



RNECE

Regional Nutrition Education and
Obesity Prevention Centers of Excellence
National Coordination Center at the University of Kentucky

POINTING THE WAY
TO GOOD
NUTRITION

RNECE Initiative Mission and Objectives

The overarching goal of the RNECE is to improve the health of low-income Americans by fostering a culture of health through multiple strategies, including nutrition education and complementary public health approaches implemented at each level of the socio-ecological framework through policy, systems and environmental changes.

- Strengthen the evidence-base on effective nutrition education and obesity prevention programs for diverse population groups.
- Evaluate the long-term effectiveness of nutrition education and obesity prevention interventions for disadvantaged and underserved populations and opportunities for new research.
- Identify and create research collaborations and synergistic relationships among researchers and EFNEP/SNAP-Ed program directors, universities and other implementers, and state and federal agencies.
- Enhance the impact of state and community nutrition education and obesity prevention efforts by providing the public health-related training and evidence that practitioners need for improving nutrition and health behaviors, environments, and policies in ways that are equitable, efficient, and sustained over time.

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QUARTERLY REPORT

July 1 – September 30, 2016

Message from the Director, National Coordination Center

As the second year of Regional Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Centers of Excellence (RNECE) Initiative comes to a close, significant work among the Centers is on track to meet the four objectives. National and state stakeholders have learned of RNECE work at conferences and through electronic updates. Research scientists, implementing agencies, and implementation personnel are better informed about the evidence base for the work and progress to strengthen the foundational elements of nutrition education programs for a diverse population of individuals and families. We now begin the final year of the initiative work, with research projects concluding and communication about findings to all stakeholders regarding new ways to efficiently ensure that our audiences have access to nutritious foods and an active lifestyle. All Centers have maintained working communities of advisors who will continue to guide plans for application of the RNECE work.

Dr. Ann Vail

<http://rnece-ncc.org>



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RNECE National Coordination Center at University of Kentucky

The National Coordination Center hosted monthly conference calls with participation by all Centers. During this quarter, five USDA representatives from FNS and NIFA participated in the August 22, 2016 call to discuss the previous Quarterly Report. Updates from all Centers demonstrate the continued strong work to build the evidence base for EFNEP and SNAP-Ed programs. Several presentations at Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior (SNEB) in July 2016 were well attended demonstrating continued interest among practitioners for the work of the RNECE Initiative. Preparation of an Executive Summary of RNECE work to date is underway.

Collaboration among NCC, the Policy, Systems and Environmental Change Center (PSE), and RNECE-Northeast along with the other Centers, is progressing toward a national training platform to provide continuing education for program personnel on effective use of PSE interventions in combination with direct education programming. The careful, systematic approach of the PSE Center to document competencies necessary for PSE application provides a strong foundation for targeted training resources. A community readiness tool will help programs assess their capacity for leveraging PSE interventions.

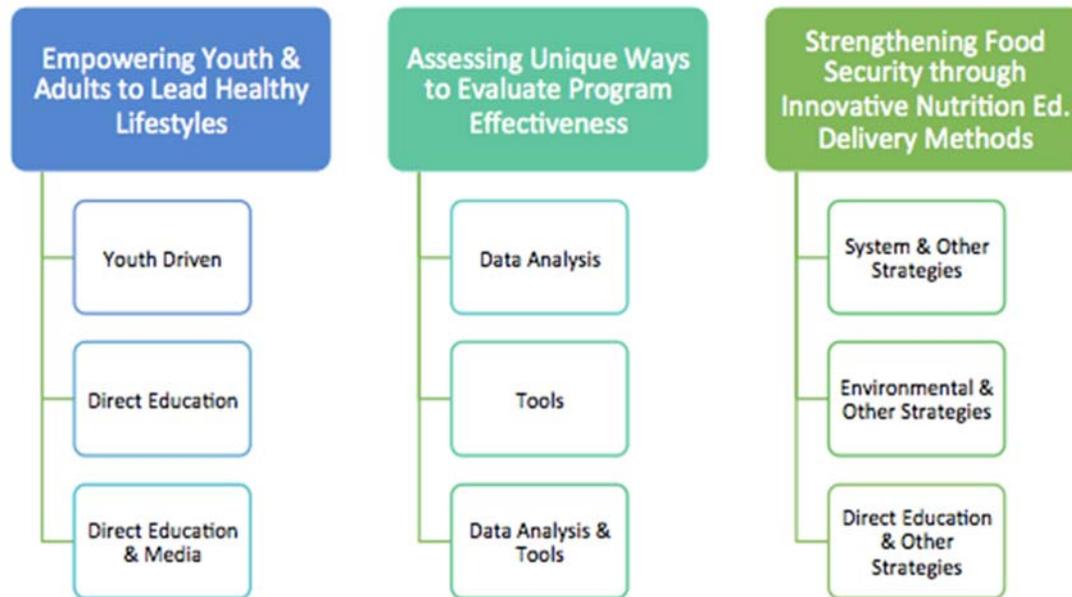
The systematic literature review by RNECE-Northeast has established review and inclusion criteria, identified published papers, and will train reviewers in October 2016. RNECE-North Central, with a unique focus on rural obesity prevention, is collecting qualitative data to further relationships among researchers and implementers with a focus on PSE approaches.

RNECE-South has successfully developed the online, interactive toolkit allowing implementers to identify evidence-based direct education and PSE intervention combinations to provide synergy promoting behavior change among program participants. The interactive toolkit link has been distributed to the RNECE listserv to pilot test this new resource.

RNECE-West completed a secondary analysis of seven years of EFNEP data regarding program participants and behavior changes. This work will support national efforts to update program assessment tools to reflect the 2015 Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

A quarterly evaluation call was held on September 22, 2016 with participation by all Centers. Each project in the Research Project Inventory was reviewed and Centers submitted updated information for the table included in this report. A review of research projects was completed by NCC; sorting the projects into the categorical organization system shown below. See the Research Project Inventory in this report for more details about these 28 RNECE projects.

RNECE Research Project Inventory Categories



Updates to web sites for NCC and other Centers were requested to maintain current personnel directories and provide access to all currently available presentations. Web sites for each Center continue to be an important source of continued progress for the RNECE Initiative.

RNECE Policy, Systems, and Environmental Change Center at University of Tennessee

The Regional Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Centers of Excellence Policy, Systems, and Environmental Change Center (RNECE-PSE) is committed to equipping, training, and empowering local level coordinators and supervisors to integrate effective Policy, Systems and Environmental change (PSE) approaches into SNAP-Ed and EFNEP programs. In cooperation with the NCC and other Centers, RNECE-PSE strives to provide timely and relevant real-world PSE guidance that will a) enhance the capacity of SNAP-Ed and EFNEP networks to effectively implement and evaluate PSE approaches and b) strengthen SNAP-Ed and EFNEP nutrition education interventions through incorporation of effective culturally-responsive PSE approaches centered on readiness to change best practices. To achieve these objectives, RNECE-PSE is tasked with the following aims:

1. Complete a situational analysis of SNAP-Ed and EFNEP programs related to PSE adoption and implementation.
2. Adapt readiness to change resources to strengthen SNAP-Ed and EFNEP efforts to implement PSE strategies.
3. Create a framework and provide resources to increase intercultural competence in SNAP-Ed and EFNEP PSE implementation.

4. Develop, disseminate, and evaluate systematic competency-based PSE instruction, guidelines, and resources including readiness to change and intercultural competence development that are tailored to the needs of trainees.

DECEMBER 15, 2015-JUNE 30, 2016

RNECE-PSE has finalized a situational analysis of SNAP-Ed programs including identifying facilitators, barriers, best practices and training needs related to PSE adoption and implementation. The situational analysis included a Delphi study with SNAP-Ed and EFNEP professionals and an environmental scan of available PSE trainings. The Delphi study was conducted in spring 2016 with SNAP-Ed professionals. These professionals identified barriers, facilitators and training needs for PSEs in SNAP-Ed and EFNEP. Top barriers included issues with PSE evaluation; lack of training about PSEs; and problems with coordinating direct education efforts with PSE implementation. Top facilitators included PSE training and PSE evaluation expertise. The environmental scan of free and available electronic trainings revealed a plethora of PSE/PSE related trainings and resources developed by various organizations. These external PSE trainings and resources were compiled, reviewed with Quality Matters Standards and disseminated on SNAPedPSE.org.

Lastly, previous work has identified competencies needed for successful nutrition education programs in SNAP-Ed and EFNEP when these programs focused primarily on direct education (Baker, 2009). To build on previous efforts, RNECE-PSE Change Center conducted a Developing a Curriculum (DACUM) process to identify competencies related to implementing PSEs in SNAP-Ed. The DACUM process was conducted with SNAP-Ed supervisors in spring 2016. These supervisors identified major tasks and job duties related to implementing PSEs in SNAP-Ed programs. These tasks were reviewed by an expert panel of SNAP-Ed professionals.

Results of the situational analysis and the DACUM process guides RNECE-PSE's efforts to develop competency-based trainings to support SNAP-Ed and EFNEP capacity building around layering and evaluating effective PSE approaches into their programs.

Resources related to readiness and intercultural competence are ongoing. Two readiness tools have been adapted to fit the needs of SNAP-Ed networks in the context of building partnerships and evaluation. First, readiness assessments have been tailored to focus on SNAP-Ed agencies' readiness to collaborate on PSE initiatives and on community partner's readiness to collaborate on PSE initiatives. Both assessment tools include five areas of readiness, helps determine where groups are at in working together to implement PSE approaches, and provides links to resources and trainings to help groups collaborate. In addition, RNECE-PSE provided input for the short term (ST) indicators section related to readiness and need, champions and partnerships of the Evaluation Framework Interpretive Guide (2016). As a result, RNECE-PSE adapted a needs and readiness flow chart that was published in the SNAP-Ed Interpretive Guide (pg. 86) to navigate SNAP-Ed local coordinators through Evaluation Framework indicator ST5. Finally, a literature review was completed for intercultural competence development in the workforce.

