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SNAP & EFNEP Regional Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Centers of Excellence (RNECE)

Request for Applications - Highlights

Helen Chipman, PhD, RD

**National Program Leader, Food and Nutrition Education
NIFA/USDA**

Webinar – 9 March 2015; repeated 10 March 2015

Includes corrected links – necessitated by launch of NIFA's redesigned website



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AFRI-RNECE Webinar Focus

- Provide context – overview of program and funding intent; key considerations and connections
- Review RFA preparation highlights
- Identify where to go for additional information DURING proposal development and BEFORE proposal submission
 - NIFA will be responsible for posting updated information, such as response to questions received
 - Applicants will be responsible for checking and including what is posted, as appropriate
 - Note – NIFA’s website is undergoing re-design. Applicants should check with M. Diallo or H. Chipman at NIFA if links don’t work or you don’t see updated frequently asked questions

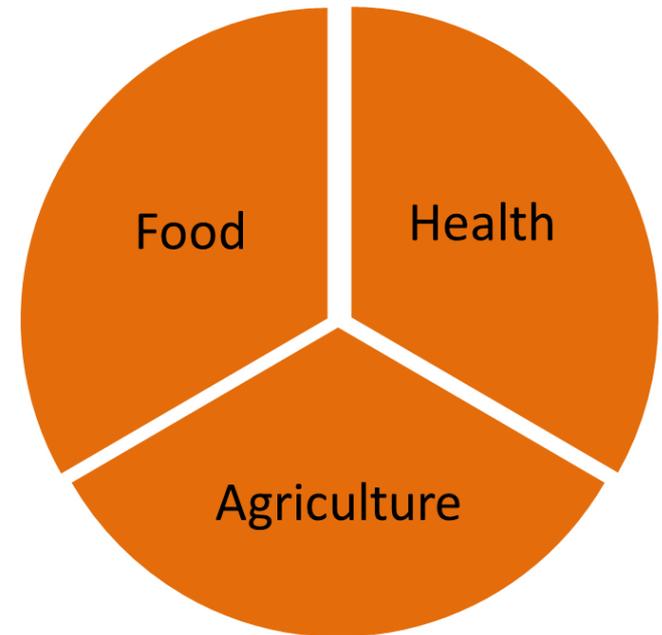


Nutrition education for low income groups has been a USDA priority for nearly half a century!



Why Nutrition Education?

- USDA supports healthier populations through food and agriculture
- Social, health, and economic benefits
- Ever-present need given constantly changing food and social environment
- Both general and targeted vulnerable populations





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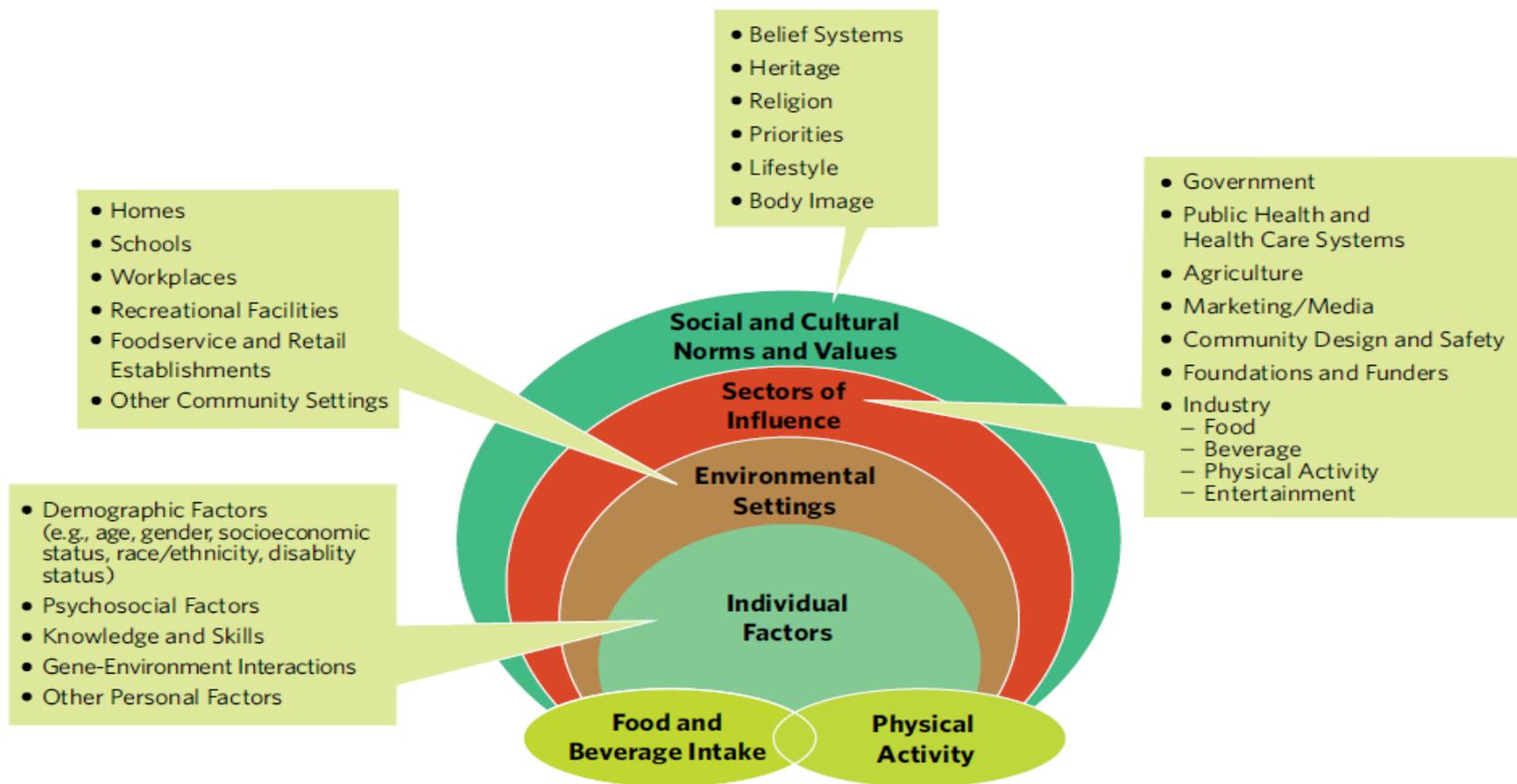
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Starting with a common definition - Nutrition education is...

