



Food and Nutrition Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



# USDA Nutrition Education Coordination

## Report to Congress

Fiscal Year 2024

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>FISCAL YEAR 2024 NUTRITION EDUCATION COORDINATION HIGHLIGHTS .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>FNS Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Nutrition Education (SNAP-Ed) .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b><i>Table 1. State Agency Administrative Expenditures for SNAP Education, FY 2024*</i> .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>FNS Child Nutrition Programs.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b><i>Table 2. Nutrition Education Resources Distributed by Team Nutrition, FY2024 .....</i></b>	<b>6</b>
<b>FNS Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>FNS and National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) - WIC Workforce Development Coordination...</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>NIFA Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>NIFA Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP).....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>ADDITIONAL COORDINATED ACTIONS TO ADVANCE NUTRITION EDUCATION .....</b>	<b>10</b>

## INTRODUCTION

This Report to Congress responds to a requirement set forth in Section 28(c)(9) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended (7 U.S.C. 2036a(c)(9)), that was added by Section 4019 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill; Public Law 115-334). The Act includes the following directive:

*“The Administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service, in consultation with the Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, shall annually submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that evaluates the level of coordination between the nutrition education and obesity prevention grant program under this section; the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program under section 1425 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3175); and any other nutrition education program administered by the Department of Agriculture; and includes the use of funds on such programs including State agency administrative costs reported by States.”*

This report offers a description of nutrition education within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and a summary of coordinated nutrition education activities completed from October 2023 through September 2024.

## FISCAL YEAR 2024 NUTRITION EDUCATION COORDINATION HIGHLIGHTS

USDA nutrition education programs promote behaviors consistent with the most recent Federal dietary and physical activity recommendations. Nutrition education services are available in a variety of settings such as schools, community sites, public health clinics, and online platforms. In addition, USDA works to improve health outcomes by adopting multi-pronged strategies that include policy, programming, and nutrition education to meet customer needs, and advance online technologies to effectively utilize Federal resources.

### *FNS Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Nutrition Education (SNAP-Ed)*

In FY 2024, SNAP-Ed offered nutrition education to individuals eligible for SNAP. Also known as the SNAP Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Grant Program ([Public Law 111–296](#)), SNAP-Ed employed policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) change strategies, direct education, and social marketing to provide nutrition education that encouraged use of SNAP benefits to meet the nutritional needs of program participants. FNS encouraged States to coordinate their SNAP-Ed activities with other publicly or privately funded health or nutrition promotion initiatives and to efficiently utilize State agency administrative funds. For example, States consulted and coordinated with other FNS programs, including Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Child Nutrition Programs, and Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) to ensure SNAP-Ed complemented nutrition education efforts with other programs. In FY 2024, all participating SNAP-Ed States and territories (52) reported coordination with at least one USDA nutrition education program. Activities included developing needs assessments and state plans, coordinating messaging, developing educational materials, PSE change efforts, and conducting social marketing campaigns. Activities conducted in FY 2024 are highlighted below. **Table 1** includes State agency administrative costs.

- The SNAP-Ed Clearinghouse was completed, as requested by the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-334). The updated SNAP-Ed Clearinghouse was also known as the SNAP-Ed Connection and included all SNAP-Ed resources to provide continuity and increase efficiencies for State agencies participating in planning, reporting, and evaluation activities. The SNAP-Ed Connection featured administrative resources, state-based information, and more than 120 evidence-based interventions to support providers in achieving annual SNAP-Ed goals and facilitate SNAP-Ed programming.
- The National Program Evaluation and Reporting System (N-PEARS) offered training opportunities and system enhancements. N-PEARS is a web-based

system used by States and implementing agencies to submit SNAP-Ed State plans and annual reports. FNS offered users technical assistance and additional features to streamline data entry for annual reports.

- SNAP-Ed implemented a three-year [collaboration plan](#) to improve communications, coordination, and collaboration with partner organizations, including the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- FNS initiated updates to the SNAP-Ed Evaluation Framework (Framework). The Framework offered 51 indicators for measuring the effectiveness of SNAP-Ed interventions and emphasizing progress at short-, medium-, and long-term intervals, while also considering population results. The Framework was used to meet goals outlined in SNAP-Ed Plan Guidance.