Moreover, RNECE-PSE has established working partnerships with the National PSE Training Workgroup, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Collaborative on Childhood Obesity Research (NCCOR), Association of SNAP-Ed Nutrition Administrators (ASNNA), SNAP regional directors, John Hopkins University, and SNAP-Ed and EFNEP local, state and regional coordinators to align efforts, avoid duplication, collaborate, share expertise, and receive guidance for PSE trainings to be disseminated by August, 2017.

Aim 1. Complete a situational analysis of SNAP-Ed and EFNEP programs related to PSE adoption and implementation. Dissemination of situational analysis results occurred as the RNECE-PSE splash page went live this quarter (www.SNAPedPSE.org). Reports and resources noted in previous quarters can be found at www.SNAPedPSE.org. The splash page will expand into an interactive web page that will house training resources to support competency-based skill building. A request for bids was submitted this quarter to support the development of an interactive web page. RNECE-PSE continues to monitor the status of external trainings and resources found in the environmental scan and update quarterly. Documents were updated this quarter by removing two PSE trainings that are no longer available. Additionally, a poster was presented at the SNEB annual conference in July 2016: "A Delphi Study to Identify Barriers, Facilitators and Training Needs for Policies, Systems, and Environmental Interventions in Nutrition Education Programs for Low-Income Audiences."

Aim 2. Adapt readiness to change resources to strengthen SNAP-Ed and EFNEP efforts to implement PSE strategies. Bi-weekly meetings occurred with RNECE-PSE and two SNAP-Ed implementing agencies to pre-pilot two readiness to collaborate tools. A total of eight assessments were conducted. After stakeholder use and input, both tools were further refined into one tool to address the willingness and ability of SNAP-Ed agencies and community partners to engage in implementing PSEs. A webinar to train SNAP-Ed local coordinators on how to implement the collaboration readiness tool in select pilot states was developed and will be implemented next quarter.

Aim 3. Create a framework and provide resources to increase intercultural competence in SNAP-Ed and EFNEP PSE implementation. An intercultural development continuum and strategies to increase intercultural competence found during the literature review were selected and organized into a presentation. A pilot presentation of the continuum model and associated strategies was delivered to 100 professionals involved in community programming. Following the pilot presentation, planning meetings occurred for an intercultural competence development guide to be begin in Fall 2016.

Aim 4. Develop, disseminate, and evaluate systematic competency-based PSE instruction, guidelines, and resources including readiness to change and intercultural competence development that are tailored to the needs of trainees.

Competency-based PSE instruction. SNAP-Ed PSE competencies identified through the Developing a Curriculum (DACUM) process were verified by a national panel of SNAP-Ed professionals. Critical tasks identified were related to building, engaging and maintaining partnerships and intercultural competency.

RNECE-PSE is in planning stages for implementing a DACUM panel to identify PSE competency skills and tasks specific to EFNEP. The EFNEP PSE national committee is supporting this effort by administering a prescreen survey next quarter to identify EFNEP PSE subject matter experts. The EFNEP DACUM panel will be conducted in early spring 2017.

Development. Several collaborative projects to support PSE trainings are ongoing. First, RNECE-PSE as part of the National RNECE Training Workgroup met at SNEB preconference to discuss PSE trainings based on the SNAP-Ed PSE competencies. The National Training Workgroup plans to design two training modules focusing on an introduction to PSEs and evaluation of PSE strategies. Second, RNECE-PSE will focus on PSE competency-based “how-to” trainings for specific community pieces. One of these pieces will be healthy corner stores for urban settings. RNECE-PSE is working with Dr. Joel Gittelsohn, John Hopkins University, to develop PSE competency-based healthy corner store trainings. Planning meetings have occurred to adapt fourteen in-person pilot trainings into three modules of asynchronous interactive on-line training. RNECE-South Molly Demarco will be providing advisory guidance. Lastly, RNECE-PSE has submitted a SNEB pre-conference proposal with the Food and Nutrition Extension Educators (FNEE) planning committee to deliver PSE evaluation and intercultural competency development presentations. A PSE Competency Skill Guide is in development to support the web based resources. Storyboards for the web application are being created in preparation for the interactive webpage development.

Dissemination. The DACUM verification summary was posted on the RNECE-PSE website (www.SNAPEdPSE.org). In addition, results of the situational analysis and DACUM panel competencies were shared with FNS Regional SNAP-Ed coordinators via a webinar. Input was received to ensure that implementing agencies understand that direct education and PSE strategies need to be planned and implemented from an integrated approach, additions will be made to the PSE competency skill-building materials to address this issue before final dissemination. As mentioned previously, a poster was presented at SNEB annual conference in July 2016: "A Delphi Study to Identify Barriers, Facilitators and Training Needs for Policies, Systems, and Environmental Interventions in Nutrition Education Programs for Low-Income Audiences." Lastly, the needs and readiness flow chart (developed and published last quarter) as part of the Evaluation Framework Interpretive Guide was presented in a two-part webinar series hosted by NCCOR with over 200 SNAP-Ed and other nutrition education professionals in attendance.

RNECE North Central Region Center at Purdue University

The primary focus of the Regional Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Centers of Excellence North Central Center (RNECE-NC) is to increase the evidence base of multi-level SNAP-Ed and EFNEP interventions, with a strong emphasis on research in rural areas. Through an affiliates' program the center also seeks to increase partnerships between researchers and SNAP-Ed and EFNEP implementers. Efforts this past quarter concentrated on helping each of the funded projects be successful in reaching their key goals and milestones. A progress update for the Center's research projects is listed below.

Summer Weight and Environmental Assessment Trial (SWEAT), PI – Gunther:

IRB approval has been received at both Ohio State University and Purdue University. Meetings are scheduled with the participating schools/principals to discuss recruitment plans and baseline data collection. In addition, preparations are being made to launch pilot testing, including face validity testing (certain surveys) and testing of data collection methods.

A Longitudinal Randomized and Controlled Evaluation of the Integrated Impact of SNAP-Ed on Food Security and Obesity Prevention in Rural and Urban Counties, PI- Eicher-Miller:

This project is a bit ahead of the timeline schedule. Data acquisition, cleaning, construction of variables, checking assumptions, baseline comparative analysis, statistical modeling and determining the best model have been completed. Results are currently being interpreted and are being applied, a manuscript is being written to disseminate the results, and additional follow-up analysis is being completed.

Eat Smart in Parks, PI- Wilhelm Stanis:

This photovoice project helps to address the issues and needs identified by youth in urban and rural parks in Missouri. Four photovoice projects (two urban and two rural) with youth ages 10-17 were conducted in community centers and afterschool programs. Youth took photos, wrote captions, and as a group identified overall themes they wished to address with the community. Photos and themes were shared with the wider community at exhibition gallery events. Surveys were conducted with the participating youth before and after the photovoice project to assess youth's perceptions of the environment, leadership and empowerment; additional surveys with community members were conducted at the gallery events. The data collection is complete, and the research team is currently analyzing the data and writing reports/manuscripts.

Evaluating a Multi-Modal Community Nutrition Education Model within SNAP-Ed and EFNEP (Phase 2), PI-McCaffrey:

The research team is in the second phase of the project for the participant tracking, with 113 out of the original 303 participants agreeing to continue on until spring 2017. They have finished the first round of collection for the Social Network Analysis (SNA) surveys in Illinois (five counties) and Michigan (six counties). Also, the environmental assessments (Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-Assessment for Child Care (NAP SACC) in early childcare settings, Smarter

Lunchroom Assessments in K-12 schools, and a food pantry assessment in emergency food locations) are being finished in the five Illinois counties.

The Influence of Policy, System and Environmental Nutrition Education Intervention on Dietary Quality at Diverse Low-Income Childcare Provider Settings, PI-Earnesty:

Michigan State University Extension has trained thirty nutrition educators from Michigan Kidney Foundation and MSU Extension to use the NAP SACC assessment and provide nutrition education to home child care providers focused on PSE best practices related to fruits and vegetables. Four research assistants have been trained to use the diet estimation method by Ball and colleagues to estimate food served and consumed in child care homes. Twenty-five child care homes have been randomized and recruited into the study with nineteen child care homes completing the pre observation visit for the pre/post design.

Survey Development of SNAP-Ed and EFNEP Participants' Perceptions of PSE Approaches, PI-Bhagyashree:

The purpose of the project is to develop a valid and reliable instrument to assess SNAP-Ed and EFNEP participant perspective of policy, systems and environment (PSE), thus providing professionals another source of information on appropriate approaches to modify PSE. Focus groups have been conducted with EFNEP and SNAP-Ed practitioners and transcribed. Information from the transcripts is being used to update the survey for use with program participants. Considerations regarding the survey include: pairing it with questions related to consumption behavior, best method for survey distribution data collection and entry, and strategies to address survey fatigue among participants. When completed, the survey instrument will be assessed for reliability, validity, and content in collaboration with participating states.