- Any combination of educational strategies
- Accompanied by environmental supports
- Designed to facilitate the voluntary adoption of food- and nutrition-related behaviors conducive to health and well-being
- Delivered through multiple venues
- Involves activities at the individual, community, and policy levels

*Source: Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior
Adapted from definition given by Isobel Contento, EdD, RD
Programs such as EFNEP and SNAP-Ed may have additional program specific criteria*

FIGURE 6 1: A Social Ecological Framework for Nutrition and Physical Activity Decisions



Source: Adapted from: (1) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity. State Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity (NPAO) Program: Technical Assistance Manual. January 2008, page 36. Accessed April 21, 2010. http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/downloads/TA_Manual_1_31_08.pdf. (2) Institute of Medicine. Preventing Childhood Obesity: Health in the Balance, Washington (DC): The National Academies Press; 2005, page 85. (3) Story M, Kaphingst KM, Robinson-O'Brien R, Glanz K. Creating healthy food and eating environments: Policy and environmental approaches. *Annu Rev Public Health* 2008;29:253-272.



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Further Clarification for SNAP-Ed

Complementary and integrated community and public health approaches

- ❖ Nutrition education
- ❖ Nutrition marketing/promotion
- ❖ Policy, systems, and environmental change



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Policy, Systems and Environmental Change Defined

- ❖ Environmental: Built or physical environments which are visual/observable. May also include economic, social, normative or message environments
 - Examples: Modifications where food is sold, signage in stairwells, financial incentives/disincentives, shaping attitudes at schools and with service providers

Population focus – making changed behaviors the easy choice for specific segments of the population

Policy, Systems and Environmental Change Defined

- ❖ Policy: Written organizational position, decision, or course of action that helps guide behavioral change
 - Ideally includes actions, resources, implementation, evaluation, and enforcement
- ❖ Systems: Unwritten ongoing, organizational decisions or changes that result in new activities reaching large proportions of people the organization serves
 - Alters how the organization or network of organizations conducts business

Population focus – making changed behaviors the easy choice for specific segments of the population



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USDA's Commitment – Two Programs

❖ Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed) – **23 years; \$ 401,000,000 in FY 2014**

❖ National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)

- Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) – **45 years; \$ 67,934,000 in FY 2014**

ALL States and US Territories

Considerable financial and organizational commitment by agencies and partners over time



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EFNEP and SNAP-Ed Administration

EFNEP

- Began in 1969
- Oversight by NIFA
- Administered by 1862 and 1890 land-grant universities
- In all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and 6 U.S. territories
- FY 2014 funding - \$67,934,000

SNAP-Ed

- Began in 1992
- Oversight by FNS
- Administered by land-grant universities, public health agencies, non-profits, and others (LGU's in 47 of 50 states)
- In all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and 1 U.S. territory
- FY 2014 funding - \$401,000,000



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EFNEP: A Program that Works

- More than 500,000 adults and youth taught each year
- More than 90% of adults who complete the program report improved food and physical activity behaviors, such as consuming an extra cup of fruits and vegetables
- 2013 Data: Healthy Eating Index Score: 51.2 at entry; 56.5 at exit; scores improved by 5.3 points

