Massachusetts SNAP-Ed FY 2019

The Challenges

1 in 5 people in Massachusetts are living below 185% of poverty
9.3% of Massachusetts households experience food insecurity
66.8% of food insecure people are eligible for SNAP

The SNAP-Ed Solution – MA SNAP-Ed has four Implementing Agencies who partner with community organizations to implement evidence-based nutrition education along with Policy, System and Environmental (PSE) changes to promote better nutrition and opportunities for increased physical activity where low-income people live, learn, eat, shop, work, and play.

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<th>Live</th>
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<tr>
<td>Reached participants at 152 public and emergency housing sites along with new programing in group living sites</td>
<td>Reached youth, families, and elders at 579 community sites and school programs</td>
<td>Reached youth and elders at 42 senior centers and USDA summer meal sites</td>
<td>Helped families stretch food dollars and select healthy options at 48 grocery stores and farmers’ markets sites</td>
<td>Provided direct education at 47 SNAP offices and job training sites</td>
<td>Partnered with organizations to provide PSE activities which support gardening and connections to walking paths at 50 sites</td>
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The Results -
SNAP-Ed reached 166,157 participants through Direct and Indirect education.

**Youth Programs:** 87% of MA SNAP-Ed participants reached were youth in school settings

**Adults and family programs:** 13% of MA SNAP-Ed participants reached were adults & families in afterschool, community, and adult education settings

**PSE Supports reached 12,227 participants**

- **Ascentria Care Alliance** - Provides physical activity supports to teenage parent program, along with building accessibility to healthy foods and beverages at the local food pantry.
- **Share Our Strength/Cooking Matters** - Developed training modules for food preparation and presentation of healthy foods for ABCD Head Start Program. Training was offered to food service staff and nutrition educators.
- **Kit Clark Senior Services** – Provides weekly walking groups to increase physical activity and supported the development of Healthy Parties Policy. This policy ensures healthy celebrations and supports CACFP reimbursements.
- **UMass Nutrition Education Program (NEP)** – provides multiple PSE supports which include: Physical Activity in the Classroom, supports to the MA. Healthy Incentive Program at farmer’s markets and is now expanding reach to food pantries.

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**SNAP-Ed Gardening Successes**

Two Implementing agencies provided PSE’s for gardening supports reaching 782 participants:

UMass NEP program engaged in 11 gardening settings providing activities such as:
- Healthy Plymouth collaborative, worked with school gardens and school food services to serve garden-grown tomato sauce on the school lunch menu on Food Day
- City of Lynn Parks & Recreation Special Needs Camp – completed feasibility assessment of utilization of raised garden beds
- Nutrition Educator partnered with Robinson Garden Apartments residents in Springfield to implement summer nutrition & garden youth program
- The Harvest for the Hungry program with the Hunger Network, Buy Fresh Buy Local and Cape Cod Organic Farm continues to grow: 4,000 pounds of organic sweet potatoes and butternut squash and 100 pounds of green beans were distributed to area food pantries

Ascentria Care Alliance
- Partnered with West Springfield school garden project, to host a technical assistance training for all garden stakeholders
- The consultation services included asset analysis, team trainings, and an implementation manual
- Goal is for building sustainable school gardens and to incorporate foods grown into tasting events and to incorporate garden produce into school menu for all 10 schools

**New Initiatives** Since FY2017, the *Visualizing SNAP-ED Massachusetts* mapping project has helped guide the program. Each year, more data points have been incorporated into the maps. An online interactive map is in progress for FY2020. Here, a distribution of SNAP-Ed program sites with SNAP participation by municipality is shown. This shows SNAP-Ed is reaching the target audience.