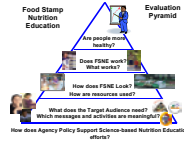




# NUTRITION UPDATE

## SNE Post Conference Workshop on Food Stamp Evaluation



**F**NS Staff from Regional Offices and Headquarters participated in the SNE Post-Conference workshop on Food Stamp Nutrition Education (FSNE) Evaluation, July 30-31. Judy Wilson presented plans for developing an administrative reporting system for FSNE and Carol Olander discussed a framework for thinking about and prioritizing evaluation efforts.

This workshop was funded by a grant from the Economic Research Service to the Society for Nutrition Education. The purpose of the workshop was to develop the evaluation skills of practitioners and promote research collaboration. Workshop sponsors also viewed the meeting as a way to engage state partners in a dialogue on FSNE evaluation.

About 60 persons participated including State Cooperative Extension Service, public health and nutrition network professionals, academic staff, and representatives from federal agencies

The workshop included individual presentations that addressed impact and process measures, automated data collection systems, and examples of opportunities for research collaboration and breakouts. In addition, smaller group discussions provided opportunities for sharing ideas around these topics. These sessions were summarized in wrap-up sessions for the entire audience.

ERS plans to post the proceedings from the workshop and create an on-line “chat room” in order to share information on FSNE evaluation. The workshop planners are considering possible follow-up activities.

## Food Stamp Education and Administration Reporting System (EARS)

**A**s a first step to securing information about who we are reaching, what we are teaching, and how we are using the resources of the FSNE, Office of Analysis, Nutrition, and Education (OANE) is leading the development of a Nutrition Education Administrative Report. FNS is now establishing a federal/state work group to develop a national nutrition education report that will inform the agency about the reach and scope of activities being conducted in States. The workgroup will include representatives of State and local, academic, as well as federal agencies. The development process will include a field test that will provide FNS with critical information about the data collection methods used at the State and local levels.

## Food Stamp Systems Review

**O**ANE has initiated a national systems review to provide a comprehensive and detailed picture of current Food Stamp Nutrition Education (FSNE). The information collected will be useful in providing a comprehensive picture of the FSNE, increase our oversight capacity and improve accountability for this component of the Food Stamp Program. In addition, patterns may emerge from observations signaling specific issues in nutrition education that need to be addressed. Information will be collected from all states and a representative sample of local nutrition education projects on what and how services are provided. Ultimately, this information will provide a foundation for developing a future research and evaluation agenda.



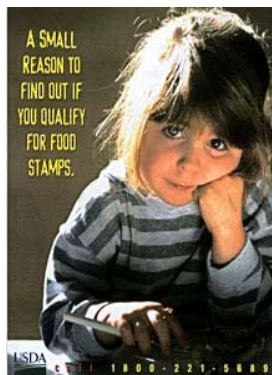
# Inter-agency Efforts to Facilitate the Evaluation of Food Stamp Nutrition Education

**C**arol Olander represents FNS on an inter-agency working group with participants from the Economic Research Service and Extension Service. This is part of our continued efforts to work with other USDA agencies to think collaboratively about ways to advance both State and federal nutrition education evaluation. The group meets periodically to share information and pursue joint interests.

## Food Stamp Nutrition Education Policy Framework

**F**NS is currently formulating a policy framework for nutrition education in the FSP. Our goals are to better delineate the guiding principles and outcomes for nutrition education. The policy statement will identify the roles and responsibilities of federal, State and local levels involved in nutrition education and focus efforts on issues of national importance.

At an appropriate juncture, FNS will obtain input and reaction to this framework from a broad group of partners and stakeholders. This input will assist us in defining how to put the framework into action at State and local levels.



## New Nutrition Education Resources

### Eat Smart Play Hard Web Pages



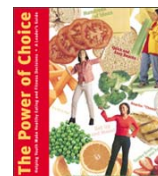
#### Eat Smart. Play Hard.™ Web Site

FNS recently launched a new Eat Smart. Play Hard.™ Web Site that provides nutrition educators with direct access to the Campaign's resources. The site contains a variety of tools that educators can use to promote healthy eating and activity to youth and their caregivers. An order form for materials is located on the site at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/eatsmartplayhard>, but most materials can be downloaded by users. These resources include a song, screensavers, posters, activity sheets for kids, parent brochures, posters, stickers, guidance materials, and information about use of the Power Panther™ character and costume. The Web site is a component of the USDA Eat Smart. Play Hard.™ Campaign, a key administrative action of President Bush's *HealthierUS* Initiative. The Campaign is designed to promote positive changes in eating and physical activity behaviors of preschool and school-aged children and their caregivers.

### Power of Choice

#### *The Power of Choice: Helping Youth Make Healthy Decisions*

*The Power of Choice* is a healthy lifestyle initiative designed to involve kids and give them a chance to explore the links between health, food choices, food safety, and fitness. The publication contains a Leader's Guide for use by after school program staff working with young adolescents. The kit contains interactive sessions on making healthy food and activity choices, including a reproducible recipe booklet, a PowerPoint presentation, music a song, a training guide and video for the leader. The publication is available online at [http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/Resources/power\\_of\\_choice.html](http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/Resources/power_of_choice.html)



### Nibbles for Health

A new FNS publication, *Nibbles for Health: Nutrition Newsletters for Parents of Young Children*, is available online at: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/Resources/nibbles.html>

Nibbles for Health was developed for child care center staff and parents of young children enrolled in child care centers. The kit offers staff guidance on conducting discussions with parents in three "sharing sessions" and accompanying posters. Also contained in the kit are 41 reproducible parent newsletters that staff can provide to parents to address many of the challenges they face.