<http://www.nifa.usda.gov/resource/efnep-2013-national-reports>; accessed 12 March 2015



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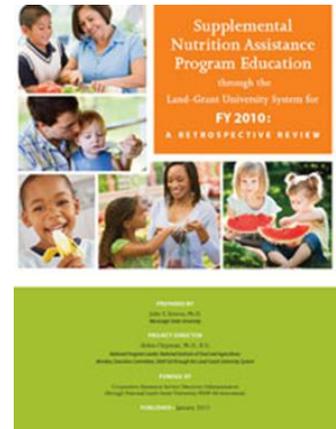
SNAP-Ed: A Program that Works*

- 2010 - More than 4.5 million people and 54.6 million contacts reached by Land-grant universities and partners
- 2010 – More than 50% of participants reported eating closer to recommended amounts for grains, vegetables, and fruits

*Data represents a SUBSET of total SNAP-Ed participation;
Actual reach and potential impact would be greater

SNAP-Ed Through the Land-grant University System for FY2010: A Retrospective Review, 2013 <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/resource/snap-ed-2010-national-lgu-report>; accessed 12 March 2015.

SNAP-Ed: A Program that Works contd. – Examples of Improved Environmental Supports



Reported environmental outcomes achieved through land-grant university and other coordinated efforts

- Increased referrals across organizations
- Joint efforts to improve diet quality and physical activity within communities
- Increased availability of nutritious foods in schools, restaurants, grocery stores, and farmers' markets
- Trends for increased support for community anti-hunger programs
- Increased availability of nutritious foods to low-income people due to new grocery stores or farmers' markets in low-income communities and/or new community gardens



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Need for Program Implementation Research – RNECE Initiative

- FNS and NIFA have a strong interest in assuring that EFNEP and SNAP-Ed programs are effective, innovative, replicable, sustainable, and cost effective in terms of meeting the needs and improving behaviors of program target groups
- Began in FY 2014



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Goal and Purpose

- Overarching goal
 - Improve the health of low-income Americans through multiple strategies, including complementary nutrition education and public health approaches
- Three-fold purpose
 - Strengthen the evidence-base on effective nutrition education/obesity prevention programs for diverse population groups – i.e. identify and confirm what works
 - Evaluate long-term effectiveness of nutrition education/obesity prevention interventions for disadvantaged and underserved populations and opportunities for new research
 - Identify and create research collaborations and synergistic relationships among researchers and EFNEP/SNAP-Ed program directors, universities and other implementers, and state and federal agencies

More Specifically...

- Build evidence-base for dietary (food-focused) and physical activity strategies
- Demonstrate/improve effectiveness of complementary nutrition education and public health approaches
- Support a culture of health among low-income populations (e.g., improved nutrition and physical activity behaviors; and reduced food insecurity, obesity, and chronic disease)
- Align research with programs
- Use a socio-ecological framework in research and programs
 - Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2010
<http://www.cnpp.usda.gov/Publications/DietaryGuidelines/2010/PolicyDoc/PolicyDoc.pdf>
 - Community Nutrition Education (CNE) Logic Model
<http://nifa.usda.gov/resource/community-nutrition-education-cne-logic-model>; scroll to bottom of page

This research initiative addresses...

- **USDA Strategic Plan 2014-2018, Goal 4.** Ensure that All of America's Children Have Access to Safe, Nutritious, and Balanced Meals
 - Objective 4.1: Improve Access to Nutritious Food
 - Objective 4.2: Promote Healthy Diet and Physical Activity Behaviors
- **Research, Education, and Economics (REE) Action Plan Goal 4:** Nutrition and Childhood Obesity: Build evidence base for food-based and physical activity strategies and develop effective education/extension translational activities to promote health and reduce malnutrition and obesity in children and high-risk populations
 - Action item: Develop and extend approaches to prevent obesity and related diseases, including translational activities to promote behavior change related to healthy eating and physical activity



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Legislative Authority and Funding

- The Secretary has general authority to enter into contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements to further the research, extension, or teaching programs in the food and agricultural sciences of the Department of Agriculture (7 U.S.C. 3318)
- Oversight by NIFA with FNS involvement
- Nested in the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), Competitive Grants Program, Childhood Obesity Prevention Challenge Area (FY 2015)
- \$2 million allocated from FY 2015 AFRI funding



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Key References

NIFA

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (SNAP & EFNEP): Regional Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Centers of Excellence (RNECE)

MODIFICATION: Indirect cost rate language changed on page 30 (7/17/2014). Eligibility language changed on page 24. This change has been reflected throughout the RFA (7/22/2014). Priority consideration language changed on page 12 (7/22/2014).

