

**USDA Regional Nutrition Education Centers of Excellence (RNECE)  
National Coordination Center at University of Kentucky  
Third Quarterly Report: April 1 – June 30, 2015**

During the third quarter of the RNECE Initiative, these milestones were achieved:

- Four current RNECEs solicited, reviewed and are negotiating sub-award projects
- Significant progress on other RNECE projects
- RNECEs and NCC coordinated and submitted continuation proposals to USDA
- NCC organized a meeting following SNEB to be held in Pittsburg July 29-30, 2015

Sub-Award Projects

Two RNECEs (NC, NE) are providing sub-awards related to their Signature Research Programs. In RNECE-WE, the Signature Research Program is distinct from the sub-awards. In the RNECE-SO, two types of sub-awards are being provided, one set related to their Signature Research Program and one set focused on innovative proposals. When sub-award recipients are finalized (August 2015), the NCC is prepared to collect more data about the projects (e.g. organization, title, amount funded, level of SEM, outcome indicators selected for reporting). The current status of sub-awards is summarized below.

<b>North Central</b>	Received 7 proposals from mostly LGUs, will fund 5 with focus on rural PSE work
<b>Northeast</b>	Received 10 proposals, will fund 4 from LGUs, implementing agencies and non-profits and have 1 New York state project
<b>Southern</b>	Two sub-award categories: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Faithful Families (Signature Research) 3 LGU awards: AK, FL, TN</li> <li>2. Innovation 3 LGU applications, will award 2</li> </ol>
<b>Western</b>	Received 5 proposals: will fund 1 and are negotiating 1

Significant RNECE Progress on Other Projects

- North Central has launched the Affiliates program; applications are being received and include: the type of program (EFNEP or SNAP-Education), target audience, researcher or implementer, uploaded CV. Have received IRB approval to conduct focus groups (2-3 groups of 8-10 people, with all states and attention to diversity). Focus groups will discuss expectations of RNECE, what they hope to achieve, and needs at all levels of SEM.
- Northeast has a full analysis underway of their environmental scan and needs assessment survey results completed in March 2015. The survey identified EFNEP/SNAP-Education program characteristics, PSE efforts, and how PSE is coordinated with direct education. The systematic review of current literature to assess the evidence base for additive effect of PSEs combined with direct education continues.

- Southern will host a webinar on PSE strategies on August 17, 2015. They are working with PHI (CA) on a CDC funded effort in 8 states (the SNAP-Ed SERO region) to implement a SNAP-Ed survey regarding barriers and interest in PSE work to all SNAP-Ed and EFNEP implementers in their 15 state/territory region. The RNECE-South is piloting a rural healthy corner store project to inform the work of it's continuation proposal. They are also currently developing and testing a social media toolkit to be used with direct education.
- Western has two areas of research in addition to the sub-awards led by CSU and WSU. Have started an analysis of secondary EFNEP data (500,000 participants, 2007-2013) and are currently ensuring data quality. Doing formative research with past graduates to determine best way to collect long-term follow-up data (e.g. email, text, phone, regular mail). Hope to replicate this in 4-5 additional states. Developing protocol for longitudinal biometric study and have started recording videos for self-directed online staff development using Best Practices modules.

#### Continuation Proposals

Collaboratively the RNECEs and NCC established working groups to plan for specific responsibilities requested by USDA in the continuation proposals. Key personnel for working groups and the lead RNECE for each working group are:

1. Research Translation and Training Program – Northeast
2. Affiliate Registry of Implementers and Researchers – North Central
3. Direct Education Toolkit – Western
4. Policy, Systems, and Environment Toolkit - Southern

	<b>Research Translation and Training Program</b>	<b>Affiliate Registry of Implementers and Researchers</b>	<b>Direct Education Toolkit</b>	<b>Policy, Systems, and Environment Toolkit</b>
<b>National</b>	Janet Kurzynske	Ann Vail	Dawn Brewer	Janet Mullins
<b>North Central</b>	Jo Britt-Rankin	Marci Scott	Dawn Contreras	Dennis Savaiano
<b>Northeast</b>	Jamie Dollahite	Karene Booker	Joan Paddock	Tisa Hill
<b>Southern</b>	Alice Ammerman	Molly De Marco	Lorelei Jones	Daniella Uslan
<b>Western</b>	Susan Baker	Garry Auld	Susan Baker	Karen Barale
<b>New PSE Center</b>				

Pittsburgh Meeting July 29-30, 2015

A total of 21 people (including all RNECE Principal Investigators and selected project team members) are registered to attend an in-person meeting immediately following the Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior conference. The group will meet with Helen Chipman, discuss the context of RNECE work, evaluation and communications, and expectations for final report.

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THIRD QUARTER EVALUATION CALL DATES AND PARTICIPANTS:

North Central RNECE: Dawn Contreras and Janet Mullins, July 17, 2015

Northeast RNECE: Karene Booker, Debbie Sellers, and Janet Mullins, July 15, 2015

Southern RNECE: Molly De Marco, Danielle Uslan, and Janet Mullins, July 8, 2015

Western RNECE: Garry Auld and Janet Mullins, July 9, 2015