staff time to conduct the blood lead tests.

FNS acknowledges the efforts of the (ISDH) to offer more than 30 lead testing clinic sites in cooperation with the East Chicago Health Department. We remain available to ISDH to assist in identifying a cost allocation methodology that would allow WIC staff time to be charged to another program to pay for this type of service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim English". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tim English  
Regional Administrator