FY 2014 Request for Applications

APPLICATION DEADLINE: August 15, 2014

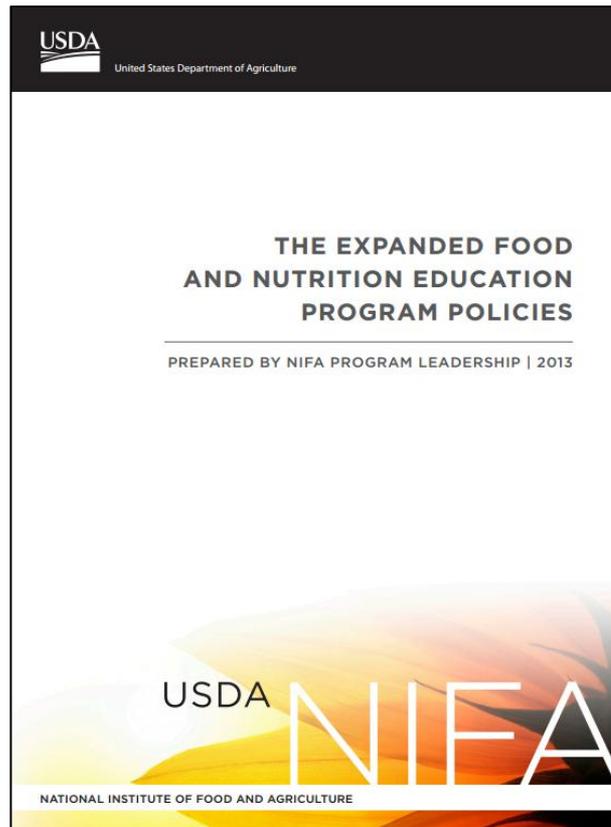


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<http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-and-expanded-food-and-nutrition>; then hit view RFA button; accessed 12 March 2015

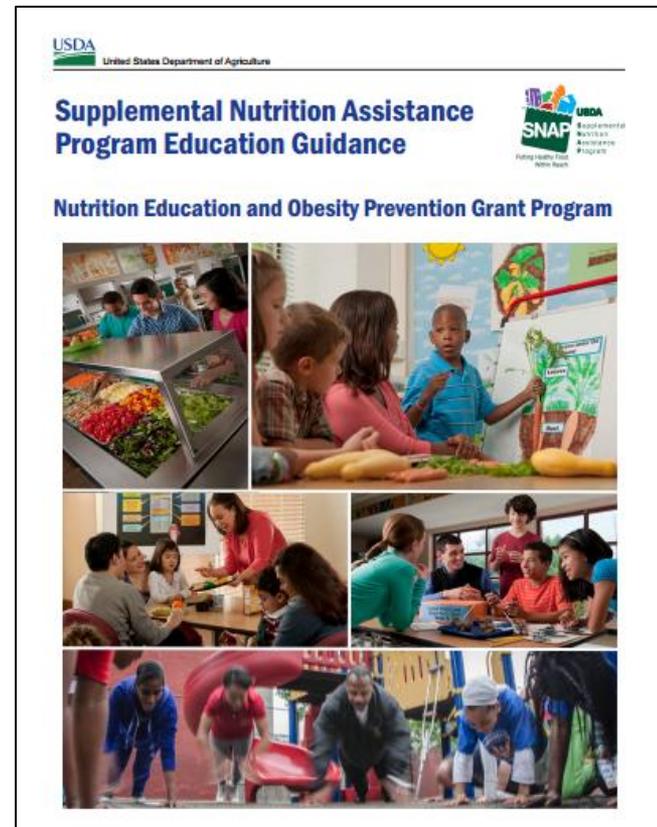
Key References

NIFA



<http://www.nifa.usda.gov/program/expanded-food-and-nutrition-education-program-efnep>; see bottom of page; accessed 12 March 2015

FNS



<http://snap.nal.usda.gov/national-snap-ed/snap-ed-plan-guidance-and-templates>



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RNECE Initiative – New for FY 2015

This round of grants are designed to:

- Drill down the research priorities with new projects
- Augment work that is underway

<http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/agriculture-and-food-research-initiative-childhood-obesity-prevention-challenge>



Scroll down page to see VIEW RFA button; click to open. Scroll further to see other important information.

Contact for the RNECE component:
Helen Chipman



Follow RNECE language when differs from AFRI language - as noted in RFA and Webinar



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<http://www.nifa.usda.gov/program/regional-nutrition-education-and-obesity-prevention-centers-excellence-rnece>



Scroll down page to see program specific information.



Updated webinar recording and slides, and frequently asked questions will be posted soon – will be distinguished by year. Link to RFA will also be added to this page, if feasible.



