

SNAC



STATE NUTRITION ACTION COALITION

MAKING THE NATION A HEALTHIER PLACE TO LIVE, ONE STATE AT A TIME

Maximizing Partnerships and Resources to Improve Food and Nutrition Security

Success Stories from the Southeast Region State Nutrition Action Councils

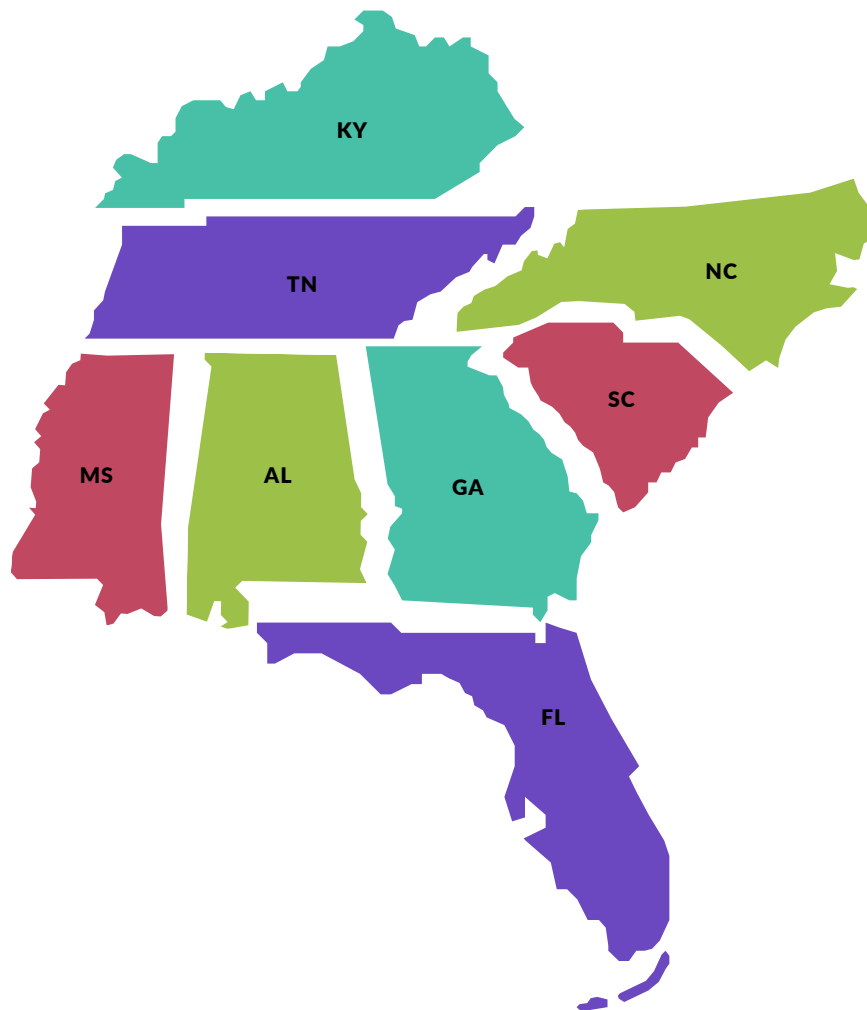




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About SNAC

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) Southeast Regional Office (SERO) has supported the development and growth of the State Nutrition Action Council (SNAC) across the eight states in their region: Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. SNAC is a state-level collaborative with active representation from all state agencies that implement USDA programs plus additional critical partners that work to increase food and nutrition security and reduce obesity and other chronic diseases in their state. Results from the SERO SNAC survey show 65% of states report non-governmental agencies participated in their state's SNAC regularly.

Non-governmental agencies include healthcare organizations, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) implementing agencies, food banks, food pantries, schools, non-profits, and dairy associations. Together, the SNAC partnering organizations reach underserved populations throughout their life span by providing food assistance benefits, nutrition education, community changes, and obesity prevention services. Through these efforts, SNACs work together to improve the quality of life for their residents, especially focusing on low-resourced communities.