RNECE Northeast Region Center at Cornell University

The primary goal of the Regional Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Centers of Excellence Northeast Center (RNECE-NE) is to expand the evidence base that supports effective nutrition education of diverse low-income program participants delivered in conjunction with PSE approaches that make healthy choices easier in order to prevent obesity. The Northeast key initiatives are a signature research program, nationwide training program, and a systematic review of literature with these objectives:

1. **Foster sustainable regional and local collaborations** among researchers working in a variety of relevant disciplines and nutrition and health program implementers serving low-income audiences across the northeastern United States, a region of stark geographical contrasts from dense urban to remote and isolated rural;
2. **Develop a signature research program** that combines direct education with PSE changes able to be effectively implemented by programs such as the EFNEP and SNAP-Ed that serve low-income rural and urban participants from a wide range of ethnic, racial and linguist backgrounds;

3. **Create a system of sub-awards to fund projects that rigorously test the effectiveness of emergent or practice-based interventions** that combine nutrition education and public health approaches to support a culture of health among low income populations;
4. **Develop a communication and dissemination system** including mentoring and staff development through eXtension, social media, and on-line platforms as well as research articles to share: (1) the work of the Center, (2) research results from Center projects, and (3) best practices for nutrition education approaches that include PSE change efforts.

Foster Collaboration

RNECE-NE center staff participated in monthly RNECE conference calls and workgroups to foster partnerships and facilitate collaboration. Staff notified the RNECE-NE Steering Committee, Stakeholder Committee and Research Advisory group about the loss of third year funding. The roles and functions of the committees were wrapped up and the committees will no longer be active as of October 1.

Signature Research – Sub-Awards

The goal of the signature research program is to investigate whether the combination of direct nutrition education and PSE changes have greater impact on dietary intake and physical activity than either strategy alone. Five research projects are supported; one internal and four as external sub-awards. The four external projects were completed as of September 30, 2016; their final reports are due November 1, 2016. The Adopting Healthy Habits in Worksites project being conducted in New York State is ongoing through June 30, 2017. Policy implementation, recruitment, and data collection are ongoing. County staff implementing the intervention met with Center staff on September 30, 2016 to plan the last phase of the project. Preliminary results for the five projects were discussed during a presentation noted below at the Annual SNEB Conference.

Signature Research - Systematic Review

The methodology was completed for the systematic review designed to assess the comparative effectiveness of combining direct nutrition education with PSEs on weight status and food and nutrition behaviors related to obesity prevention. The systematic review protocol was registered in PROSPERO, the International prospective register of systematic reviews, at: (http://www.crd.york.ac.uk/prospero/display_record.asp?ID=CRD42016046859). The literature searches were completed and the Systematic Review Management team began title/abstract screening of the articles. Training for the Systematic Review Workgroup for full-text screening was planned and will be conducted in October 2016.

Communication and Dissemination

Data from the national assessment of PSE training needs conducted earlier this year, along with the RNECE-PSE's list of PSE Competencies for SNAP-Ed Coordinators based on their DACUM results, are being used to inform the development of training modules. Collaboration with the RNECE-PSE and the training workgroup to develop nationwide training is underway and an outline for the training has been drafted. Members of both the nationwide training workgroup

and the RNECE-PSE met on July 31, 2016 at the Annual SNEB Conference; members agreed on topics for two modules of the training and planned next steps.

RNECE-NE staff presented on the Center's work at the Society for Nutrition, Education and Behavior (SNEB), July 30 – August 2, 2016, in San Diego, CA:

- Dollahite J, Damio G, Segura-Perez S, Gittelsohn J, Mehta M, Greene G, Hill TF. *Northeast Regional Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Center of Excellence: Building evidence and taking action in communities*. Presentation at 2016 Annual Conference of the Society for Nutrition, Education and Behavior, July 30 – August 2, 2016, San Diego, CA.
- Stark C, Hill TF, Dollahite J. *What We Mean by Policy, Systems and Environmental Changes: A Nationwide Training for SNAP-Ed and EFNEP Professionals*. Poster presented at 2016 Annual Conference of the Society for Nutrition, Education and Behavior, July 30 – August 2, 2016, San Diego, CA.

RNECE South Region Center at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

The Regional Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Centers of Excellence South Center (RNECE-South) at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (UNC) and North Carolina State University (NC State) equips SNAP-Ed and EFNEP implementing agencies to create a culture of wellness where program participants experience measurable improvements in their health, nutrition and physical activity through multiple strategies including nutrition education and public health approaches. This regional center has promoted nutrition education and PSE through the Faithful Families Signature Project and the Innovation Sub-Awards, research in social media interventions for EFNEP and healthy retail interventions for SNAP-Ed, and online training opportunities and SNAP-Ed Obesity Prevention Toolkit website development. RNECE-South serves SNAP-Ed and EFNEP efforts in: Alabama (AL), Arkansas (AR), Florida (FL), Georgia (GA), Oklahoma (OK), Virginia (VA), Louisiana (LA), South Carolina (SC), Kentucky (KY), Mississippi (MS), Tennessee (TN), Texas (TX), Puerto Rico (PR), and the Virgin Islands (VI).

Eat Well Be Well Healthy Stores Project

Project Goal: To expand the settings of the Baltimore Healthy Stores intervention to low-income, rural neighborhoods in the Southern United States and evaluate its impact at the store, store-owner, and consumer-levels.

During this reporting period, the twenty-one week intervention was completed in the eight participating stores in Orange, Warren and Lenoir counties. Messaging and materials were developed for phase four (Smart Snacks) and phase five (Healthy at Home). Materials for each phase include a main message poster, laminated shelf labels for promoted foods, an educational display poster and handouts, and recipe cards. Store leaders for each county conducted weekly check-ins with store managers and assessed program fidelity (i.e. make sure promoted foods were purchased and stocked and materials remained posted in stores). Project staff conducted two food demonstrations in each store during each phase, a total of 80

demonstrations. During the food demonstrations, staff interacted with 1,138 customers, handed out 1,719 healthy recipe cards, and shared 1,053 educational extenders. The food demonstrations during phase four and five shared spiced popcorn, almonds, and a red bean and rice salad. Store leaders and food demonstration staff completed process reports for each store visit. Feedback on the intervention was very positive and store owners/managers were very engaged in the work. RNECE-South has begun post-intervention evaluation through customer surveys, Communities of Excellence (CX3) environmental assessment, and store manager interviews.

Social Media

Project Goal: To develop, implement and evaluated a social media toolkit designed to provide guidance to SNAP-Ed and EFNEP implementers using social media campaigns to enhance program goals.

RNECE-South conducted content and data analysis of a random sample of 500 administrative communications across 37 EFNEP Facebook pages posted between May 2013-June 2015 to identify the association between communication characteristics and measures of user engagement. RNECE-South conducted qualitative content analysis on communication content and quantitative measures of participant engagement: number of likes, number of shares, number of clicks, and number of comments. An abstract was submitted to the Society of Behavioral Medicine based on the findings of these analyses. RNECE-South developed a participant survey for a convenience sampling of 150 EFNEP participants enrolled in the program between October 2014-November 2015 to measure participant demographics, barriers and facilitators to use, value to participants, adverse effects and evaluation of message characteristics. The survey has been submitted to the IRB for approval. RNECE-South has also begun the development of the EFNEP Social Media Communications Guidance website, purchased a domain name to be hosted by NC State, and created a wireframe for the website resource materials. Five states have been recruited to test the guidance materials using a one-month social media campaign.

Faithful Families Signature Sub-Awards

The RNECE-South Team selected the *Faithful Families Eating Smart and Moving More* program (Faithful Families) as their Signature Program. Combining best practices that target individual behavior with environmental and policy changes, Faithful Families educates faith community members about food, physical activity, and how to become advocates for healthy policy and environmental changes within their communities. The purpose of these sub-awards is to strengthen the evidence base for adult nutrition education programming with diverse low-income populations, specifically for SNAP-Ed and/or EFNEP programs implementing Faithful Families, to test strategies for supporting positive nutrition, obesity prevention and health behavior change, assess long-term outcomes, and test strategies to evaluate PSE within a faith-based community.

University of Florida (PI: Karla Shelnett, PhD): *Project On-going:* During this period, the team had multiple conference calls to continue programming in Hillsborough County and extend the project into Escambia County. In Hillsborough, the team actively recruited across the county to identify eligible and interested faith communities. Two faith communities committed to the program and lay leaders were identified and received training. Site visits were conducted to determine amenities available to the staff and eligible participants were recruited. In addition, online components were established for the intervention group.

In Escambia, the team facilitated extensive trainings and follow-up meetings so the staff were prepared for programming. The staff actively recruited faith communities, however they were met with extreme adversity. Faith communities were either not eligible for programming, not interested in participating at this time, or did not have availability in their schedules to accommodate the program. Fortunately, the Escambia staff were able to successfully recruit one faith community. Lay leaders were identified and trained so they could assist in the recruitment of participants. In addition, site visits were conducted to determine amenities available to the staff. Online components were established for this group, and will be set up as an intervention site.

In addition to the above activities, the team attempted to recruit one additional site in Florida's panhandle; specifically in Santa Rosa County, which borders Escambia. Similar to Escambia, the Santa Rosa team received extensive training to facilitate the program in their county. They recruited across the county and identified a faith community. However, after facilitating the orientation session, it became clear that the team would not recruit any eligible participants so programming was discontinued.

University of Tennessee (PI: Karen Franck, PhD): *Project Complete:* Faithful Families was implemented in two churches: one in a rural county located in the Appalachian region on the Tennessee-North Carolina border (Cocke County) and one in an urban county located in the Delta Region near Memphis, Tennessee (Madison County). Nineteen participants enrolled in Cocke County and 30 participants enrolled in Madison County. Because these groups were small, statistical significance could not be calculated. However, based on frequencies the data suggested a few differences between the rural and urban settings but for the most part these two groups were similar.

