

**USDA Regional Nutrition Education Centers of Excellence (RNECE)  
National Coordination Center at University of Kentucky  
Second Quarterly Report: January 1 – March 31, 2015**

During the second quarter of the RNECE work, several significant milestones were achieved:

- All RNECE and the NCC established web pages.
- All RNECE released approved requests for sub-grant award applications.
- All RNECE and the NCC prepared and submitted supplemental and renewal proposals to the USDA AFRI RFP.
- The NCC began working collaboratively with eXtension Community Nutrition Education Professional Community of Practice.
- The NCC scheduled site visits to the four current RNECE for summer and fall 2015
- A quarterly evaluation call with each RNECE was conducted in March 2015 as detailed below.

North Central RNECE

Dawn Contreras and Janet Mullins

March 18, 2015

The NC Logic Model and three general questions below were used throughout the call.

1. How can we best measure, report, and sustain new and productive collaborative relationships?
2. How is your work going? Reviewer recruitment? RFA issued? Promoting RFA to region?
3. How sub-grantees can be prepared to report toward common indicators. What additional resources (e.g. data collection tools) are needed to support indicator reporting?

An important aspect of this work is relationship building and creating a functional network. A key feature of the NC approach is the Affiliate Program which will match and provide technical assistance for researchers and implementers. NC has a strong focus on PSE approaches and will develop a signature program based on the diversity of their audience(s). They anticipate awarding ~8-10 sub-grants. The RFA is currently under FNS review and should be ready to go this week or next. NC has a strong web site and plan for data management. A good group of reviewers from the NC region was recruited and forwarded to USDA.

Process data to be collected regarding the sub-grant awards could include the following items. The NC RNECE would be able to provide this information via an Excel spreadsheet or entry into RedCap through the NCC web site data portal.

- \* PI names
- \* Organization
- \* Proposal Title
- \* Level of SEM

- \* Target Audience
- \* Amount Funded
- \* Outcome Indicators Chosen for Reporting (from Western Framework)

Outcomes data will be reported using the Western Region SNAP-Ed Framework. Janet will confirm the selected indicators to be used across RNECE:

<http://snap.nal.usda.gov/snap/WesternRegionEvaluationFramework.pdf>

#### Northeast RNECE

Karene Booker, Debbie Sellers, and Janet Mullins

March 24, 2015

The Northeast RNECE Logic Model and three general questions were used to guide the call:

1. How can we best measure, report, and sustain new and productive collaborative relationships?
2. How is your work going? Reviewer recruitment? RFA issued? Promoting RFA to region?
3. How sub-grantees can be prepared to report toward common indicators. What additional resources (e.g. data collection tools) are needed to support indicator reporting?

We discussed the scope of question 1, originally intended to focus on collaborative relationships between researchers and implementers. Several levels at which to explore this question include within and between Center committees (i.e. steering, stakeholder, and research advisory), between the Center and implementing agencies in the region, and between sub-grantees and the communities within which they work.

The Northeast RNECE has issued their RFA and received 12 letters of intent from 8 states that includes both rural and urban settings. They have both Research and Stakeholder advisory groups. Their signature program, direct education complemented by PSE, is currently in ongoing field development. They will soon identify a flagship location in NY. The Northeast region has conducted an environmental scan and needs assessment among all SNAP-Ed implementers in the region. Data was collected from all but 3 programs, providing a broad and comprehensive response. Data analysis and reports will be forthcoming. A systematic review of nutrition education for low-income audiences delivered with PSE supports has been initiated with the Cornell library system. They are currently selecting search terms and anticipate the final review will be available in about one year.

Process data to be collected regarding the sub-grant awards could include the following items. The Northeast RNECE would be able to provide this information via REDCap through the NCC web site data portal.

- PI names
- Organization
- Proposal Title
- Level of SEM

- Target Audience
- Amount Funded
- Outcome Indicators Chosen for Reporting (from Western Framework)

These additional data points would be helpful:

- Project location: rural vs. urban
- Project setting: school, community, workplace

We discussed data entry and management in REDCap.

The new logo is being prepared for RNECE use. When it is available, NCC will let regions know and place in Dropbox.

### Southern RNECE

Molly DeMarco, Danielle Uslan, and Janet Mullins

March 24, 2015

The Southern RNECE Logic Model and these three general questions were used to guide the call:

4. How can we best measure, report, and sustain new and productive collaborative relationships?
5. How is your work going? Reviewer recruitment? RFA issued? Promoting RFA to region?
6. How sub-grantees can be prepared to report toward common indicators. What additional resources (e.g. data collection tools) are needed to support indicator reporting?