FY 2015 – Four Types of Grants

Competitive

1. One New Regional Center (Topic-based)
2. One New Signature Project

Supplemental

3. Four Existing Regional Centers (Geographic based - NIFA Regions)
4. One Existing National Coordination Center

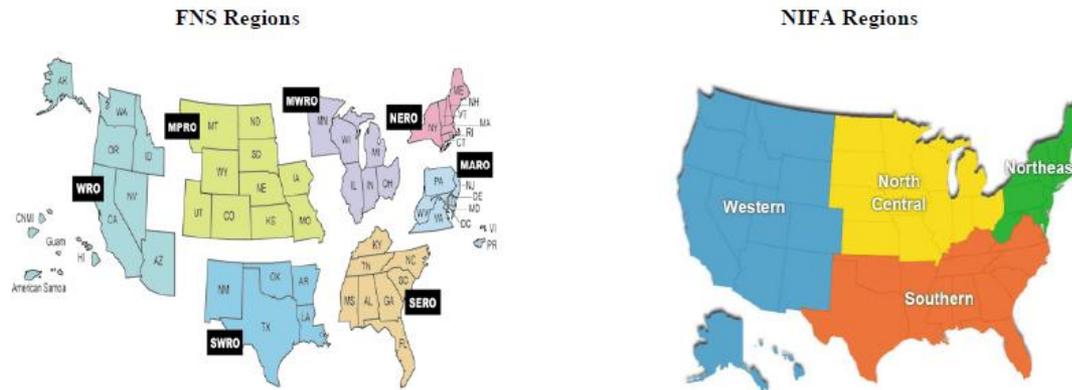
Coordination, cooperation, and collaboration among centers is expected

<http://www.nifa.usda.gov/program/regional-nutrition-education-and-obesity-prevention-centers-excellence-rncee>; scroll down to program specific resources for this 4-page contacts document

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (SNAP & EFNEP):

Regional Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Centers of Excellence (RNECE)

1 RNECE PROGRAM BY REGIONS



2 HOST INSTITUTIONS

- **North Central Region-** Purdue University
- **Northeast Region-** Cornell University
- **Southern Region-** University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- **Western Region-** Colorado State University
- **National Coordination Center-** University of Kentucky



3 RNECE CONTACTS FOR NIFA AND FNS REGIONS

RNECE Contact	FNS Regions	NIFA Regions
<p>North Central Region Purdue University Dennis Savaiano (T) 765-494-8791 (E) savaiano@purdue.edu</p>	<p>Mountain Plains Region (MPRO)</p> <p>Iowa Kansas Missouri Nebraska North Dakota South Dakota</p> <p>Midwest Region (MWRO)</p> <p>Illinois Indiana Michigan Minnesota Ohio Wisconsin</p>	<p>North Central</p> <p>Iowa Illinois Indiana Kansas Michigan Minnesota Missouri Nebraska North Dakota Ohio South Dakota Wisconsin</p>
<p>Northeast Region Cornell University Jamie Dollahite (T) 607-255-7715 (E) Jsd13@cornell.edu</p>	<p>Northeastern Region (NERO)</p> <p>Connecticut Maine Massachusetts New Hampshire New York Rhode Island Vermont</p>	<p>Northeast Region</p> <p>Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia Maine Maryland Massachusetts New Hampshire New Jersey New York</p>



	<p>Middle Atlantic Region (MARO)</p> <p>Delaware District of Columbia Maryland New Jersey Pennsylvania West Virginia</p>	<p>Pennsylvania Rhode Island Vermont West Virginia</p>
<p>Southern Region University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Alice Ammerman (T) 919-966-6082 (E) alice_ammerman@unc.edu</p>	<p>Southwest Region (SWRO)</p> <p>Arkansas Louisiana Oklahoma Texas</p> <p>Southeast Region (SERO)</p> <p>Alabama Florida Georgia Kentucky Mississippi North Carolina South Carolina Tennessee</p> <p>Middle Atlantic Region (MARO)</p> <p>Puerto Rico Virgin Islands Virginia</p>	<p>Southern Region</p> <p>Alabama Arkansas Florida Georgia Kentucky Louisiana Mississippi North Carolina Oklahoma Puerto Rico South Carolina Tennessee Texas Virgin Islands Virginia</p>



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<p>Western Region Colorado State University Susan Baker (T) 970-491-5798 (E) susan.baker@colostate.edu</p>	<p>Western Region (WRO) Alaska American Samoa Arizona California Federated States of Micronesia Guam Hawaii Idaho Nevada Northern Mariana Islands Oregon Washington State</p> <p>Mountain Plains Region (MPRO) Colorado Montana Utah Wyoming</p> <p>Southwest Region (SWRO) New Mexico</p>	<p>Western Region Alaska American Samoa Arizona California Colorado Federated States of Micronesia Guam Hawaii Idaho Montana Nevada New Mexico Northern Marianas Islands Oregon Utah Washington State Wyoming</p>
<p>National Coordination Center University of Kentucky Ann Vail (T) 859-257-3887 (E) ann.vail@uky.edu</p>		