<i>Group differences (Urban/Rural)</i>	<i>Group similarities (Urban/Rural)</i>
<p>a. More participants enrolled in the urban program (30 participants in Madison County vs. 19 participants in Cocke County).</p> <p>b. More participants did not complete the urban program. A greater percentage of participants dropped out of the urban classes compared to the rural classes. Thirteen participants dropped out in Madison County vs. three participants who did not complete in Cocke County or 43% vs. 16% drop-outs.</p>	<p>a. Over 70% of graduates in both groups improved in Food Resource Management practices.</p> <p>b. 50% of graduates in both groups improved in Food Safety practices Most participants did not have children at home (25 in Madison and 13 in Cocke).</p> <p>c. No participants were pregnant or nursing. Most participants were aged 50 or over (25 in Madison and 13 in Cocke).</p>

<i>Group differences (Urban/Rural), cont.</i>	<i>Group similarities (Urban/Rural), cont.</i>
<p>c. More participants in the rural setting were enrolled in public assistance programs. Nine participants in Cocke County were enrolled in at least one public assistance program compared to three participants in Madison County.</p> <p>d. More participants in the urban setting were men. Eleven men were enrolled in Madison County compared to four men in Cocke County.</p> <p>e. More graduates in the rural setting improved in Nutrition practices. Eighty percent of Cocke County graduates improved in at least one nutrition practice compared to 69% in Madison graduates.</p>	<p>d. Most participants were African American. All participants in both counties who reported race identified as African American. This was unexpected for the rural setting because this county is predominantly white, non-Hispanic (95% of Cocke County residents identified as White as reported by the US Census compared to 60% of Madison County residents).</p> <p>e. Most participants had finished high school. Only one participant did not complete high school in Madison and two did not complete high school in Cocke.</p>

In both counties, a separate church participated in the EFNEP curriculum that is offered in Tennessee titled *Eat Smart Get Your Family to the Table*. Again, because this was a small sample size significant differences were not calculated. However, based on frequencies there were some differences between the groups.

<i>Group Differences (Between Programs)</i>	<i>Group Similarities (Between Programs)</i>
<p>a. Fewer participants enrolled in <i>Eat Smart</i> compared to <i>Faithful Families</i> in both counties (34 participants enrolled in <i>Eat Smart</i> (19 in Madison and 15 in Cocke) vs. 49 in <i>Faithful Families</i>).</p> <p>b. Fewer participants graduated from <i>Eat Smart</i> (23 vs. 33 or 68% compared to 73% of the enrolled participants)</p> <p>c. Fewer <i>Eat Smart</i> participants had children (4 vs. 11 or 12% compared to 24% of the enrolled participants)</p> <p>d. Fewer men participated in <i>Eat Smart</i> (3 vs. 15)</p>	<p>a. Participants in both groups were primarily over 50 years old.</p> <p>b. There were no significant differences in outcomes between the two groups.</p>

Throughout the series of classes, there was little to no participation on the Facebook pages. Over fifty percent of participants in both groups reported not having access to smart phones, tablets, or home computers and most of them were not actively engaging in social media at the start of the programs; this did not change with the intervention.

For most behavior change variables there was a slight increase in the desirable behaviors (e.g., number of fruits and vegetables consumed) and a slight decrease in the undesirable behaviors (e.g., amount of sugar sweetened beverages consumed). However, because of the small sample size, the findings need to be interpreted cautiously. PSE changes that were implemented as indicated on the Faith Community Assessment included:

- Written policies to include water at church functions
- Regular physical activity groups for church members
- Promotion of walking and other exercise at church picnics and gatherings
- Promotion of healthy food options at church meals
- Promotion of nutrition and physical activity in sermons, in church bulletins and on the church bulletin board

The reverends in both churches embraced the program and were active participants. The Madison County reverend and his wife attended all of the classes, and promoted the program to church members and to colleagues. He has become invested in a regional health coalition that is looking at ways to change the environmental settings in western counties in Tennessee to promote healthy eating and physical activity. The reverend in Cocke County invited family to participate in the program as well as church members. In collaboration with the County Extension Family and Consumer Sciences agent, diabetes classes and other programs are being offered to church members. The program has also been promoted to colleagues throughout the region, and surrounding Extension county offices have received phone calls from other ministers asking for Faithful Families. Despite the issues with recruiting churches in Cocke County, now that the program has been successfully implemented in one church, several churches have approached the Extension office to ask for Faithful Families.

Faithful Families worked well in both the rural and urban community as indicated by the number of people who signed up and completed the program—this was one of the largest adult SNAP-Ed classes that the rural county had ever completed. This curriculum is going to be implemented throughout Tennessee in SNAP-Ed and EFNEP. Program evaluation data will be collected on all implementation sites to continue to identify barriers and facilitators for implementation, as well as changes in participant outcomes.

University of Arkansas (PI: Lisa Washburn, DrPH): *Project On-going:* Programming and weekly check-ins for county staff have been completed in all five study counties. Exit surveys and biometrics have been collected for all six sites. Two out of five sites have completed the three-month follow-up data collection. The three-month follow-up includes inviting participants back to have discussions, recipe tasting, biometric measurements, and conduct focus groups. Comments/notes from field staff indicate that policy and environmental approaches have been implemented and include healthy tips in monthly newsletters, water policy, and parking lot/walking track mapped with signage. One site has two written policies for their church: make water available at all church functions and make the church property available to the congregation and public to take walks. Data analysis will be completed this winter and a final report will be submitted April 1, 2017. Faithful Families curriculum is already being used in a new CDC-funded project.

Innovation Sub-Award

University of Georgia (PI: Jung Sun Lee, PhD, RD): *Project On-going:* The purpose of this project is to evaluate a smartphone-based eLearning program by assessing users' expectations and experiences prior to, during, and after engaging in *Food eTalk*. In the fourth quarter of this grant period, all interviews have been transcribed and data have been analyzed the data using Atlas.ti as a qualitative data organizational tool. All photos have been organized into one database and preliminary analysis has begun using GIS methods and participant addresses/location of images. Qualitative data will be used to augment these findings and better understand the food retail environment and grocery shopping habits of the sample.

Findings from the focus group portion of this project was presented at the SNEB conference in San Diego in August 2016. This poster was titled: *SNAP-Ed Eligible Georgians' Experience Using an eLearning Nutrition Education Program – A Qualitative Study* and RNECE-South was listed as a funding source. A paper is under review at the Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior (JNEB) titled: *Development of an Online Smartphone-based eLearning Nutrition Education Program for Low-Income Individuals*

Preliminary findings from focus groups included:

- Technical issues in the eLearning lessons persist and are a significant barrier to the user experience,
- Users were highly fond of the interactive games/activities and much prefer this sort of learner-engagement to static screens with voiceover, and
- Participants had no issues with digital literacy/comfort using the device/navigation of the program (other than technical issues which were beyond their control).
- Additionally, participants enjoyed the video-components of Food eTalk and would like to see more short videos included in future eLearning programs.
- Participants enjoyed the 'questions of the day' section of each eLesson, as these allowed for opportunities for the participant to reflect on his/her own answers to questions such as "how would you rate your health" and "how would you rate your weight".

Recommendations: Users would like competition built into the learning games, with a system of 'points' or 'score' so they can compete with others (and their children) or compete with their previous 'best score' – they would also like some of the learning lessons and games to be tailored to child-friendly games to engage their kids in nutrition education. Participants prefer shorter cooking videos, and more recipes. They would like more ideas as to how to feed 'picky' children, snack ideas for children, as well as more in-depth nutrition information such as information on diabetes, gluten, and ingredient substitutions.

Results from this project are being used not only to improve the user experience of Food eTalk, but have also started preliminary development of an additional curriculum which will be offered in person and as eLearning. This curriculum will focus on healthy weight and is titled Food eTalk: Better U.

The new Food eTalk program offered at a local safety net clinic has been rolled out, allowing patients to use Food eTalk on borrowed devices while they are waiting for their appointments or waiting for prescription medication refills. This partnership with a local safety net clinic serves as a pilot as plans are being developed to provide Food eTalk for safety net clinics across the state of Georgia.

SNAP-Ed Toolkit Website

Work continues on the development of the interactive toolkit website. The website has been populated with information on all but fifteen of the interventions. RNECE-South has tested the website with multiple audiences and are incorporating the changes. Progress has been slowed by the review of the old interventions as well as updates to the interpretive guide.

Webinars

RNECE-South held a training webinar on September 20, 2016 titled *Behavioral Economics in the Healthy Retail Environment: Working Within the SNAP-Ed Context*. Speakers gave an overview of behavioral economic concepts and discussed how SNAP-Ed agencies can leverage these concepts to “nudge” consumers to make healthier food choices in a retail setting. The materials and a recording of the webinar are posted on the RNECE-South website for review: <http://www.rnece-south.org/#/training/archived>. There were 127 individual logins to the webinar site.

Steering Committee

RNECE-South held the final steering committee meeting September 19, 2016. Updates were provided on the project and feedback was gathered on the final draft of the SNAP-Ed Toolkit website. Attendees were asked to volunteer to beta test the website in October.

RNECE West Region Center at Colorado State University

The Regional Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Centers of Excellence West (RNECE-West), a joint effort of Colorado State University (CSU) and Washington State University (WSU) Extension, aims to improve the health of low-income Americans, especially Hispanics, through strategies at the individual and environmental levels of the social-ecological model, including complementary nutrition education and public health approaches particularly for EFNEP and SNAP-Ed programs.

The RNECE-West primary goals include:

1. **Working to build the evidence-base** for nutrition education and obesity prevention strategies and interventions that produce measurable improvements in health, obesity, nutrition (food behavior), and physical activity-related outcomes of interest to USDA;
2. **Developing effective education/extension, and PSE translational activities** that promote health and prevent/reduce obesity in disadvantaged low-income families.

RNECE-West objectives address:

- **Building the evidence-base for nutrition education** interventions through rigorous evaluation;
- **Developing research collaborations and synergistic relationships;**
- **Supporting effective education, PSE activities** that promote health.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Those who were served by RNECE-West projects this quarter. Where appropriate, population groups such as racial, and ethnic minorities and those who are socially, economically, or educationally disadvantaged are listed.

