



NIFA Division of Family and Consumer Sciences *Signature Programs*

A NIFA FCS *Signature Program* is an outstanding, high-impact Cooperative Extension or land-grant university research program proven to positively impact quality of life for individuals, families and communities. *Signature Programs* are peer-reviewed and selected for their overall impact on clientele and their contribution to the body of knowledge and practice in personal, child, family, and community development. The *Signature Program* designation is intended to elevate interdisciplinary work as well as sound basic research and program evaluation as necessary components in advancing scholarship in the FCS field. Benefits for family and consumer sciences professionals include:

- Enhancing evidence-based practices in programming
- Bringing visibility and translation to the latest in FCS research
- Access to information to better prioritize program support
- Reporting program outcomes and public value

FCS *Signature Programs*:

- Offer innovative approaches to address the challenges facing individuals and families.
- Integrate theoretical and research-based evidence into content.
- Demonstrate evidenced-based impact on knowledge, behaviors, and attitudes of participants served.
- Reach critical and/or targeted audiences.
- Are replicable and scalable.

How are FCS National *Signature Programs* selected?

NIFA DFCS National Program Leaders nominate a current program developed through Cooperative Extension or land-grant university FCS research. Nominated programs undergo an internal peer review process at NIFA to be selected as a FCS *Signature Program*. FCS colleagues in Cooperative Extension and the land-grant university system may nominate outstanding programs as well.

How are FCS *Signature Programs* evaluated?

Selected NIFA peer reviewers will consider and evaluate nominations for FCS *Signature Programs* for program content and application quality, assigning each nomination to a ranking category. Review teams will make a final determination on each program reviewed. The nominating DFCS National Program Leader will create a program packet for the review team with necessary information for evaluation.

Current NIFA DFCS Signature Programs:

- [Small Steps to Health and Wealth](#)
- [Rural Families Speak](#)

Communicating *Signature Programs* and Resources to Partners

Following the selection of an FCS *Signature Program*, NIFA DFCS NPLs will work with state, local and Federal partners, as well as NIFA Communications to provide information and resources to the broadest possible audience.

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