**Table 1. State Agency Administrative Expenditures for SNAP Education, FY 2024\***

State	Expenditures
AK	\$ 717,874
AL	\$ 6,847,956
AR	\$ 1,983,533
AZ	\$ 14,707,093
CA	\$ 125,202,652
CO	\$ 5,357,091
CT	\$ 3,977,681
DC	\$ 1,990,601
DE	\$ 1,205,473
FL	\$ 15,730,299
GA	\$ 10,510,842
GU	\$ 46,744
HI	\$ 659,627
IA	\$ 3,123,921
ID	\$ 1,184,975
IL	\$ 20,174,317
IN	\$ 7,078,556
KS	\$ 3,537,836
KY	\$ 8,062,329
LA	\$ 6,224,628
MA	\$ 7,177,855
MD	\$ 7,183,915
ME	\$ 5,217,992
MI	\$ 25,761,794

<b>State</b>	<b>Expenditures</b>
<b>MN</b>	\$ 8,687,795
<b>MO</b>	\$ 12,553,244
<b>MS</b>	\$ 4,376,464
<b>MT</b>	\$ 1,159,097
<b>NC</b>	\$ 10,636,280
<b>ND</b>	\$ 1,091,108
<b>NE</b>	\$ 2,000,9203
<b>NH</b>	\$ 1,076,042
<b>NJ</b>	\$ 9,854,319
<b>NM</b>	\$ 5,386,409
<b>NV</b>	\$ 2,981,713
<b>NY</b>	\$ 24,950,308
<b>OH</b>	\$ 8,891,477
<b>OK</b>	\$ 7,867,848
<b>OR</b>	\$ 8,634,921
<b>PA</b>	\$ 23,130,891
<b>RI</b>	\$ 1,828,792
<b>SC</b>	\$ 4,802,605
<b>SD</b>	\$ 668,035
<b>TN</b>	\$ 5,218,125
<b>TX</b>	\$ 27,199,636
<b>UT</b>	\$ 1,619,101
<b>VA</b>	\$ 6,376,105
<b>VT</b>	\$ 456,655
<b>WA</b>	\$ 13,631,340
<b>WI</b>	\$ 11,738,590
<b>WV</b>	\$ 4,219,828
<b>WY</b>	\$ 1,723,616

\*State reported financial data from the National Program Evaluation and Reporting System (N-PEARS). Data may include some expenditures using FY 2023 funds that were made in FY 2024. SNAP-Education state administrative expenditures include funds provided through agreements with other State or local agencies or community organizations to deliver nutrition education and obesity prevention services.

## *FNS Child Nutrition Programs*

FNS Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) continued to focus on finalizing updates to the school meals nutrition standards and expanding Summer Food Programs (SFP). In April 2024, FNS published the final rule titled, [\*Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans\*](#), to update nutrition standards in school meals based on a comprehensive review of the latest dietary guidance, robust public input, and lessons learned from prior rulemakings. The rule took effect on July 1, 2024; however, based on public input, FNS is gradually phasing in the required changes over time. Key updates include:

- Gradually phasing in added sugar limits in the school lunch and breakfast programs; previously, there were no added sugar limits in the school lunch and breakfast programs. In the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), replacing *total* sugars limits for breakfast cereals and yogurt with limits on *added* sugars in those products.
- Permitting program operators to offer fat-free and low-fat milk with school meals, flavored or unflavored, for K-12 students. Flavored milk offered with school meals must meet an added sugars limit by school year 2025-2026.
- Maintaining the requirement that at least 80 percent of the weekly grains offered in the school lunch and breakfast programs are whole grain-rich. Whole grain-rich products contain between 50 and 100 percent whole grains.
- Gradually phasing in a sodium reduction in school meals, to occur by school year 2027-2028.