SNAC's Mission

In the federal fiscal year 2017, the USDA required each state to establish a SNAC to align nutrition and obesity prevention activities across FNS programs. SNACs were encouraged to use the SNAP-Ed Evaluation Framework as a tool to help plan and evaluate SNAC interventions and state-level partnerships.

SNACs maximize nutrition education efforts and improve coordination and cooperation among the SNAP-Ed State agencies, FNS nutrition assistance programs, public health agencies, and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program. SNAC initiatives focus on one or more common goal(s), promote collaboration, and use integrated approaches to connect efforts and resources to reduce duplication and maximize state resources.

FNS SERO and the Public Health Institute Center for Wellness and Nutrition (PHI CWN) support eight states continuing to build their SNACs to meet their food and nutrition security needs since 2018. It includes training and the development of the [SNAC Toolkit](#). FNS SERO and PHI CWN also facilitate quarterly calls with each state's SNAC coordinator to support a collaborative learning process through collective experiences, highlighting the state's successes, discussing lessons learned, and sharing resources.



About this Success Stories Booklet

This booklet is a collection of success stories. It highlights the improvements made by SNAC partnering organizations in the Southeast Region states. Since its inception, the implementers of SNAC have contributed to comprehensive nutrition education and obesity prevention programs, community partnerships, and healthy community and system changes. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, several states may have adjusted the direction of their SNAC projects such as committing to online-only publications or simply focusing on promoting food access to help alleviate food insecurity. These Southeast Region states use a range of strategies to increase access to healthy foods and physical activity opportunities. Some success stories also preview the next steps needed for each program's continued growth and advancement.

Don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good.
-Voltaire

The following stories detail the before and after situations, strategies adopted, and positive impacts made in communities across the FNS Southeast Region. Starting and stopping, resetting, and moving forward is almost always part of any project's life cycle. It holds for many of the success stories showcased in this booklet. Anyone familiar with tackling challenges will agree that sometimes, there are several ways to find one solution. But one question begs an answer, which approach will lead to the most effective outcome? Each unique story used an approach that yielded success in that the result, built capacities, expanded partnerships, transformed communities, changed behaviors, or capitalized on collaborative efforts.

Monitoring and Assessing Partnerships and Collaboration:

SNACs are encouraged to use the [SNAP-Ed Evaluation Framework](#) as a resource to evaluate their initiative. It can also act as a tool to guide the evaluation of the SNAC partnerships. Most collaboratives are hyper-focused on evaluating the effectiveness of their initiative but evaluating the effectiveness of the partnerships, group dynamics, and collaboration is equally important.

Below are some benefits of assessing partnerships:

- Identify the strengths of the coalition
- Pinpoint areas of improvement for the council
- Understand what is important to your members
- Improve and guide future partnership activities
- How to promote the public image of the group
- Build internal capacity for evaluation
- Provide accountability to stakeholders and/or funders

The [Wilder Collaboration Factors Inventory](#) is a recommended tool by the SNAP-Ed Evaluation Framework to assess your multi-sectorial partnerships and planning activities (ST8). The *Wilder Collaboration Factors Inventory* is a free tool used to assess how your collaboration is doing on 22 research-tested success factors.

Six out of the eight states of the Southeast (SER) SNACs administered this tool and scored to assess their current partnerships and collaboration's strengths to improve SNAC for all members. It was a recommendation to states that met with their group for at least one year.

Common areas of strength found through the assessment:

- Collaboration
- Communication
- Leadership
- Flexibility

Common areas of improvement included:

- Clearly defining common goals
- Defining a clear decision-making process
- Adequate funding to meet goals

SER SNACs used their assessment results to strengthen partnerships and improve their collaborative process. SER SNACs will repeat this assessment periodically to monitor their collaboration and have a process in place for ongoing improvement.



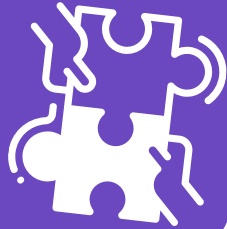
SERO SNAC SURVEY RESULTS SUMMARY

Surveying the SNAC partnering agencies gathered information about SERO SNAC and the commonalities across the region.