Target Audience Type	Description
Individuals	Limited resource families
Groups	EFNEP and SNAP-Ed program leaders, educators, participants and stakeholders
Population Group: Racial Minorities	African Americans
Population Group: Ethnic Minorities	Latinos and Non-Latinos
Population Group: Economically Disadvantaged	Individuals/families at 185% of poverty and below

PRODUCTS

RNECE-West products for this quarter, with a brief description, reference, and/or link.

Type of Product	Product Description
Websites (new, current, and/or updated)	Updated RNECE-West website (www.wrnece.org)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

RNECE-West accomplishments for this quarter.

Achievement / Goal / Major Activity Completed	Specific Objectives Met	Results, including major findings, developments or conclusions (both positive and negative)	Key Outcomes or Other Achievements Realized	Additional Information
Testing of Mediums to Reach Program Graduates Long-term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine the best way to reach EFNEP and SNAP-Ed graduates six and twelve months post-graduation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No new results this quarter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reaching the EFNEP/SNAP-Ed target population long-term is difficult due to the transient nature of this population. Response rates were low in all categories. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data collection for Phase I (retrospective attempt to contact graduates) has been completed in Colorado (CO), West Virginia (WV) and Kentucky (KY). New Mexico (NM) is currently collecting data for Phase I.
Secondary Data Analysis (continued on next page)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct a secondary data analysis of national EFNEP evaluation data set from 2007-2014 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 512,899 subjects with complete data. National race / ethnicity breakdown was roughly 30% white, 30% Black and 30% Hispanic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pretest scores are consistent over time as are change scores suggesting that EFNEP's impacts are consistent over the years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final report is complete and posted at http://wrnece.colostate.edu/docs/secondary-data.pdf.

RNECE-West accomplishments for this quarter continued on next page.

RNECE-West accomplishments for this quarter continued.

Achievement / Goal / Major Activity Completed	Specific Objectives Met	Results, including major findings, developments or conclusions (both positive and negative)	Key Outcomes or Other Achievements Realized	Additional Information
<p>Secondary Data Analysis (continued)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regionally, the percent of Blacks was highest in the south (42%) and the percent of Hispanics was highest in the west (57%). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Predominant change scores: Healthy Eating Index (HEI), 70% of states improved 3-7 points on total score; more than 2/3 of states improved on three Behavior Checklist Questionnaire (BCL) scales of 0.5-1 pts; more than 70% of states improved by less than a ½ serving of fruits and less than a ½ serving of vegetables. 	

RNECE-West accomplishments for this quarter continued on next page.

RNECE-West accomplishments for this quarter continued.

Achievement / Goal / Major Activity Completed	Specific Objectives Met	Results, including major findings, developments or conclusions (both positive and negative)	Key Outcomes or Other Achievements Realized	Additional Information
Long-Term Follow-Up Evaluation of Eating Smart Being Active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine the long term impact of Eating Smart Being Active on participant behavior, blood pressure, Body Mass Index (BMI) and HbA1c, delivered through EFNEP and SNAP-Ed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IRB approved in CO and Washington (WA). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSU has been collecting data from English and Spanish speakers (60 people at pre, 49 at post). WSU has collected time 1 data from eight people. 	
Food Pantry Environmental Scan (continued on next page)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore avenues to pursue the development, field testing and validation of a food pantry environmental survey. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The food pantry assessment instrument was revised based on pilot testing. Five states were recruited to field test the instrument from October, 2016 - May 2017: WA, Montana (MT), California (CA), New Hampshire (NH), and Maryland (MD). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All IRB's have exempted this work. Pantry recruitment is ongoing. There are currently two pantries in MD, two in WA, five in NH and five in MT who have received training. MD and CA continue to recruit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A graduate research assistant at CSU is assisting with data analysis and field testing.

RNECE-West accomplishments for this quarter continued on next page.

RNECE-West accomplishments for this quarter continued.

Achievement / Goal / Major Activity Completed	Specific Objectives Met	Results, including major findings, developments or conclusions (both positive and negative)	Key Outcomes or Other Achievements Realized	Additional Information
Food Pantry Environmental Scan (continued)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field testing training started 9/30/2016; field tests will be conducted over a six to eight month period with participating food pantry agencies and their community partners. 		
Environmental Support Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop environmental support activities to couple with direct education. Activities will be designed to empower EFNEP and SNAP-Ed participants to initiate change in their micro – environments 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of focus groups expected to be completed the end of October 2016. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following focus group analysis, surveys and interviews will be done with program coordinators.

RNECE-West accomplishments for this quarter continued on next page.

RNECE-West accomplishments for this quarter continued.

Achievement / Goal / Major Activity Completed	Specific Objectives Met	Results, including major findings, developments or conclusions (both positive and negative)	Key Outcomes or Other Achievements Realized	Additional Information
Validation of nutrition items on new EFNEP Behavior Checklist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect three phone dietary recalls after first and last lesson; new BCL items completed at those two time points. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> States agreeing to participate: Rhode Island (RI), CO), Wyoming (WY), South Dakota (SD), SC, TN, MD, Minnesota (MN). All states are collecting data. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete time 1 data has been collected from 37 participants Complete time 2 data has been collected from five participants 33 additional participants have been enrolled.
RNECE-West Needs Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct an assessment to understand the regional implementation of nutrition education and obesity prevention public health approaches. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low response rates on both PSE and direct education surveys. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report is in final edits and will be posted to the web in in the fourth quarter.

RNECE-West accomplishments for this quarter continued on next page.

RNECE-West accomplishments for this quarter cont.

Achievement / Goal / Major Activity Completed	Specific Objectives Met	Results, including major findings, developments or conclusions (both positive and negative)	Key Outcomes or Other Achievements Realized	Additional Information
<p>Sugar Sweetened Beverage Intake among EFNEP Participants - An evaluation of the National EFNEP Database (continued on next page)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RNECE-West Sub-award: Conduct a secondary analysis of the EFNEP data set from 2014 to include estimations of the change in sugar sweetened beverage (SSB) intake and expenditures among program participants. Evaluate the impact of EFNEP on SSB intake, calculate the impact of the EFNEP intervention on diet quality as estimated by the Healthy Eating Index 2010 (HEI2010) and (continued on next page) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2014 EFNEP Western Region data set included 215,657 foods reported by 13,775 participants in a 24 hour recall format. The diet recall data was sorted according to <i>What We Eat In America (WWEIA)</i> food categories. For each food, each category, and each participant, the recalls were split into pre- and post-intervention recalls. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The F-test showed a significant difference existed for mixed dishes (category 3), with increased reporting for exit recalls. The F-test did not indicate a likely difference in SSB intake between pre/post recalls, corroborated by the t-test (P = .74). The mean intake of SSB at entry was 23.6% of calories, compared to 26.2% of calories at exit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further grouping of the SSBs by common category may indicate effective intervention targets.

RNECE-West accomplishments for this quarter continued on next page.

RNECE-West accomplishments for this quarter continued.

Achievement / Goal / Major Activity Completed	Specific Objectives Met	Results, including major findings, developments or conclusions (both positive and negative)	Key Outcomes or Other Achievements Realized	Additional Information
<p>Sugar Sweetened Beverage Intake among EFNEP Participants - An evaluation of the National EFNEP Database (continued)</p>	<p>estimate the expenditures being made on SSBs by EFNEP participants in the Western Region.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The percent of daily calories for each food for each participant was calculated for each recall. • Analysis of Variance was performed for each of the nine major WWEIA categories to determine if pre/post recalls were different in percent calories. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The top ten SSBs reported in this data set [using the eight digit Food and Nutrient Database for Dietary Studies (FNDDS) 5 coding system] were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Soft drink, cola-type, ▪ Fruit flavored drink (formerly lemonade), ▪ Soft drink, fruit-flavored, caffeine free, ▪ Milk fruit drink, ▪ Soft drink, pepper-type, ▪ Fruit smoothie drink, made with fruit or fruit juice and dairy products, ▪ Fruit smoothie drink, ▪ NFS, Soft drink, ▪ NFS, Soft drink, fruit flavored, caffeine containing, ▪ Horchata beverage, made with rice. 	

RNECE-West accomplishments for this quarter continued on next page.

RNECE-West accomplishments for this quarter continued.

Achievement / Goal / Major Activity Completed	Specific Objectives Met	Results, including major findings, developments or conclusions (both positive and negative)	Key Outcomes or Other Achievements Realized	Additional Information
Evaluation of a novel, low-cost, low-burden, scalable technology for evaluating EFNEP and SNAP-Ed Effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RNECE-W sub-award: Testing the feasibility of using QualMART to evaluate improvements in the home food environment through retail grocery food purchases. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participant recruitment is ongoing. Fifty participants have been recruited to date. Data cleaning has begun. The mapping of the UPCs/PLUs to USDA’s What We Eat in America food groups for whole grains was completed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grocery store partner has agreed to provide data for participant households. The draft data use agreement is currently being finalized by the University of Utah. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial discussions about data transfer have taken place with the grocery store’s data analytics team.
Youth Participatory Action Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RNECE-West Contract: Two-Year Assessment of Youth Participatory Action Research - A PSE Intervention. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The YPAR Evaluation Toolkit provides an overview of the development of the evaluation tools, instructions for use of data collections tools and the suggested evaluation process for YPAR. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YPAR Evaluation Toolkit Reliability Testing Protocol for future use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amended deliverables completed and report posted at http://wrnece.colostate.edu/docs/ypar.pdf.

RNECE-West accomplishments for this quarter continued on next page.

