Prioritizing Nutrition Security: An Overview of Current NIFA Activities & Aims
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Nutrition Security

Having consistent access, availability, and affordability of foods and beverages that promote well-being and prevent (and if needed, treat) disease, particularly among our nation’s most socially disadvantaged populations


According to The World Food Summit of 1996, Food Security means “when all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life”
Food insecurity remain a substantial challenge, but appears to be decreasing; yet disparities exist
NIFA Nutrition Security Relevant Programs

Primary:
- Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)
- Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP)
- Food and Agriculture Service-Learning Program (FASLP)
- Community Food Projects
- Agricultural and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) competitive grants program, priority area, A1344 Diet, Nutrition and the Prevention of Chronic Diseases

Additional:
- AFRI priority areas A1641 Economics, Markets, and Trade & A1103 Foundational Knowledge of Plant Products
- Federally-Recognized Tribes Extension Program (FRTEP)
- Hispanic-Serving Institutions Education Grants Program (HSI)
- Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program
- Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP)
- Enhancing Agricultural Opportunities for Military Veterans (AgVets)
- Master Gardener, Master Health & Master Food Preserver Programs
- Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)
- 4-H Youth Development Program
- Children, Youth and Families at Risk (CYFAR)
- CYFAR 4-H Military Partnership Professional Development & Technical Assistance (CMPC-PDTA)
- 1890 Land-Grant Institution Programs
- National Center for Home Preservation
- New Technologies for Ag Extension (NTAE)
- Regional Rural Development
- Rural Health & Safety Education
NIFA Nutrition Security Team Priorities

- Supporting Innovative Inter- and Trans-Disciplinary Solutions
- Harnessing a Holistic Research Agenda, From Farm-to-Fork
- Integrating with Climate-Smart Agriculture
- Empowering Individual and Community Agency
Focus: An Overview of Current NIFA Activities & Aims

Speakers:

- Dr. Carrie Castille, Director’s Welcome
- Dr. Helen Chipman, EFNEP
- Dr. Carinthia Cherry, EFNEP
- Dr. Mallory Koenings, GusNIP & AFRI 1344
- Dr. Lydia Kaume, CFP
- Dr. Lisa Jahns, FASLP
- Dr. Sheila Fleischhacker, Moderator
- Giselle Caceres, Communications Liaison
NIFA’s History with Promoting Nutrition Security

Nutritional Security Through Sustainable Agriculture

Nutritional security is defined as “a situation that exists when all people, at all social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets food preferences for an active and healthy life.”

Achieving nutritional security in the context of the burgeoning population, climatic change, and water resources, environmental degradation, and changing incomes requires new approaches to sustainably producing more food, but also smarter ways of consuming it.
**Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)**

**Goals**
- Reduce nutrition insecurity by assisting low-income families and youth in acquiring knowledge, skills, attitudes, and changed behaviors necessary for nutritionally sound diets and to contribute to their personal development and improvement of the total family diet and nutritional well-being.
- Combines hands-on learning, applied science, and program data to ensure program effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability.

**Audience**
- Families, youth, and children with low incomes, including parents and other caregivers with primary responsibility for feeding young children, single young adults, and children/youth in grades kindergarten through 12th grade.

**Reach**
- More than 88 thousand adults and 300,000 youth and children participate annually – in all 50 states, 6 U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia. An additional 250,000 family members are reached indirectly. More than 70% of EFNEP adults are from minority populations.

**Impact**
- Since 1969, EFNEP has reached more than 34 million low-income families and youth. Participants enhance their health by improving their nutrition, food safety, and physical activity practices. Annually, more than 90% of adults report improvement in food behaviors. Data from FY 2019 is summarized below. FY 2020 data is pending.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORE AREA</th>
<th>ADULTS</th>
<th>YOUTH/CHILDREN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DIET QUALITY</td>
<td>Improved diet quality practices 93%</td>
<td>Increased knowledge or ability to choose healthy foods 84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICAL ACTIVITY</td>
<td>Improved physical activity practices 78%</td>
<td>Improved physical activity knowledge or practices 49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOOD RESOURCE MANAGEMENT</td>
<td>Improved food resource management practices 80%</td>
<td>Increased knowledge or ability to prepare low-cost, nutritious foods 48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOOD SAFETY</td>
<td>Improved food safety practices 79%</td>
<td>Improved food safety and preparation knowledge or practices 57%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**FOOD SECURITY**
- EFNEP graduates reported a collective food cost savings of $1,234,440
Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP)

Goals

- Conduct and evaluate projects intended to increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables by low-income consumers by providing incentives at the point of purchase
- Brings together stakeholders from various parts of the food and healthcare systems to foster understanding of how they might improve the health and nutrition status of participating households