SNACS HAVE AN AVERAGE OF ABOUT:
13 PARTNERS

AVERAGE NUMBER OF YEARS WITH AN
ACTIVE SNAC IN THE SOUTHEAST:

2.8 YEARS



ALL SNAC COORDINATORS HAVE
BEEN IN PLACE FOR AT LEAST 1 YEAR

50%
HAVE BEEN ACTIVE
FOR 2-3 YEARS

MOST COMMON PARTNERS INCLUDE:

- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed)
- Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
- National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program/School Nutrition
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

DID YOU KNOW?

Lead SNAC coordinators in each state include representatives from SNAP-Ed Agency, WIC and Department of Education



MOST COMMON STATE AGENCIES PARTICIPATING IN SNAC:

Public Health
Agriculture
Education
Social/Human Services



SNAC SUPPORTS AND
RESOURCES THAT HAVE BEEN
COMMONLY USED ARE:

SNAC Toolkit
SNAP-Ed Toolkit
One-on-one technical support
(from PHI CWN and SERO)

ALABAMA

Collaboration with End Hunger in Alabama (ECHA) on The ECHA County Food Guide Project

Despite experiencing the growing pains of a turnover of the coalition leadership over several years, during 2021 several of the Alabama SNAC partners, including the Alabama Department of Education, Alabama Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program, and Alabama Farmer's Market Authority, have contributed to a successful initiative spearheaded by the ECHA partnership.

The **ECHA County Food Guide** is an outreach initiative led by Auburn University's College of Human Sciences, launched as a comprehensive project to ensure all Alabamians can find nutritious food near them. With the assistance of volunteers and strategic community partnerships, ECHA has ensured that families throughout the state of Alabama are aware of food resources in their local county. The **ECHA County Food Guide** Project website contains an **interactive map**, where residents can click on their county to access a page that lists nearby food resources. ECHA County Ambassadors are responsible for ensuring that information included in each County Food Guide is comprehensive, accurate, and up to date.

Child Nutrition Resources on the site are currently being updated to reflect an end-of-summer feeding program and a return to the traditional school year. Also, due to the extension of the United States Department of Agriculture waiver, school meals are free for all K-12 students for the 2021/2022 school year throughout the state of Alabama. Other statewide resources provided include the 2-1-1 toll-free hotline, which assists with basic needs, government services, mental health resources, employment support, support for children, the elderly, individuals with disabilities, military families, and volunteer opportunities. Also, the *Alabama Age Line* provides support and services for senior citizens through state and local programs; the *Sweetgrown Alabama* searchable database allows Alabama residents to easily connect with local farmers in their area and find specific Alabama-grown products; and, the *Benefits Enrollment Center* which helps clients apply for benefits to access healthy food, save on their utility bills and Medicare premiums, in addition to other local resources specific to each county.

The impact of food insecurity in the state has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 Pandemic, yet the *ECHA County Food Guide* Project is a tool that can be accessed easily by families to locate food and other resources that lessen the economic and health impacts experienced during these turbulent times.

SNAC PARTNERS:

- Alabama A&M University
- Alabama Department of Agriculture
- Alabama Department of Education
- Alabama Department of Human Resources
- Alabama Department of Public Health
- Alabama WIC
- Auburn University



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ECHA partnering organizations diligently work to ensure every child in Alabama has access to nutritious foods,” Alicia Powers, managing director of Auburn University’s Hunger Solutions Institute, said. “In the case of COVID-19, access must include not only ensuring the physical presence of a food resource but also informing the public of the most up-to-date operating procedures for food resources. As facilitator of ECHA, Hunger Solutions Institute is pleased to coordinate and maintain the County Food Guides supporting Alabamians as we all continue to navigate the impact of COVID-19.

”



OUTCOME/IMPACT

The benefits of the SNAC coalition have yet to be fully realized, in that the various state agencies and partners need to regroup in fiscal year 2022 to determine their common goals, mutual benefits, and to agree to establish a relationship that will foster new ways to formulate projects or programs through shared resources for program participants and families in need.