RNECE-West accomplishments for this quarter continued.

Achievement / Goal / Major Activity Completed	Specific Objectives Met	Results, including major findings, developments or conclusions (both positive and negative)	Key Outcomes or Other Achievements Realized	Additional Information
<p>Multi-disciplinary methods for effective, sustainable, and scalable evaluations of nutrition education programs (RNECE Longitudinal Research Study, Utah State University) (continued on next page)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop a tool for evaluating the effectiveness of EFNEP and SNAP-Ed over time by assessing the quality of household grocery food purchases. Measure at least two months prior and two months after program participation to assess feasibility, validate, and pilot test the Automated Self-administered 24-hour Recall (ASA24) for use in the low-income population. 	<p><u>Qualmart Aim</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Household recruiting and training procedures continue to be refined, based on experience with the RNECE-W sub-award. Work continued on improving the QualMART methodology, including the ontology for classifying foods in the USDA food coding system. Grocery store partner has agreed to provide purchase data for 250 participant households. The draft data use agreement is currently being finalized by the University of Utah. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IRB approvals from Utah State University (USU), University of Utah, Westat, Colorado, Tennessee, and Idaho remain in place. Data collection has started. Work on the grocery purchase quality measure continued, and a paper was submitted for publication. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is the signature research project at Utah State University; it is reported through RNECE-West. The management teams continued to meet regularly to coordinate activities.

RNECE-West accomplishments for this quarter continued on next page.

RNECE-West accomplishments for this quarter continued.

Achievement / Goal / Major Activity Completed	Specific Objectives Met	Results, including major findings, developments or conclusions (both positive and negative)	Key Outcomes or Other Achievements Realized	Additional Information
<p>Multi-disciplinary methods for effective, sustainable, and scalable evaluations of nutrition education programs (RNECE Longitudinal Research Study, Utah State University) (continued and continued on next page)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial discussions about data transfer have taken place with the grocery store’s data analytics team. • Data collection has started or will start soon in each of the participating states. • Idaho has identified regions that will participate in data collection, and has started the training process. • Utah plans to start data collection for this grant starting in October. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions have begun with Dr. Jung Sun Lee from the University of Georgia about joining the data collection team. Because of her strong interest in this research area, she is willing to self-fund data collection efforts in Georgia, and will not require a sub-award from this grant. • Work to convert the Word version of the ASA24 training manual to an online interactive training with videos has begun.

RNECE-West accomplishments for this quarter continued on next page.

RNECE-West accomplishments for this quarter continued.

Achievement / Goal / Major Activity Completed	Specific Objectives Met	Results, including major findings, developments or conclusions (both positive and negative)	Key Outcomes or Other Achievements Realized	Additional Information
<p>Multi-disciplinary methods for effective, sustainable, and scalable evaluations of nutrition education programs (RNECE Longitudinal Research Study, Utah State University) (continued and continued on next page)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colorado has finished training data collection personnel and started to recruit participants. It is estimated that data collection should finish this fall, assuming a recruitment rate of 1 or 2 participants per class and 1 or 2 classes per week. • Tennessee has finished training data collection personnel. • Colorado has been working with SNAP-Ed and EFNEP programs in their state to identify optimal classes for recruitment. Data collection is planned to start in October. 		

RNECE-West accomplishments for this quarter continued on next page.

RNECE-West accomplishments for this quarter continued.

Achievement / Goal / Major Activity Completed	Specific Objectives Met	Results, including major findings, developments or conclusions (both positive and negative)	Key Outcomes or Other Achievements Realized	Additional Information
<p>Multi-disciplinary methods for effective, sustainable, and scalable evaluations of nutrition education programs (RNECE Longitudinal Research Study, Utah State University) (continued and continued on next page)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wyoming has recruited and trained paraprofessional educators to do data collection and has started the recruitment process. <p><u>ASA24 Aim</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FEAST II data collection was conducted and finalized with 305 participants completing the study. • Data analysis has begun. Initial data set meal categorization is complete, and work has begun on categorizing reported foods by quality of match (exact, close, far, and intrusion). 		

RNECE-West accomplishments for this quarter continued on next page.

RNECE-West accomplishments for this quarter continued.

Achievement / Goal / Major Activity Completed	Specific Objectives Met	Results, including major findings, developments or conclusions (both positive and negative)	Key Outcomes or Other Achievements Realized	Additional Information
Multi-disciplinary methods for effective, sustainable, and scalable evaluations of nutrition education programs (RNECE Longitudinal Research Study, Utah State University) (continued)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lisa Kahle from IMS has officially joined the data analysis team and initial planning meetings have been scheduled. 		

COLLABORATIVE WORK AND MEETINGS

RNECE-West collaborative work and meetings held this quarter.

Major Activity	Specific Objectives Met	Results, including major findings, developments or conclusions (both positive and negative)	Key Outcomes or Other Achievements Realized
RNECE-West Leadership Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conference calls: 7.6.16 7.11.16 7.18.16 8.10.16 8.17.16 9.2.16 9.13.16 9.23.16 9.29.16 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership team meets regularly to discuss center project progress, develop protocols, develop advisory and steering committee agendas, complete reporting and work on center led research projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project protocols developed and steering committee agendas developed.

RNECE-West collaborative work and meetings held this quarter continued on next page.

RNECE-West collaborative work and meetings held this quarter continued.

Major Activity	Specific Objectives Met	Results, including major findings, developments or conclusions (both positive and negative)	Key Outcomes or Other Achievements Realized
PSE Advisory Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email update 8.11.16 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beginning June 2016, the advisory group received email updates following steering committee calls. If additional input was/is needed, the PSE Advisory group was/will be reconvened
Nutrition Education Advisory Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email update 8.11.16 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated advisory committee on project progress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beginning June 2016, the advisory group received email updates following steering committee calls. If additional input was/is needed, the Nutrition Education Advisory group was/will be reconvened.
Steering Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conference calls 8.11.16 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated steering committee on project progress 	

Outreach Activities and Dissemination of Information to Constituents of Interest

Outreach activities have been undertaken by RNECE-West to reach members of communities who are not usually aware of these activities for the purpose of enhancing public understanding and increasing interest in learning and careers in science.

Graduate Student Projects:

- Two graduate students involved in research projects (as Master's Theses) with the Center:
 - Environmental support activities
 - Long-term follow-up of Eating Smart • Being Active curriculum
- Graduate Research Assistant involved in field testing and validation of food pantry assessment tool.

Multi-disciplinary methods for effective, sustainable, and scalable evaluations of nutrition education programs (RNECE Longitudinal Research Study, Utah State University)

Unique Merits of Project: This program is developing two effective, rigorous, and sustainable tools to evaluate the effectiveness of EFNEP and SNAP-Ed. The first objective is to develop a tool (Qualmart) for evaluating the effectiveness of EFNEP and SNAP-Ed over time by assessing the quality of household grocery food purchases. We will measure at least two months prior and two months after program participation. This work extends the pilot data collection funded through a RNECE-W sub-award. The second objective is to assess feasibility, validate, and pilot test the Automated Self-administered 24-hour Recall (ASA24) for use in the low-income population. In collaboration with the National Cancer Institute (NCI), the government agency that led development of the ASA24, we will test the recently released mobile version of ASA24 for feasibility of use by *low-income participants*, using an iPad or other tablet computer, in the FEAST II study (Food and Eating Assessment Study II). Two modes of administering ASA24 have been tested: (1) independently, as the tool was designed originally and (2) assisted, in a small-group setting that mimics the EFNEP educational environment. Both the assisted and unassisted methods were used in a controlled feeding study that compared the types and amounts of foods and beverages consumed (unobtrusively weighed at three meals) to those reported by the study participants the following day. A pilot study, including a qualitative component, will be conducted with paraprofessionals and participants residing in low-income areas. This project is developing program evaluation tools that are both methodologically robust and logistically practical. It is a collaboration among researchers at the University of Utah, Utah State University, and NCI and directors of EFNEP and SNAP-Ed in 6 participating states.

Progress this quarter:

Qualmart Aim

- Qualmart team continued to meet weekly.
- Household recruiting and training procedures continue to be refined, through experience with the RNECE-W sub-award, “Evaluation of a novel, low-cost, low-burden, scalable technology for evaluating EFNEP and SNAP-Ed Effectiveness.”
- The data collection team for the QualMART aim (program directors from collaborating states, Dr. Durward, and others) have met regularly to finalize data collection procedures, documents, and trainings for staff.
- Data collection has started or will start soon in each of the 6 participating states.
 - Colorado has finished training data collection personnel and started to recruit participants. They estimate that they should be able to finish data collection this fall, assuming a recruitment rate of 1 or 2 participants per class and 1 or 2 classes per week.

- Tennessee has finished training data collection personnel. They have been working with SNAP-Ed and EFNEP programs to identify the best classes for recruitment. They plan to start data collection in October.
- Wyoming has recruited and trained paraprofessional educators to collect data and has started the recruitment process.
- Idaho has identified regions that will participate in data collection and has started the training process.
- Utah plans to start data collection for this grant starting in November.
- Dr. Jung Sun Lee from the University of Georgia has joined our data collection team. Because of her strong interest in this research area, she is willing to self-fund data collection efforts and will not require a sub-award from this grant.
- During this quarter, work continued on improving the QualMART methodology.
- A paper on the development of the grocery quality metric has been submitted for publication.
- After much negotiation, our grocery store partner has agreed to provide data for 250 participant households. The data use agreement is currently being negotiated.
- Initial discussions about data transfer have taken place with the grocer's data analytics team.

