

## **Funding Priority Areas**

Every federal fiscal year (FFY), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) issues State Plan Guidance, which serves as the primary document from which States may find information regarding Food Stamp Nutrition Education (FSNE) programs and fiscal policies. It is this document that serves as a guide for allowable programmatic activities using FSNE funding. As the *Network for a Healthy California* is funded by the USDA, it is this guidance that must be followed for all mini-grant programs and awardees. Interested parties can find additional information online at: [http://www.nal.usda.gov/foodstamp/National\\_FSNE.html](http://www.nal.usda.gov/foodstamp/National_FSNE.html).

## **Priority for Funding**

Projects are encouraged to be aligned with one or more of the following requirements and recommendations:

*Requirements and funding restrictions include:*

1. Mini-grant projects must provide direct nutrition education based on the US Dietary Guidelines for Americans and [www.mypyramid.gov](http://www.mypyramid.gov), including the consumption of fruits and vegetables and physical activity (Note physical activity promotion must occur in the context of nutrition education) to the target audience (see below). This must be the focus of any proposed project.
2. Target audience is defined as individuals and/or families at or below 185% Federal Poverty level where 50% or more of audience/participants must meet this criteria OR for school-based interventions, the school must document  $\geq 50\%$  participation in the free/reduced price meal program. **(See Attachment G)**  
**Applicants must provide documentation of target population.**
3. Within the context of a nutrition education intervention, mini-grant funds may be used to promote ideas for improving access to healthier foods in low income communities, but not to actively increase food security.
  - a. It should be noted that stand-alone physical activity efforts are not allowable; however activities that incorporate physical activity as part of a nutrition education effort are encouraged.
4. All projects must be held Monterey, Santa Cruz, or San Benito Counties.
5. Mini-Grant funds may be used *to promote*, but not implement, systems, environmental or policy change, if and only if such promotion is directly linked to and, supportive of, the direct nutrition education efforts for FSNE target audience.
6. To avoid duplication of services or conflict of interest, entities currently receiving UC Davis FSNEP/SNAP-Ed funds and *The Network for a Healthy California—Central Coast Region* lead agency or subcontractor staff are not eligible to apply. (A listing of school sites that have both Network and/or UC Davis FSNEP/SNAP-Ed is available and should be helpful in initial inquires).
7. If the applicant currently receives *Network* funds, the mini-grant activities must be different from existing projects AND the applicant must demonstrate that appropriate systems are in place to avoid duplication of time reporting, resources used and numbers reached.

## Food Stamp Nutrition Education Policy Clarifications

This is to provide States with clarification on several Food Stamp Nutrition Education (FSNE) policy issues that were raised during review of Federal Fiscal Year 2005 and 2006 State FSNE Plans. As always, Food and Nutrition Service's (FNS) FSNE State Plan Guidance, issued annually, remains the primary document from which States may find information with regard to FSNE program and fiscal policies.

1. FSNE funds may not be used for local community food security and needs assessments, except where such an activity is of minimal or no cost and is integral to general FSNE nutrition education program planning.
2. FSNE funds may not be used to actively promote and conduct outreach for the Food Stamp Program (FSP), the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, and other FNS programs. Brief messages identifying these as sources of food assistance are allowable.
3. FSNE funds may not be used for implementation of initiatives and other resources which have the primary purpose of improving nutrition systems, environments, or policies. Although there may be some minor relevant purposes that are mutually shared between TN and FSNE in the *Changing the Scene* kit, its key purpose is for local use in promoting systems and environmental changes, the costs of which are to be born locally. Use of FSNE funds for this purpose is inappropriate. Examples of materials that promote systems and environmental changes that are inappropriate for FSNE including *Changing the Scene*, the *Healthier US School Challenge*, and the *School Health Index*.
4. FSNE funds may be used *to promote*, but not implement, systems, environmental or policy change, if and only if such promotion is directly linked to, supportive of, and proportionate to direct nutrition education efforts for FSNE clients. FSNE staff may encourage clients to pursue nutrition systems, environment, and policy changes, and provide them with a list of strategies to assist with this effort.
5. Within the context of nutrition education interventions, FSNE staff may promote ideas for improving access to healthier foods in low income communities, but may not use FSNE funds to actively increase food security.
6. FSNE funds may not apply for staff to participate in the development or implementation of school wellness policies. This is the case even if the State's Child Nutrition Program has taken the lead and this is a component of a State's Nutrition Action Plan.

*Please Note: Food Stamp Nutrition Education Policy Clarifications are taken from USDA Administrative Notice 05-28, September 21, 2005*

**Budget Limitations:**

Mini-grant funds **cannot** be used for: purchasing capital equipment, health screenings; purchasing medical, physical activity, or other durable equipment; medical nutrition therapy; obesity treatment programs; lobbying of elected officials; political campaigns, Food Security and needs assessments that are not an integral part of nutrition education program planning, purchasing food for meetings, seeds, or gardening equipment for the target audience.

Funds **may be** used for: the purchase of educational materials and promotional items, workshops / trainings for nutrition education and physical activity, one-time physical activity demonstration items, such as jump ropes (less than \$4 each), food for educational cooking demonstrations, media ads for nutrition education, focus groups, surveys, and evaluations. Applicants are encouraged to utilize nutrition education materials from the approved listing for proposed mini-grant activities. For materials that are not listed, please note, in the application, the name of the resource, the source, a small one to two sentence description describing the nutrition education content and justification as to why this resource is needed.

**Target audiences**

Mini-grant funds must be used to support activities that target individuals, children or families who are recipients of, or eligible to receive, Supplemental Nutrition Education and similar households living at or below the 185% of the Federal Poverty Level. This may include service populations of other means, such as Head Start, Women, Infants and Children Services (WIC), Medi-Cal, or schools where 50% or more of the students are eligible for the free or reduced-price meal program at participating school sites.

*Please Note: USDA Guidelines related to target audience (e.g., SNAP-ed recipients; persons at or below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level).*