NEXT STEPS

Alabama SNAC will start the first of several quarterly meetings to develop a plan of action. This plan will become the blueprint to address the needs in Alabama to transform communities to eat smart and maintain a healthy weight.

The ECHA County Food Guide is located on the Auburn University website at: [ECHA County Food Guide Project – End Child Hunger in Alabama \(auburn.edu\)](http://auburn.edu)



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FLORIDA

The Florida Food and Nutrition Resource Program's flyer

The Florida Department of Children and Families took a leadership role in developing the resource flyer draft. SNAC partners from the Florida Department of Health, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Department of Elder Affairs, University of Florida Institute of Food and Agriculture Extension, and Feeding Florida contributed their feedback to ensure that each program was appropriately represented.

OUTCOME/IMPACT

The Florida Food and Nutrition Resource Programs flyer was developed to share the various programs offered via the members of Florida SNAC with the state of Florida. The flyer presents program details in an easily digestible document complete with a table that highlights the services each nutrition-related program offers and who is eligible for each program.

NEXT STEPS

The flyer was recently completed per each program's feedback. The flyer will be shared with the public via SNAC members' web pages and social media. The next steps are to promote and share the flyer with the public. There have not yet been any presentations on SNAC activities that have been provided at nutrition-related conferences or meetings. The collaborative effort not only resulted in an inclusive nutrition resource for the public, but each program had the opportunity to learn about the offerings of other programs in Florida.

SNAC PARTNERS:

- Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- Department of Children and Families – SNAP-Ed
- Department of Children and Families - PREVENT Obesity initiative, Broward County
- Department of Elder Affairs – Adult Care Food Program
- Department of Health – Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention
- Department of Health – Child Care Food Program
- Department of Health – WIC
- Feeding Florida
- FL Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

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Feeding Florida values the collaboration with our state partners to support the families we serve. The SNAC resource flyer, which explains the types of nutritional support, healthy food options, and services available to families and individuals, is an incredible one-stop-shop resource. The easier we can make it for Floridians to find and understand the resources available to them, the better we can help them when they need it

- Robin Safley, The Executive Director of Feeding Florida.

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FL Food and Nutrition Resource Programs

- Adult Care Food Program (ACFP)** - Supports the provision of nutritious meals and/or snacks served to community-based adults attending adult day care centers. The nutritious meals support and may improve their nutritional status, enabling them to prolong living in their own community.
elderaffairs.state.fl.us/boea/acfp.php
- Child Care Food Program (CCFP)** - The CCFP and two related programs, the Afterschool Meals Program and the Homeless Children Nutrition Program provide nutritious meals and snacks to children through public-private partnerships with organizations committed to caring for children.
www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/childrens-health/child-care-food-program/index.html
- Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)** - Distributes monthly food packages and nutritional information to elderly persons, 60 years of age or older, who are eligible based on income and reside in a qualifying county.
www.flacs.gov/Food-Nutrition/Nutrition-Programs/Commodity-Supplemental-Food-Program
- Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)** - A free nutrition education program offered through Cooperative Extension that focuses on limited-resource families, with an emphasis on parents and other adult caregivers who have primary responsibility for feeding young children.
efnep.flsu.edu/about/, Cooperative-Extension-Program-Florida-Agricultural-and-Mechanical-University2021.flamu.edu/
- Fresh Access Bucks** - is a USDA funded statewide nutrition incentive program that increases the purchasing power of SNAP recipients to buy fresh fruits and vegetables at farmers markets, produce stands, CSAs, mobile markets, and community grocery outlets.
www.feedingflorida.org/food-access/fresh-access-bucks
- School Meals** - National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, After School Snack Program and Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (NSLP, SBP, ASSP, FFVP) - Provides children and teenagers breakfast, lunch and snacks that meet federal nutrition standards in public schools.
www.flacs.gov/Food-Nutrition/Nutrition-Programs/National-School-Lunch-Program
- Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP)** - Supports good nutrition by providing low-income elders living in select counties in Florida with coupons that can be redeemed for locally grown, fresh, fruits and vegetables from participating farmers at local farmers' markets.
elderaffairs.state.fl.us/boea/farmers_market.php

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GEORGIA

Harvest of the Month Social Media Project

Georgia Student Health and Physical Education (SHAPE) is a statewide, multi-agency and multi-dimensional childhood obesity initiative that grew out of a 2009 State House Bill 229, the SHAPE Act.