Grant Types

- **Nutrition Incentive (NI) Grants**
  - Pilot Projects; $100,000 up to 1 year; 100% match
  - Standard Projects; $500,000 up to 4 years; 100% match
  - Large-Scale Projects; ≥$500,000 up to 4 years; 100% match
- **Produce Prescription (PPR) Grants**
  - ≤$500,000 up to 3 years; No match
- **Cooperative Agreements**
  - Nutrition Incentive Program Training, Technical Assistance, Evaluation and Information Centers (NTAE), $7 million/yr continuation for 4 years; No match

Eligible Entities NI & PPR:
- Non-profit organizations
- Governmental Agencies

Cooperative Agreement:
- NGO, Cooperative extension,
- IHE, Food System Centers,
- Federal, State, or Tribal Agencies

FY 2020
- Applications: 58 (26 NI & 32 PPR)
- Awards: 30 (20 NI & 10 PPR)
- Funding Rate: NI 77% & PPR 31%
- Program Budget: $41.6M

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Program Budget: $41.6M
Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP)

Aligns with Nutrition Security, Economic Recovery, Racial Equity & Rural Revitalization

- Increase participation in GusNIP, and via these networks, federal nutrition assistance programs
- Help build the evidence base needed for scaling up incentivizing fruits and vegetables through SNAP
- Leverage this learning for exploring other ways to conduct research and evaluation on other innovative approaches to strengthen the public health impacts of federal nutrition assistance programs
Program Area Priority Code: A1344
Proposed Budget Requests: Up to $1,000,000
Project Types: Integrated Projects ONLY
Grant Types: Standard Grants, Conference Grants, FASE Grants
Application Deadline: May 27, 2021 (5:00 pm ET)
Contact: Dr. Mallory Koenings, Mallory.Koenings@usda.gov
Funding Priorities:

- Develop, implement, and evaluate innovative research, educational, and outreach strategies to improve eating patterns that support the prevention of chronic disease;
- Investigate, assess, and recommend food and nutrition research and program interventions with the goal to improve and sustain health; or
- Improve food security and nutritional health outcomes for low-income people through an evidence-based approach to healthy eating and active living lifestyle programs, thereby supporting a pathway to self-sufficiency.
The goal of CFP is to fight food insecurity through developing community food projects that help promote the self-sufficiency of socially disadvantaged communities.
Highlights of Community Food Projects Grants Program

- Fight food insecurity
- Increase sustainable food systems
- Meet food needs of individuals under FPL
- Create community-led agricultural programs
- Provide innovative marketing activities

Grant Types
(1) Community Food Projects (CFP): $400,000 over 4 years; 100% match
(2) Planning Projects (PP): $35,000 over 3 years; 100% match
Goal

Increase the knowledge of agricultural science and improve the nutritional health of children K-12.
All projects must involve underserved rural and/or urban communities and facilitate a connection between elementary schools and secondary schools with agricultural producers in the local and regional area.
Food and Agriculture Service Learning Program (FASLP)

By increasing the capacity for food, garden, and nutrition education within host organizations or entities, such as school cafeterias and classrooms, while fostering higher levels of community engagement between farms and school systems by bringing together stakeholders from distinct parts of the food system.
Food and Agriculture Service Learning Program (FASLP)

- Intended for eligible applicants to scale up or further develop existing farm to school initiatives and other food and agriculture experiential learning initiatives within a distinct area of communities and schools in a State or region.

- Applicants should also add to existing activities or include new activities such as training and technical assistance, evaluation activities, curriculum development, or incorporate farm to school strategies in trainings and professional opportunities along with working closely with agricultural producers in the local and regional areas.
Selected FASLP Examples

- Expanding farm to school programs beyond lunch to bring local or regional products into the School Breakfast program
- Providing technical support in the form of face-to-face trainings, consultations, webinars, etc.
- Developing promotional campaigns in support of farm to school initiatives
- Establishing new or strengthening existing community partnerships (e.g. working with personnel to identify appropriate suppliers, etc.)
- Encouraging increased consumption of fruits and vegetables through promotional activities, taste tests, and other activities
- Expanding experiential or agriculture-based learning opportunities, such as the creation of school gardens, support to ag/food clubs, or increased exposure to on-farm activities
- Developing and evaluating integrated curriculum to reinforce food and nutrition-based learning throughout the school environment
Food and Agriculture Service Learning Program (FASLP)

FY 2020
Applications: 53
Awards: 5
Funding Rate: 9%
Program Budget: $900,000

FY2021 Budget: $1.9 M
FY2021 Application: 58

Each award: ~$225k
NO matching funds required
Key Takeaways

- Far too many Americans face food insecurity, particularly socially disadvantaged populations
- Promoting nutrition security is a critical ingredient to building back better

You’re a part of prioritizing nutrition security!

- Ending the Pandemic
- Responding to the Economic Downturn
- Addressing the Hunger and Food Insecurity Crisis
- Centering Climate in Agriculture, Food, and Forestry
- Building Back Better for Rural Economies
- Advancing Racial Equity