Team Nutrition is an initiative that promotes healthy food choices and physical activity by providing training, technical assistance, and nutrition education resources to enhance the FNS [\*Child Nutrition Programs\*](#). In September 2024, the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs (FBG) was updated and released to reflect current nutrition standards and meal pattern requirements. As a part of this effort, Team Nutrition revised the crediting tip sheet series, offering user-friendly references for Child Nutrition program operators to credit meal components easily. Additionally, a recipe project was initiated to revise existing standardized recipes to align with the new nutrition standards. To further support these changes, Team Nutrition also published [\*The Road to Successful Menu Planning for School Meals Training Series\*](#) in September 2024 to equip school food authorities, State agencies, and other partners with needed tools to implement the updated nutrition standards for school meals. **Table 2** summarizes nutrition education resources distributed by Team Nutrition in FY 2024.

**Table 2. Nutrition Education Resources Distributed by Team Nutrition, FY2024**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Quantity/Reach</b>
<b>Team Nutrition resources distributed</b>	287,362
<b>Distinct items ordered</b>	153
<b>Total orders distributed</b>	71,962
<b>Orders by each program type</b>	Child Care Center or Provider: 11,130 National School Lunch Program / School Breakfast Program: 20,144 Sponsoring organization – CACFP: 3,640 State Agency: 4,131 Summer Food Service Program / Seamless Summer: 1,187 Other: 31,730
<b>Various national conferences and webinars (in-person and virtual)</b>	Presentations provided: 40 Attendees reached: 6000+
<b>GovDelivery messages – Team Nutrition E-Newsletter</b>	GovDelivery messages published: 36 Subscribers reached: 240,000 Unique clicks: 1,051,992
<b>Activity on Team Nutrition X account</b>	Published social media posts: 174 Followers reached: 75,460
<b>Food Buying Guide Mobile App</b>	Downloads (cumulative): 97,960 Countries (cumulative): 96 Active users: 7,513 Countries represented by active users: 94
<b>Food Buying Guide Web Tool</b>	Guest and registered users: 77,594 Sessions: 234,370 Page views: 739,868 Countries represented by users: 132
<b>Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool</b>	E-authenticated users: 4,759 Sessions: 34,720 Page Views: 550,000

### *FNS Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)*

WIC improves the health of nutritionally at-risk women, infants, and children through nutrition risk assessments, nutritious food packages, nutrition education, and referrals to other services. Nutrition education offers WIC staff the opportunity to address each participant's unique needs, promote the food available in the WIC food package, and encourage positive nutrition behaviors for participating mothers and children. In FY 2024, WIC celebrated 50 years as an integral part of the nutrition assistance safety net.

USDA published the Final Rule: Revisions in the WIC Food Packages to better meet the nutritional needs of participants in April 2024. The revised WIC food packages align with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, reflect recommendations from the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (17) and are responsive to public comments received on the previous proposed rule. The final rule provides foods in amounts that are consistent with the supplemental nature of the program; addresses key nutritional needs to support healthy dietary patterns; offers flexibility to accommodate food preferences; and supports participants interested in achieving long-term breastfeeding goals.

USDA continued to support WIC State and local agencies in providing nutrition education with new and updated resources on the WIC Works Resource System and WIC Breastfeeding Support websites. USDA also initiated a project to support WIC staff across the country in providing substance use prevention education to WIC participants, as required by law.

### *FNS Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) Nutrition Education*

In FY 2024, over 80 FDPIR Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) disseminated funding to support a variety of culturally relevant nutrition education projects including cooking classes, hiring nutrition educators, and developing resources that support traditional foodways. In addition, FNS supported ITOs in delivering nutrition education to participants through the following program specific resources.

- The USDA Foods Nutrition Education Resource Library provides more than 90 nutrition education resources that can be used in FDPIR programming. In FY 2024, nearly 185,000 resources were ordered by ITOs to deliver nutrition education to FDPIR participants.
- The FDPIR Sharing Gallery provides a platform for ITOs to share resources developed specifically for tribal communities.
- FDPIR Nutrition Paraprofessional Training was provided in partnership with the Oklahoma Tribal Engagement Partners (OKTEP). Non-nutrition professionals received training related to food purchasing, food safety, meal planning, cooking demonstrations, and nutrition education assessments.

- A new FDPIR Produce Training was developed in partnership with the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative (IFAI) at the University of Arkansas. This training will help ITOs assess and safely distribute fresh produce to program participants.