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NEW STANDARD GRANT – REGIONAL CENTER (TOPIC-BASED)



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Who's Eligible to Apply – New Standard Grants

- EFNEP and SNAP-Ed implementing agencies and organizations that received FY 2014 funding (not sub-grantees) and/or other non-profit organizations/agencies that have developed and/or delivered and/or evaluated similar low-income nutrition education/obesity prevention programs.
 - All 75 1862 and 1890 land-grant institutions – in every state, six U.S. Territories, and the District of Columbia
 - More than 100 SNAP-Ed implementing agencies – in every state, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia (not state SNAP funding agencies unless the state SNAP agency did direct program implementation)
 - Non-profit organizations that provide evidence that they are a non-profit, and a description of the similar type of low-income nutrition education/obesity prevention program that they developed, delivered, and/or evaluated – including a program description, audience reached, action taken, and results achieved.



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Who's Eligible to Apply – New Standard Grants, contd.

- Although only implementing agencies are eligible, proposals are expected to reflect broad coordination and cooperation
 - Program and research areas
 - Types/numbers of agencies and organizations
 - States/territories within the region
 - Having a clear connection/showing relevance to SNAP-Ed and EFNEP programs



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Regional Centers of Excellence: NEW Standard Grants

- CFDA Number – 10.310
- Program Area Priority Code – A2151; Program Code Name – RNECE
- Application Deadline – 30 April 2015, before 5:00 pm ET
- Requested Grant Types – 2 NEW standard grants
 - 1 New Regional Center of Excellence (Topic-based)
- Proposed Budget Request – Two-year budget, not to exceed \$600,000 total, including indirect costs
 - Indirect cost: the lesser of the institution's official negotiated rate or equivalent of 30 % of the total Federal funds awarded
- Although continuation grants will not be required, progress will be monitored and drawdown may be held up for non-performance
- Contact – Dr. Helen Chipman, hchipman@nifa.usda.gov or 202-720-8067



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NEW Regional Center

- Topic-based Center: Use of public health principles and interventions to promote healthy eating and prevent obesity
- Not geographically bound; yet, reflects a “regional” multi-agency/organizational commitment and involvement
- Level of communication, coordination, and cooperation comparable to other regional centers – with each other and the national coordination center



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Design Requirements – NEW Regional Center

- Strengthen the evidence-base
 - Effective public health approaches with SNAP-Ed/EFNEP audiences
- Incorporate innovative policy, systems, and environmental change (PSE) strategies
 - Contribute to the socio-ecological framework for healthy choices and healthy weight (see - Dietary Guidelines for Americans;
<http://www.health.gov/dietaryguidelines/2010.asp>)



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Design Requirements – NEW Regional Center, contd.

- Remove barriers for vulnerable audiences to make healthy choices
 - Focus intervention development on improving behaviors and community conditions that make it difficult for low-income people and other underserved or hard-to-reach audiences to make healthy choices;
- Ensure that research findings are transferable
 - Can be successfully implemented and replicated in “real world” SNAP-Ed and EFNEP settings; useful across different geographic locales and among community specific characteristics and needs



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Design Requirements – NEW Regional Center, contd.

- Support program implementation
 - Development of guidance documents, websites, policy papers, and other instructional materials
- Evaluate long-term effectiveness
 - Public health approaches to promote nutrition and healthy eating for low-income populations served through SNAP and EFNEP



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Design Requirements – NEW Regional Center, contd.

- Build upon existing work
 - Identify opportunities for new projects that leverage or extend successful interventions; including one or more of the following priorities for SNAP-Ed
 - *Community Health Needs Assessments.*
 - *Policy, Systems, and Environmental Changes Action Guides.*
 - *Review of Public Health Approaches for Effectiveness.*
 - *Amplifying Successful SNAP-Ed and EFNEP Public Health interventions.*
 - *Maintain a Community of Practice for Public Health SNAP-Ed and EFNEP practitioners.*



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NEW STANDARD GRANT – SIGNATURE RESEARCH PROJECT



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Who's Eligible to Apply – New Standard Grants

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Who's Eligible to Apply – New Standard Grants, contd.

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 - Program and research areas
 - Types/numbers of agencies and organizations
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NEW Signature Project: Program Priorities

- Connect to an existing RNECE Center, either directly or as evidenced by a letter of cooperation and support.
 - Will be considered a second signature research program; needs to be connected, but not necessarily managed by existing regional centers
- Compare individual factors or environmental settings for EFNEP and SNAP-Ed participants versus non-participants to assess similarities and differences in health outcomes
- Include research design, implementation, analysis, and communication plans to share results through research reports, case studies, and translation tools for practitioners



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NEW Signature Project: Program Priorities contd.