Georgia SHAPE and Georgia Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed) joined and launched the State Nutrition Action Coalition (SNAC). Georgia SNAC's first collective project was the Harvest of the Month (HOTM) Social Media Project. This project targeted adults, parents, and youth of all ages. The intervention lasted for seven months and consisted of several partners throughout Georgia. The HOTM Social Media Project started because messaging is essential as long as all partners speak with the same messaging across the state. It would send a powerful, unified message around fruit and vegetable consumption. The partners decided to include supportive fruit and vegetable recipes, key messages, and activities based on the Georgia Department of Education's HOTM calendar. The partners decided to crowdsource this information from all partners and place the information in a shared Google drive by month and food. The Georgia Department of Public Health recruited a nutritionist to add information about the specific health benefits of fruit and vegetable consumption to our bodies. Sharing collected Google drive information with partners allowed them to post on social media at least once a week with hashtag #EatLocalGA. The overall goal was to increase the consumption of fruits and vegetables by SNAP-eligible participants and their children.

OUTCOME/IMPACT

After the conclusion of the project, there was a total of:

- **1,759** impressions on the Facebook posts
- **10,393** impressions on Twitter, and
- **60** likes on Instagram.

The project did have to come to a halt after some staff changes, but all of the posts before the end of the campaign were received well by the audience.

SNAC PARTNERS:

- Georgia Department of Education
- Georgia Department of Public Health
- Georgia Health Policy Center
- Georgia Student Health and Physical Education
- HealthMPowers
- Ladybug for Girls Foundations
- Open Hand Atlanta
- University of Georgia



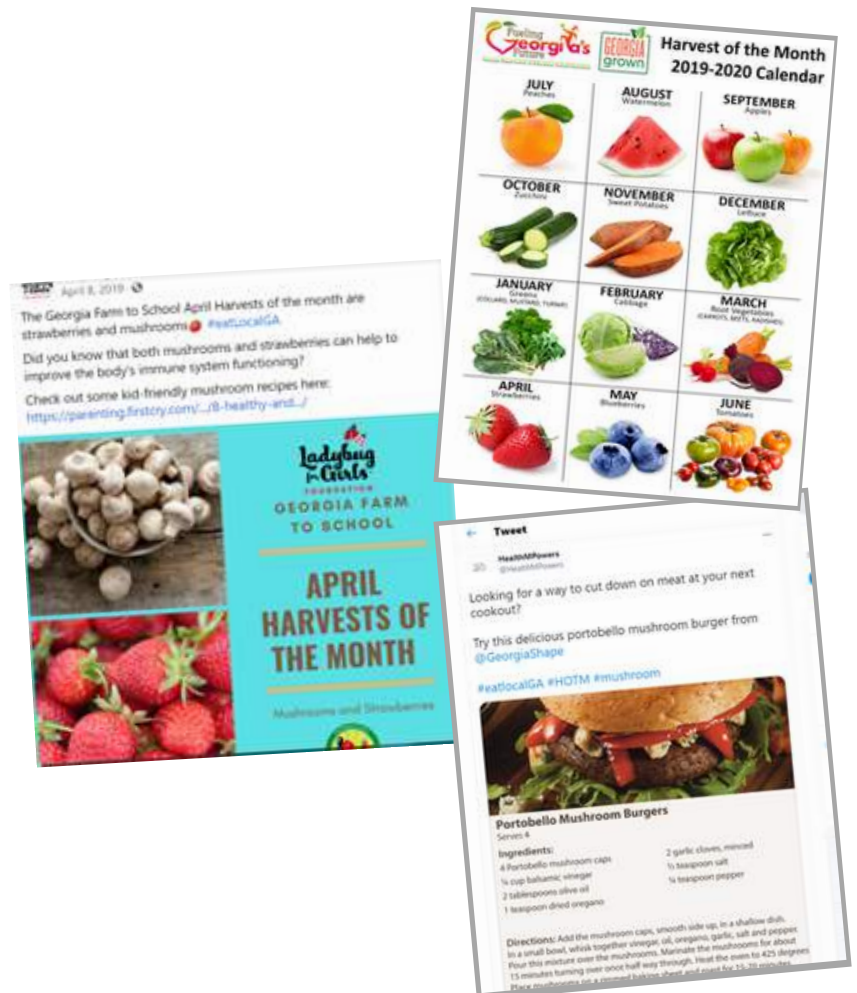
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NEXT STEPS