*FNS and National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) - WIC Workforce Development Coordination*

In FY 2024, FNS and NIFA continued a multi-year WIC Workforce Development initiative to strengthen and support the WIC Workforce based on recommendations included in the National WIC Workforce Strategy. This initiative includes an examination of current and future WIC workforce and program needs. Recommendations from the strategy and lessons learned from grants awarded in FY 2024 will benefit other USDA community-based programs.

- The University of Minnesota identified effective WIC staffing models for all WIC positions including an assessment of the roles, responsibilities, competencies, staffing structures, and leadership needs.
- The District of Columbia WIC Workforce Development Project is implementing a comprehensive approach to workforce development, focusing on education, professional development, and leadership training.

*NIFA Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)*

NIFA delivers nutrition education through universities and local offices within the Cooperative Extension System (CES), a nationwide, non-credit educational network that addresses public needs by providing non-formal higher education and learning activities to farmers, ranchers, communities, youth, and families throughout the United States. NIFA administers the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) to provide nutrition education to help families build healthy dietary behaviors.

EFNEP guides participating families and youth as they acquire knowledge to support healthier dietary patterns and physical activity choices and improve skills in food resource management and food safety. In FY 2024, Cooperative Extension and Land-grant University partners conducted EFNEP in all 50 States, 5 U.S. territories, Micronesia, and the District of Columbia. In FY 2024, 96 percent of EFNEP adult participants reported making at least one positive change in what they consumed in any food group and 38 percent reported a positive change in their physical activity.

*NIFA Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP)*

GusNIP provides grants to projects providing incentives to income-eligible consumers to increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables and prescriptions for fresh fruits and vegetables. The projects bring together stakeholders from food and healthcare systems to improve the

nutritional status of participating households and to identify best practices to support communities. A recent journal publication describes how GusNIP provides access to effective nutrition education in participating communities. NIFA administered about \$56 million in three competitive grant programs in FY 2024 including [Nutrition Incentives, Produce Prescriptions](#), and [the Nutrition Incentive Program Training, Technical Assistance, Evaluation, and Information \(NTAE\) Center](#). In FY 2024, several notable projects were funded to advance nutrition incentive and education efforts.

- Hope for Cancer, a produce prescription program (PPR) from the University of Arkansas, supports vulnerable cancer patients during treatment and survivorship. This pilot program offered free produce delivery for cancer patients and survivors at risk of food insecurity, provided evidence-based education on culinary medicine, and evaluated the pilot based on core metrics. This two-year project is projected to serve up to 300 patients and to dispense over 1,500 fresh produce prescription bags.
- The Food Basket (TFB) launched DA BUX in 2017 and expanded to a statewide, year-round program in 2020. DA BUX offers a 50 percent discount on fruits and vegetables grown in Hawaii for SNAP households. In addition to providing SNAP nutrition incentives, the program delivered nutrition education to young children from pre-K through grade 12.
- Doble Kopble (DK), a pilot nutrition incentive program from the University of Guam, directly benefited SNAP participants throughout Guam. The goal was to increase access to local produce to promote health and food security among SNAP participants. A SNAP-Ed partner hosted local cooking demonstrations and participated in the pilot's social marketing campaign.

## **ADDITIONAL COORDINATED ACTIONS TO ADVANCE NUTRITION EDUCATION**

The USDA Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS) facilitates strategies to enhance nutrition, food safety, and nutrition promotion research within USDA. In FY 2024, OCS, in coordination with leadership and agencies in the Research, Education, and Economic (REE) mission area, launched three additional Nutrition Hubs as part of the Agricultural Science Center of Excellence for Nutrition and Diet for Better Health (ASCEND for Better Health). The goal of the ASCEND Nutrition Hubs is to help researchers better understand practical opportunities and challenges that may influence food, nutrition, and diet-related behaviors among various communities to develop coordinated, science-based solutions and resources. The purpose of ASCEND Nutrition Hubs is to better integrate and coordinate the collective work of USDA REE agencies and develop practical solutions to improve nutrition and food security while reducing the burden of diet-related chronic diseases among groups challenged with high rates of chronic disease.