- Research design to include:
 - Small, mid-sized, and large EFNEP/SNAP-Ed programs; urban and rural areas at high risk for obesity
 - Focus on improving behaviors through quality nutrition education, social marketing, and changing PSE of underserved or hard-to-reach audiences in “real-world” settings
 - Use of mediating behaviors (others levels of behavior may also be used, with adequate justification)
 - Use of quantitative and qualitative indicators
 - Consider mid- to long-term effectiveness of interventions

NEW Signature Project: Program Priorities contd.

- Research design – program specific criteria:
 - EFNEP: Addressing at least two of the four core areas of the Community Nutrition Education (CNE) Logic Model (see <http://nifa.usda.gov/resource/community-nutrition-education-cne-logic-model>; scroll to bottom of page) and EFNEP policy guidance: Diet quality and physical activity (required), Food Security (optional), Food Resource Management (optional), and/or Food Safety (optional).
 - SNAP-Ed: Successfully incorporate a social-ecological framework (see - Dietary Guidelines for Americans; <http://www.health.gov/dietaryguidelines/2010.asp>); and indicators from at least one of the following multi-level models for evaluation:
 - *Western Region SNAP-Ed Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity Prevention Framework* (see – <http://snap.nal.usda.gov/snap/WesternRegionEvaluationFramework.pdf>)
 - *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Evaluation Framework for Obesity Prevention Policy Interventions* (see - http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2012/11_0322.htm)



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SUPPLEMENTAL GRANTS – EXISTING REGIONAL CENTERS (GEOGRAPHIC-BASED)



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Who's Eligible to Apply – Supplemental Grants

- 4 Supplemental Standard Grants
 - Colorado State University
 - Cornell University
 - Purdue University
 - University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Although only implementing agencies are eligible, proposals are expected to reflect broad coordination and cooperation
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 - Types/numbers of agencies and organizations
 - States/territories within the region
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Regional Centers of Excellence: Supplemental Grants

- CFDA Number – 10.310
- Program Area Priority Code – A2151; Program Code Name – RNECE
- Application Deadline – 30 April 2015, before 5:00 pm ET
- Requested Grant Types – Supplemental Standard Grants
 - 4 Regional Centers of Excellence (Geographic-based)
- Proposed Budget Request – Two-year budget, not to exceed \$160,000 total, including indirect costs, for each grant
 - Indirect cost: the lesser of the institution's official negotiated rate or equivalent of 30 % of the total Federal funds awarded
- Although continuation grants will not be required, progress will be monitored and drawdown may be held up for non-performance
- Contact – Dr. Helen Chipman, hchipman@nifa.usda.gov or 202-720-8067



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Geographic Regional Centers: Program Priorities

Augment current and planned activities with additional formative research and/or intervention development

Integrate existing interventions and those under development by the RNECE program across multiple levels of the socio-ecological framework (individual, environmental settings, and/or sectors of influence)

Select from among one or more of the following: (see next slide)



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Geographic Regional Centers: Augmenting Options

- Nutrition Education and Public Health/PSE Synergies
- Understanding Barriers.
- Nationwide Training
- More Effective Evaluation
- Peer-to-Peer Education
- Developing a Skilled Workforce
- Messaging Across the Socio-Ecological Model
- Networking Research



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SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT – NATIONAL COORDINATION CENTER (Cooperative Agreement)



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Who's Eligible to Apply – Supplemental Grants

- 1 Supplemental Cooperative Agreement Grant
 - University of Kentucky
- Although only implementing agencies are eligible, proposals are expected to reflect broad coordination and cooperation
 - Program and research areas
 - Types/numbers of agencies and organizations
 - States/territories within the region
 - Having a clear connection/showing relevance to SNAP-Ed and EFNEP programs



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- Application Deadline – 30 April 2015, before 5:00 pm ET
- Requested Grant Types – Supplemental Cooperative Agreement
 - 1 National Coordination Center
- Proposed Budget Request – Two-year budget, not to exceed \$160,000 total, including indirect costs, for each grant
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National Coordination Center: Program Priorities

Augment current and planned activities, including:

- Incorporate new AFRI projects into the national data aggregation, evaluation, and dissemination systems and processes that are already under development
- Facilitate cooperation/coordination with organizations and programs represented by the regional centers
- Demonstrate communications, technology, and evaluation expertise and capacity to meet the program requirements, including, but not limited to data aggregation, evaluation, and dissemination, and transferability, back-up, and security of data



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ALL APPLICATIONS



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Requirements – All Applications

- Adhere to the requirements beginning in Part IV of RFA
- Also comply with all RNECE requirements
- Complement or augment work that is currently underway at one or more regional centers (see <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/program/regional-nutrition-education-and-obesity-prevention-centers-excellence-rnece> for contact list of current centers)
- Be part of an existing RNECE regional or national coordination center team and/or demonstrate the capacity and commitment to become a new RNECE regional center and/or work closely with one or more regional nutrition education centers and to collaborate and coordinate efforts with the national coordination center

Requirements – All Applications, contd.