Georgia SNAC is in the bulding phases of a brand-new SNAC coalition model.



Harvest of the Month calendars can be found here:
<https://snp.gadoe.org/SCE/Pages/Harvest-of-the-Month.aspx>

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KENTUCKY

Providing Kentucky Citizens with a SNAC Toolkit Available at Their Fingertips

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services, in partnership with the University of Kentucky Nutrition Education Program, with the interest of the Kentucky Supplemental Nutrition Action Council (SNAC), has created and implemented a virtual SNAC toolkit that is in the format of a website on the internet and available to everyone.

The discussion was held during SNAC meetings with the entire council to establish how SNAC could share information with the communities. They wished to offer an outlet where individuals could identify partners, available services, and regions where they were services provided concerning Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) and awareness.

OUTCOME/IMPACT

After trial and error with multiple ideas, building a website was agreed on and thus created. Since Kentucky currently included SNAC services in their SNAP-Ed state plan, funding was available for this project. After contacting a local web designer, Epic Technologies, the brainstorming began to design and implement the website. The creation of the website provides as much information as possible to allow anyone to navigate efficiently and find SNAC partners, contacts for each organization, and a shared calendar to preview any events happening. Also agreed on was to provide resources like gardening tips, recipes, cooking tips, and minutes from previous SNAC meetings for transparency with the community. We also wanted to provide an area where anyone who wished to become a partner with Kentucky SNAC could find information about how to do it. Therefore, we also designed a section on the website that lists the current partners and directions about becoming one. In short, the website is for people: an information highway at the fingertips of anyone with internet access.

NEXT STEPS

Our website address is www.kysnac.com. While this website is an ongoing creation, and we add new information as the days go by, we feel this will provide excellent resources for our communities and citizens in a safe, effective, productive manner.

SNAC PARTNERS:

- Cabinet for Health and Family Services
- Epic Technologies
- Kentucky SNAC Council
- University of Kentucky Nutrition Education Program



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Kentucky State Nutrition Action Council

Kentucky State Nutrition Action Council acts as a state-level partnership with representation for state agencies and nonprofits that all participate and implement USDA programs. Collaboratively, these organizations strive to reach the underserved individuals to provide food benefits, nutrition education, healthy community activities, efforts to reduce food insecurity and improve the quality of life of Kentuckians.

[GET RECIPES](#) [EVENTS](#)

Quick and easy pallet gardens

Follow this quick and easy guide from Kentucky State University to making your own pallet gardens.

Preparing your garden

Good soil is the backbone of a healthy garden. Soil supplies plants with nutrients for growth and support for the [...]

How to develop a crop planting calendar

Kentucky State University has created this worksheet which has been designed to help [...]

Partners

How to become a partner

Kentucky SNAC depends on the strong partnerships between state, local and federal [...]

Meeting Minutes

Below are the meeting minutes from past board meetings. If you're looking to attend a future board meeting, be sure to check out our [Events](#) page.

December 2021

There are no upcoming events.