ASA24 Aim

- The FEAST II team continued to meet regularly to plan, conduct, and coordinate activities.
- FEAST II data collection is complete. This study used a controlled feeding study to assess the feasibility and to validate the Automated Self-administered 24-hour Recall (ASA24) for use in the low-income population. Participants were randomly assigned to two modes of ASA24 data collection: (1) independently as the tool was designed originally and (2) assisted by a paraprofessional in a small-group setting that mimics the EFNEP educational environment. Both methods will be evaluated by comparing the types and amounts of foods and beverages consumed (unobtrusively weighed at three meals) to those reported by the study participants the following day.
- Recruitment goals were exceeded with 305 participants completing the study. As shown in the table below, the participants were ethnically diverse. Strong efforts were made (including increased participant compensation at Westat's expense [Westat is the private research firm contracted to do data collection for this aim.]) to include participants with less than a high-school degree (n=13) as well as participants whose preferred language is Spanish (n=43).

Table 1. Number of participants who completed each experimental condition by ethnicity and educational status						
Ethnicity and Language	Non-High School Graduate		High School Graduate		Total	
	Assisted ASA24	Independent ASA24	Assisted ASA24	Independent ASA24	Assisted ASA24	Independent ASA24
Non-Hispanic White	2	2	32	29	34	31
Non-Hispanic Black	2	0	55	53	57	53
Hispanic English Preferred	1	2	44	40	45	42
Hispanic Spanish Preferred	2	2	16	23	18	25
Total	7	6	147	145	154	151

- Data analysis for FEAST II is underway. Initial meal categorization is complete, and work has begun on categorizing reported foods by quality of match (i.e., exact, close, far, and intrusion.)
- We expect FEAST II data analysis to be complete by the next quarter. We plan to submit these results as an abstract for presentation at a conference as well as a manuscript for a high-impact journal.
- Lisa Kahle from Information Management Systems (IMS) has joined the data analysis team and has begun work.
- Conversion of the Word version of the ASA24 training manual to an online interactive training with videos has begun. We expect this training to be complete and ready for pilot testing with paraprofessional nutrition educators in the next quarter.

Overall

- IRB approvals from Utah State University, University of Utah, Westat, Colorado, Tennessee, and Idaho remain in place.
- The management team continued to meet weekly.

Timeline for completion of grant activities				
	October-December 2016	January-March 2017	April-June 2017	July-September 2018
Objective 1: Qualmart				
Participant recruitment and data collection				
Data transfer from grocery partner (expected)				
Data analysis and report preparation				
Objective 2: ASA24				
FEAST II data analysis and report preparation				
ASA24 online training development				
ASA24 online training manual pilot testing, data analysis and report preparation				
ASA24 pilot field testing with nutrition education participants including quantitative and qualitative data collection				
Final data analysis and report preparation				

**Summary of Secondary Data Analyses of National EFNEP Data Years 2007-2014:
Project Completed**

Authors: Auld, G., Baker, S. Colorado State University (RNECE-West)

Objective: To summarize national EFNEP data over multiple years and determine any trends in outcomes.

Design: Analysis of national WebNEERS data from years 2007-2014 including demographics of participants and outcome measures from the behavior checklist and dietary recalls.

Participants: All EFNEP participants (n = 512,899) from 2007-2014 who had complete pre/post test data (recalls and behavior checklist).

Main Outcome Measures: Race/ethnicity, education level, and from the dietary recalls HEI and fruit and vegetable intake, and from the behavior checklist three scales: food resource management, food safety, and nutrition.

Analysis: Descriptive statistics, dependent t-test comparisons of pre/post data, and frequency patterns of outcomes by state across time.

Results: About 30% of EFNEP participants self-identified as White, Black, or Hispanic; the Northeast (22%) and West (5%) have fewer Blacks while the South has a higher percentage of Blacks (42%). The West is much higher in Hispanic participants (57%). About one-third of all participants have less than a high school education. Pre/post differences included a gain in HEI of 1-12 points (70% ranged from 3-7 pts); increases in fruit and vegetable intake ranged from one-half to one serving. Consistent, modest increases were seen in BCL subscale scores – mostly a 0.5-1 point increase on a 5 point scale. Consistent pretest scores and difference scores (Post – pre) within states were seen over eight years for both the BCL and the 24 HR recall (HEI total).

Conclusions and Implications:

The varied demographics of EFNEP participants present challenges for educators but it appears that positive outcomes are consistent across programs. The consistency of pretest scores and difference scores (post-pre) over time suggest that the same outcomes would be seen even if EFNEP used a comparison group. However, these findings, while positive, support the ongoing efforts by several committees to develop a new behavior checklist with questions that are reflective of recent Dietary Guidelines and more sensitive to changes in participant behaviors. EFNEP’s database, which includes a huge number of individuals, multiple years of data, and large numbers of variables, is an asset that has not been fully examined.

This worked funded by USDA Grant #2014-48757-22607: Regional Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Center of Excellence –West.

Two-Year Assessment of Youth Participatory Action Research – A PSE Intervention: Project Completed

Authors: Sharon Sugerman, Public Health Institute; RNECE-West

Objective:

Original: Complete a two-year assessment of Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) in Hawaii and YPAR in Los Angeles, California, and a rural site in conjunction with California Cooperative Extension in FFY 2017 to establish the evidence-base of YPAR.

Revised due to funding limitation: Compile YPAR Evaluation Manual and set of evaluation instruments for use with YPAR. Develop protocol for end-of-year Youth Survey Reliability Study and draft IRB submission for Baseline End-of-Year Youth Survey Reliability Study.

Target Audience: EFNEP/SNAP-Ed eligible middle school students, adult mentors and EFNEP/SNAP-Ed implementers.

Theory/Prior Research/Rationale: The socio-ecological framework forms the basis for this work. The project was planned to strengthen the evidence base of an existing policy, system and environmental (PSE) change intervention - *Youth Participatory Action Research*. YPAR is a practice-based intervention according to the 2014 SNAP-Ed PSE Strategies and Intervention Toolkit. YPAR is currently used in some SNAP-Ed projects where it has resulted in meaningful youth-driven policy/systems/environmental change.

Description: An evaluation toolkit was compiled based on the Youth Engagement Intervention in California. The toolkit includes overview of the development of the evaluation tools, instructions for use of data collections tools and the suggested evaluation process for YPAR.

Evaluation: A protocol to assess reliability of specific evaluation tools was developed; the research is poised to be initiated if additional funding is secured in the future.

Conclusions and Implications: The evaluation toolkit compilation will benefit programs implementing YPAR by providing a systemic approach to program evaluation. Additional funding is needed to conduct the reliability research for specific tools.

This worked funded by USDA Grant #2014-48757-22607: Regional Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Center of Excellence –West.

RNECE Research Project Inventory

Number	Center	Implementing Organization	Project Title	Projected End Date	Project Status
1	North Central	University of Illinois	Phase 1 Evaluating a Multi-Modal Community Nutrition Education Model within SNAP-Ed and EFNEP	8/1/2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRB approval received. • Subaward contract finalized. • Data collection instruments identified and/or developed. • Recruitment and baseline data completed. • Intervention and follow-up data collection nearly complete.
2	North Central	University of Missouri	Eat Smart In Parks: Youth Mapping and Photovoice to Inform Healthy Food Environments	1/1/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRB approval received. • Subaward contract finalized. • Data collection instruments identified and/or developed. • Recruitment and baseline data collection nearly complete. • Intervention and follow-up data collection nearly complete.
3	North Central	University of Illinois	Phase 2 Evaluating a Multi-Modal Community Nutrition Education Model within SNAP-Ed and EFNEP in Illinois and Michigan	7/31/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRB approval received. • Subaward contract finalized. • Data collection instruments identified and/or developed. • Recruitment and baseline data collection in process. • Intervention in process.

Number	Center	Implementing Organization	Project Title	Projected End Date	Project Status
4	North Central	Michigan State University Extension	Influence of PSE on Dietary Quality at Diverse Low Income Childcare Settings	7/31/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRB approval received. • Subaward contract finalized. • Data collection instruments identified and/or developed. • Recruitment and baseline data collection in process. • Intervention in process.
5	North Central	Purdue University	A Longitudinal Randomized and Controlled Evaluation of the Integrated Impact of SNAP-Ed on Food Security and Obesity Prevention in Rural and Urban Counties	7/31/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRB approval received. • Subaward contract finalized. • Data collection instruments identified and/or developed. • Recruitment and baseline data collection in process. • Intervention in process.
6	North Central	Purdue University	Survey development of 'participant survey of PSE' at Purdue	7/31/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRB approval received. • Subaward contract finalized. • Data collection instrument in development.
7	North Central	Ohio State University	Ohio SNAP-Ed in collaboration with the Ohio State University summer weight and environmental assessment trial	7/31/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRB approval received. • Subaward contracts finalized. • Data collection instruments identified and/or developed. • Recruitment and baseline data collection ongoing.

Number	Center	Implementing Organization	Project Title	Projected End Date	Project Status
8	Northeast	Hispanic Health Council	Nutrition Ed, Access and Texting (NEAT): Combining the Hartford Mobile Market with e-Marketing	9/30/2016 Project Completed Final Report due 11/1/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRB approval received. • Subaward contracts finalized. • Data collection instruments identified and/or developed. • Recruitment and baseline data collection nearly complete. • Intervention and follow-up data collection nearly complete.
9	Northeast	Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health	Successful Youth-Leader Program as part of a Multi-Level, Multi-Component Food Environment, Behavioral Intervention	9/30/2016 Project Completed Final Report due 11/1/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRB approval received. • Subaward contracts finalized. • Data collection instruments identified and/or developed. • Recruitment and baseline data collection nearly completed. • Intervention and follow-up data collection nearly complete.
10	Northeast	University of Maryland Extension	Transforming Lifestyles: Integrating Direct Nutrition Education with Physical Activity Using the Health Care System Expansion Model	9/30/2016 Project Completed Final Report due 11/1/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRB approval received. • Subaward contracts finalized. • Data collection instruments identified and/or developed. • Recruitment and baseline data collection completed. • Intervention and follow-up data collection completed. • Analysis underway; final report due November 1.