- Include at least two of the three functions of the agricultural knowledge system (research and extension, [education – optional]).
- Show that processes are transferable – can be used or extended by others
- Successfully incorporates a social-ecological framework (see - Dietary Guidelines for Americans;
<http://www.health.gov/dietaryguidelines/2010.asp>)
- Complements and/or augments other RNECE projects
- Partner with eXtension – through the Community Nutrition Education Community of Practice (see page 16-17 of RFA)
 - Partnering guidance: <http://create.extension.org/node/2057>
 - Community Nutrition Community of Practice – information and point of contact [http://www.extension.org/low income nutrition education](http://www.extension.org/low_income_nutrition_education)



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Expected Program Outputs and Reporting Requirements

- Initial project information – project initiation
- Annual reports and summary reports
- Annual and final technical reporting requirements
- Other documentation including, but not limited to, “evidence-based” processes and products that come from the research
- Attendance at annual leadership meetings to report on activities; include reasonable travel expenses in budget
- Ongoing coordination and cooperation with other regional centers and national center

Evaluation Process

- First-tier – administrative review for essential components, such as:
 - ✓ Received on time
 - ✓ Meets eligibility requirements
 - ✓ Stays within budget limitations
 - ✓ Includes all necessary documents
 - ✓ Scope appropriate to the program

- Second-tier – process depends on type of grant

New Standard Grants (competitive)	Supplemental Grants
Peer Panel Review	NIFA and FNS Internal Merit Review



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Evaluation Criteria

Merging of RNECE RFA and AFRI RFA. For specifics, including weighting, see RNECE RFA, Part V, Application Review Requirements, B. Evaluation Criteria. <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-and-expanded-food-and-nutrition>; then hit view RFA button

- **Relevance** to accomplishing program goals and core objectives; including logic model for new competitive grants
- **Completeness and adequacy** including configuration of proposed Regional Center and Signature Program for new competitive grants and integration of new elements for supplemental programs; potential to engage with appropriate stakeholders, researchers, and programs; e.g. reflect tight connections between program implementation research, EFNEP and SNAP-Ed, and across the social-ecological framework



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Evaluation Criteria, cont'd

- **Potential to accomplish** program goals, objectives, and requirements
- **Quality and extent of stakeholder involvement** and probability that stakeholders will actively participate and contribute to Regional Centers success
- **Host institution's capacity** including commitment to research and programs, and history of regional, multi-state, or multi-institutional/multi-organizational engagement and leadership in EFNEP and SNAP-Ed
- **Experience, accomplishments, and time commitments** of key personnel
- **Appropriateness of requested budget**, including sub-award monitoring, where indicated



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AFRI Evaluation Criteria

Program implementation research - Best fit is with Integrated Project Applications

- **Merit of the Application**
- **Qualifications of Project Personnel, Adequacy of Facilities, Project Management**
- **Project Relevance**
- **Center of Excellence Status (does not apply)**

*Key elements are the same, some details differ. The RNECE details (FY2014 RFA) take precedence. <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-and-expanded-food-and-nutrition>; then hit view RFA button. See *Part V, Application Review Requirements, B. Evaluation Criteria.**



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Important Dates

- RFA Announcement: 4 March 2015
- RFA Webinar: 9 March 2015, 9:00-10:30 am EDT, repeated 10 March, 2:00-3:30 pm EDT; will be recorded and posted
- Applications due: 30 April, 2015, before 5:00 pm EDT
- Panel Review: Week of 22 June 2015 (dates tentative)
- Awards approved and announced: before 30 September 2015
 - Goal: on or before 31 July 2015



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Other Considerations

- Review RFA closely
- Ensure that all requirements are met – those specific to the program area, and to the overall RFA
- Pay particular attention to the FY2014 RNECE RFA, and to SNAP-Ed and EFNEP requirements
- Check FAQ's periodically before submitting proposal
- If still have questions, call/email NIFA contacts
- Submit early if possible; computerized submission system is time sensitive

Questions





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Best Wishes!

For additional questions, contact:

Helen Chipman*, PhD, RD, National Program Leader, NIFA, USDA

- **Phone: 202-720-8067**
- **Email: hchipman@nifa.usda.gov**

***Please note: Messages received after 4 pm EDT on Thursday, will be responded to the following Monday**

--- Or ---

Marly Diallo, Program Specialist, NIFA, USDA

- **Phone: 202-401-0293**
- **Email: mdiallo@nifa.usda.gov**