Latest Past Events

July 12 @ 10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Family Farm Day	
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Harold A. Benson Research and Demonstration Farm 1123 Mills Lane, Princeton

Want to see Kentucky State University's 300+ acre Research and Demonstration Farm? Families with kids of all ages are invited! [...]

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MISSISSIPPI

Working Together to Identify Preferred USDA Foods Available through TEFAP

Over the last year, the Mississippi TEFAP Advisory Board worked to document which United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) foods available through TEFAP are preferred by Mississippi food banks, food pantries, and soup kitchens. We also sought to understand why some foods are not preferred to inform ordering and work with food pantries. As a result, an electronic survey was conducted with representatives of MS food banks. A similar survey was conducted with representatives of food pantries and soup kitchens in the state.

Both surveys were conducted via Qualtrics survey software. This survey was distributed directly to the food bank representative. In addition, representatives of the food banks distributed the survey to representatives of food pantries and soup kitchens via email and other established communication channels. In both surveys, participants have presented a list of USDA foods available through TEFAP and asked to mark "yes," "maybe," or "no" to interest in receiving each item. For foods they did not wish to receive, they were asked to explain why.

Qualtrics recorded four responses from representatives from two Mississippi food banks, namely Mississippi Food Network and Catholic Charities of South Mississippi. And 193 complete responses were recorded from the food pantry and soup kitchens. Responses were primarily food pantry representatives (n=181) and, to a lesser extent, soup kitchen representatives (n=11). One respondent did not identify whether they represented a food pantry or a soup kitchen.

Several factors influenced participants' limited preference for foods. The factors included the limited organizational capacity to handle or store a food item, the perception that clients would not want or use a food item, or the experience of clients previously returning the item. For example, 26 food pantry respondents stated "no," and 48 respondents stated "maybe" to "Beans, Garbonzo, Canned - 24/15/5 oz can." Similarly, 26 food pantry respondents and 47 respondents stated "maybe" to "Lentils, Dry - 12/2 lb bag." The primary reason for not wanting these items was that clients did not like them or did not know how to cook them.

Through the work of the TEFAP advisory board, the SNAC and represented agencies now have documentation of the preferred USDA TEFAP foods and better understand what factors matter when selecting TEFAP foods. Additionally, participating SNAC members on the TEFAP advisory board have documentation of those foods that are not preferred and reasons for limited preference.

SNAC PARTNERS:

Mississippi (MS) Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) Advisory Board:

- Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce
- Mississippi Department of Human Services
- Mississippi State University Extension Service

Other TEFAP Advisory Board members include representatives from food banks and food pantries in the state.



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OUTCOME/IMPACT

The collaboration of SNAC partners enhanced the ability to obtain and provide data to meet client needs. For example, working as a team to identify preferred food items and reasons why food items were not preferred provided valuable data to:

- Inform ordering and distribution of food items and
- Development of educational materials such as Newsletters, Recipes, and How to Instruction videos specific to less familiar food items for clients' use.

NEXT STEPS

Based on this information, the Mississippi SNAP-Ed program will develop recipes and other nutrition education to promote the consumption of foods available through TEFAP, especially foods that clients don't have knowledge or experience preparing. By working with food banks in MS and local food pantries, SNAP-Ed can distribute recipes in conjunction with the distribution of unfamiliar and often underused food items.

Bean recipe can be found:
www.happyhealthy.ms



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NORTH CAROLINA

Connecting more North Carolinians to vital food and nutrition programs

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and its partners with the SNAC released a new **NC Food and Nutrition Resource Programs** quick reference guide, which provides a snapshot of 14 different United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) programs available in North Carolina (NC), like the Summer Nutrition Program and The Emergency Food Assistance Program. These programs provide a vital source of support and aim to reduce food insecurity among underserved populations.

While these programs reach residents of all ages, those who are eligible may not know they could be receiving services. Local agencies and service providers are encouraged to use the guide, available in both **English** and **Spanish**, to help direct program clients and program participants to food and nutrition services available.

“During the COVID-19 pandemic, more people than ever are relying on these important safety net programs yet more can still be served,” said Rachel Pohlman, SNAC co-chair.