Number	Center	Implementing Organization	Project Title	Projected End Date	Project Status
11	Northeast	University of Rhode Island	Empowering Urban Schoolchildren to Increase Fruit and Vegetable Consumption through EFNEP-enhanced PSE Interventions	9/30/2016 Project Completed Final Report due 11/1/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRB approval received. • Subaward contracts finalized. • Data collection instruments identified and/or developed. • Recruitment and baseline data collection completed. • Intervention and follow-up data collection completed. • Analysis underway; final report due November 1.
12	Northeast	Cornell Cooperative Extension in Orange and Jefferson Counties	Adopting Healthy Habits in Worksites: Increasing adoption and acceptability of policy, systems, and environmental changes within agencies serving low-income families	6/30/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRB approval received. • Subaward contracts finalized. • Data collection instruments identified and/or developed. • Recruitment and baseline data collection underway. • Interventions underway.
13	South	University of Tennessee	Faithful Families in Tennessee: Improving the Health of Low Income Faith-Based Audiences	6/30/2016 Project Completed Final Report Submitted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intervention and Evaluation completed. • Final report submitted.

Number	Center	Implementing Organization	Project Title	Projected End Date	Project Status
14	South	UNC Center for Health Promotion Disease Prevention Healthy Retail	Healthy Retail	12/16/2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted pre surveys with customers and store managers. • Conducted baseline store environment assessment. • Completed all phases of promotions and food demonstrations. • Post-test evaluation is in process.
15	South	University of Florida	Building Faith Through Health in the Community and Online	2/28/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed the 9-week Faithful Families curriculum at two sites. • Post-assessments were completed by all participants. • PSE approaches were strategized and are in the process of being implemented at both locations. • Second round of program implementation started at four new sites.
16	South	University of Arkansas	Faithful Families: Implementation and Outcome Evaluation of Paraprofessionals and Volunteer Delivery Methods in Low-income Faith Communities	2/28/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interventions are complete. • Exit data collected. • 3-month follow up data has been collected.

Number	Center	Implementing Organization	Project Title	Projected End Date	Project Status
17	South	University of Georgia	Evaluation of online nutrition education eLearning program tailored to SNAP-Ed eligible adult Georgians	2/28/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus groups transcribed and in the process of data analysis; PhotoVoice images are being analyzed. • Presented findings from the focus group portion of this project at the Society of Nutrition Education and Behavior conference in San Diego in August 2016. • Paper under review at the Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior titled: Development of an Online Smartphone-based eLearning Nutrition Education Program for Low-Income Individuals. • Using preliminary findings from this evaluation of Food eTalk to inform the development of UGA SNAP-Ed's next nutrition education and obesity prevention curriculum, titled Food Talk: Better U.

Number	Center	Implementing Organization	Project Title	Projected End Date	Project Status
18	South	North Carolina State University	Social Media Guidance Materials	6/30/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500 posts across 37 NC counties have been identified from EFNEP Facebook pages, and content analysis is complete. Our aim is to identify the type of posts that result in the most engagement. • Follow-up site visits with Signature Projects will include interviews and a review of data to help determine if the collective evidence across Signature projects supports whether or not SM has an impact on program outcomes, recruitment and retention • We have found 5 EFNEP agencies willing to use the SM Guidance materials to develop a 1-month campaign to be implemented in the Fall 2016 (September – November). The participating agencies will participate in a phone interview in January to share thoughts regarding the design, engagement, and usefulness of the tools. We will use all of this information to revise and develop the tools for broad use by EFNEP and SNAP-Ed.

Number	Center	Implementing Organization	Project Title	Projected End Date	Project Status
19	West	Colorado State University	Secondary Data Analysis	8/1/2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final report is posted on the RNECE-West Website http://wrnece.colostate.edu/docs/secondary-data.pdf and accompanies the October, 2016 Quarterly Report. A data set of 512,899 participants with complete pre/post test data from the years 2007-2014 was created from national WebNEERS data. Analyses of the data, by region, examines race/ethnic and education level proportions, patterns of change scores from the Behavior Checklist scales and fruit or vegetable intakes (from the 24 hour recalls). The created data base is available to groups or individuals with strong statistics capabilities to conduct more sophisticated analyses.
20	West	University of Alaska Fairbanks	Sugar Sweetened Beverage Intake among EFNEP Participants - An evaluation of the National EFNEP Database	11/1/2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data analysis continuing.

Number	Center	Implementing Organization	Project Title	Projected End Date	Project Status
21	West	Colorado State University	Two-Year Assessment of Youth Participatory Action Research - A PSE Intervention	9/1/2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amended deliverables are complete. The YPAR Evaluation Toolkit (posted at RNECE-West website http://wrnece.colostate.edu/docs/ypar.pdf) provides an overview of the development of the evaluation tools, instructions for use of data collections tools and the suggested evaluation process for YPAR. In addition, there is a protocol to assess reliability of the evaluation tools that can be implemented if additional funding can be secured. <p>Project Completed</p> <p>Abstract Submitted</p>
22	West	Colorado State University	Behavior Checklist Validation (Nutrition Domain)	12/31/2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Validation data is being collected. There are 37 participants who have completed the new questionnaire and three dietary recalls. Another 33 are in progress.

Number	Center	Implementing Organization	Project Title	Projected End Date	Project Status
23 (cont. on next Page)	West	Utah State University	<p>Evaluation of a novel, low cost, low burden, scalable technology for evaluation EFNEP and SNAP-Ed effectiveness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is the signature research project in Utah, reported through RNECE-West. 	8/1/2017	<p><u>Qualmart Aim</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Household recruiting and training procedures refined, based on experience with the RNECE-W subaward, “Evaluation of a novel, low-cost, low-burden, scalable technology for evaluating EFNEP and SNAP-Ed Effectiveness.” • The QualMART data collection team finalized data collection procedures, documents, and staff trainings. Data collection is starting in each of the participating states. • Colorado has finished training data collection personnel and started to recruit participants. Estimated to complete data collection this fall. • Tennessee has finished training data collection personnel. Data collection is planned to start in October. • Wyoming has recruited and trained data collector and started the recruitment. • Idaho has identified regions to participate and has started the training process. • Utah plans to start data collection in October. • Work on the grocery purchase quality measure continued, and a paper was submitted for publication.

Number	Center	Implementing Organization	Project Title	Projected End Date	Project Status
23 cont.					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our grocery store partner has agreed to provide purchase data for 250 participant households. The draft data use agreement is currently being finalized by the University of Utah. • Initial discussions about data transfer have taken place with the grocery store’s data analytics team. <p><u>ASA24 Aim</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FEAST II data collection finalized with 305 participants completing the study. • Data analysis has begun. Initial data set meal categorization is complete, and work has begun on categorizing reported foods by quality of match (exact, close, far, and intrusion.) • Lisa Kahle from IMS has officially joined the data analysis team and initial planning meetings have been scheduled. • Converting the Word version of the ASA24 training manual to an online interactive training with videos.

Number	Center	Implementing Organization	Project Title	Projected End Date	Project Status
24	West	Utah State University	RNECE-West Subaward Evaluation of a novel, low cost, low burden, scalable technology for evaluation EFNEP and SNAP-Ed effectiveness	3/1/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing the feasibility of using QualMART to evaluate improvements in the home food environment through retail grocery food purchases. • Participant recruitment is ongoing. We have recruited 50 participants to date. Data cleaning has begun. • During this quarter, the mapping of the UPCs/PLUs to USDA's What We Eat in America food groups for whole grains was completed. • Our grocery store partner has agreed to provide data for participant households. The draft data use agreement is currently being finalized by the University of Utah. • Initial discussions about data transfer have taken place with the grocery store's data analytics team.
25	West	Colorado State University	Testing of Strategies to Reach Direct Education Participants Long-Term	8/1/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data collection (phase 1 retrospective attempt to contact graduates) for this project was completed in Colorado, Kentucky and West Virginia. • New Mexico just began collecting phase 1 data for this project. • Phase 2 involves a 6 month or 1 year prospective follow-up of graduates to occur in 2017.

Number	Center	Implementing Organization	Project Title	Projected End Date	Project Status
26	West	Colorado State University	Food Bank Environmental Scan	8/1/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The food pantry assessment instrument was revised based on pilot testing. • Five states were recruited to field test the instrument from October, 2016 - May 2017 (Washington, Montana, California, New Hampshire, Maryland). • IRB exemption determination has been received for testing sites. • Field test training started 9/30; field tests will be conducted over an eight-month period with participating food pantry agencies and their community partners.
27	West	Colorado State University	Long Term Follow Up Evaluation of Eating Smart Being Active	8/1/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amended deliverables will include completed collection of long-term follow-up data (BMI, blood pressure, Hemoglobin A1c, behavior checklist) in Colorado and Washington; protocols for long-term evaluation. • 60 participants in Colorado and 8 participants in Washington have provided Time 1 data. 49 participants have provided post data in Colorado.

Number	Center	Implementing Organization	Project Title	Projected End Date	Project Status
28	West	Colorado State University	Developing Environmental Support Activities for Use in Conjunction with Direct Education	8/1/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pilot focus group was completed with educators in Colorado; subsequently, questions were refined. • 10 phone focus groups were completed with educators in multiple states. Transcriptions are complete and analysis is continuing. • Interviews and surveys with program coordinators are planned in 2017 to augment the focus group results.

For more information, visit <http://rnece-ncc.org>