The Southern RNECE has an excellent understanding of the Western Regions SNAP-Ed Evaluation Framework, using this for their SNAP-Ed implementation. With Lorelei Jones from NC State as co-director, they have an Extension evaluation expertise. Carolyn Dunn from NC State serves as an Extension Food and Nutrition resource for the team.

The RFA is under final review with USDA. As soon as the RFA is approved, they will provide a link for NCC website to use. The Southern RNECE web site is well under construction with many components and interactive ways for resources to be uploaded by sub-grantees. They will launch the full web site in a few weeks with communications to the Southern region. They anticipate ~8 awards, 4 each in two categories (implementing signature research and pilot testing new interventions). Awards will focus on PSE changes. The signature program is "Faithful Families", a physical activity and nutrition intervention with lay leaders. The program includes an assessment of where PSE work could be done in the faith community. Additionally, the work will explore how social media might be used to improve recruitment and retention among low-income audiences.

Process data to be collected regarding the sub-grant awards could include the following items. The Southern RNECE would be able to provide this information via REDCap through the NCC web site data portal.

- PI names
- Organization
- Proposal Title
- Level of SEM
- Target Audience
- Amount Funded
- Outcome Indicators Chosen for Reporting (from Western Framework)

Molly and Daniella sent to Janet the "key indicators" discussed at ASNNA - a subset for use across RNECE. They will also send some process measures the Southern RNECE is using to assess implementation fidelity. Janet will share those with all evaluators.

#### Six Key Indicators for RNECE - ASNNA Meeting February 2015

Individual-level:

1. MT1: MyPlate Behaviors (more F & V, more water, less sugary drinks....)
2. MT2: Shopping Behaviors (more label reading, buying 100% whole grains, low-fat dairy, less food with added sugars, stretching food dollars, comparison shopping, buying sale items/using coupons, shopping with a list, food safety, batch cooking)
3. MT3: Physical Activity Behaviors (ave. # of minutes per session, ave. # of days, ave. # of steps, reduced sedentary behavior)

Environment-level:

1. ST4: Identification of Opportunities (# or % of settings with an identified need for improving access or creating appeal for nutrition & PA)
2. ST6: Partnerships (# of organizational task forces with representation of SNAP-Ed who are actively influencing org or environmental changes)
3. MT4: Nutrition Supports Adopted (changes in settings to support healthy eating - hours at corner stores, food display, menu labeling, edible gardens...)

The following agenda items are needed for NCC monthly calls:

- an overview of Dropbox organization and uses
- a demonstration of REDCap including how to log on, navigating data portal, who may have access (i.e. sub-grantees or just RNECE?)

#### Western RNECE

Garry Auld and Janet Mullins

March 24, 2015

The Western RNECE Logic Model and three general questions were used to guide the call:

7. How can we best measure, report, and sustain new and productive collaborative relationships?
8. How is your work going? Reviewer recruitment? RFA issued? Promoting RFA to region?
9. How sub-grantees can be prepared to report toward common indicators. What additional resources (e.g. data collection tools) are needed to support indicator reporting?

The Western RNECE is focused on direct education and environmental approaches for an adult population. Their focus will include, but is not limited to, Hispanic populations. They anticipate releasing the RFA next week with a comprehensive communications plan to let the region know about the RFA. They anticipate 4-5 awards. A needs assessment survey is ready to go when IRB approval is granted (next week?) and will collect data on the current status of direct education and complementary PSE in the Western Region. The survey will go to all EFNEP and SNAP-Ed implementers in the Western region. They will do a second survey to collect more details on PSE later; both surveys incorporate items from the NE RNECE original version. Several component of the WRNECE's signature program are underway including testing the best options for reaching graduates for long-term evaluation of direct education and developing protocols for collection of objective data (BMI, blood pressure) from participants. Washington State is conducting an environmental scan.

The Western region is working with Alice Ammerman on incorporating the "E" of PSE into an adult nutrition curriculum to empower individuals to change their environments. Continued collaboration and engagement of more Western states to implement protocols and collect data is anticipated. They are developing training videos around their document prepared for NIFA FNS on Best Practices in Nutrition Education for Low-Income Audiences:  
<http://nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource/Best%20Practices%20in%20Nutrition%20Education%20for%20Low-Income%20Audiences.pdf>

Process data to be collected regarding the sub-grant awards could include the following items. The Western RNECE would be able to provide this information via REDCap through the NCC web site data portal.

- PI names
- Organization
- Proposal Title
- Level of SEM
- Target Audience
- Amount Funded
- Outcome Indicators Chosen for Reporting (from Western Framework)