North Carolina's SNAC is a state-level collaborative with active representation from state agencies and nonprofits that implement USDA FNS programs. Together, the SNAC partnering organizations reach people throughout their lives, providing food benefits, nutrition education, healthy community changes, and obesity prevention services to reduce food insecurity and improve the quality of life of North Carolinians.

The NC Food and Nutrition Resource Programs guide is available online and in a **downloadable print version** for local departments of social services and providers to use when advising current beneficiaries and potential beneficiaries of these services.

OUTCOME/IMPACT

The resource is intended to be utilized in counseling sessions with clients. Due to COVID-19 many of these face-to-face interactions have not occurred in a large number. However, the guide has been accessed on the website, with a spike in users from late May to early June. Website analytics as of July 6, 2021, are as follows:

- **16,033** pageviews
- **12,746** unique pageviews
- The average session duration is about **2 minutes 30 seconds**
- **55%** view from a mobile device

SNAC PARTNERS:

- Child and Adult Care Food Program
- North Carolina Department of Aging and Adult Services
- North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
- North Carolina Department of Social Services
- North Carolina Division of Public Health
- North Carolina State University's SNAP-Ed
- Poe Center for Health Education
- Second Harvest Food Bank - SNAP-Ed
- SNAP-Ed Steps to Health



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The partners in our coalition identified this as a need early on and wanted to address ways to collaborate together to reach more North Carolinians with healthier foods and nutrition education”

- Rachel Pohlman, SNAC co-chair.

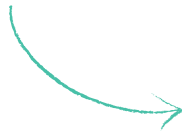
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NEXT STEPS

NC SNAC has been meeting with our existing partners as well as many new partners to explore the best next step. There has been a lot of energy around food access maps, there are currently about a dozen in existence for NC. We are exploring whether we should have a database of the food access maps, coordinate our efforts across the state, or explore other ways to drive people towards food access resources.

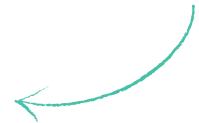
Food and Nutrition Resource in English



Program Name	Food Access	Health/Wellness	Nutrition Education	Food Bank	Eligibility
CACFP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0-18 yrs
EFPNP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0-18 yrs
SNAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All ages
School Meals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0-18 yrs
EFPNP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0-18 yrs
SNAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All ages
SNAP-ED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All ages
WIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0-5 yrs
WIC-FINP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0-5 yrs



Food and Nutrition Resource in Spanish




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SOUTH CAROLINA

SNAC is launched in South Carolina

In June 2019, South Carolina's State Nutrition Action Coalition (SNAC) began to form. Before this time, South Carolina's SNAC did not exist. The groundwork for establishing the coalition started with developing the SNAC information pamphlet, the South Carolina SNAC State Crosswalk, and the Organizational Philosophy and Readiness for Implementing Change surveys. From August 2019 to September 2020, the South Carolina SNAC Assessment started and conducted interviews. During the recruitment and assessment, 33 potential SNAC members were interviewed. Before this assessment, many South Carolina Food and Nutrition Service programs (FNS) providers were not aware of SNAC or its purpose.

The purpose of the South Carolina SNAC assessment was to:

- Bring awareness of SNAC to FNS providers.
- Become familiar with current obesity prevention strategies within each FNS program.
- Solicit recommendations from coalition members to develop future strategies for SNAC Initiatives.
- Assess program and organizational readiness for implementing policy, system, and environmental (PSE) changes related to obesity prevention strategies.

OUTCOME/IMPACT

In January of 2021, the SNAC assessment was completed, and membership was extended to all the South Carolina FNS programs. South Carolina launched the initial SNAC meeting virtually on February 24, 2021. The meeting was well-attended, engaging, and all the SNAC members were present representing the 15 South Carolina FNS programs. The SNAC assessment results were presented during the meeting and the South Carolina SNAC logo was revealed.

The SNAC Assessment findings identified:

- Subject, setting, and audience served by program area.
- Professional, financial, and implementing influence among agencies.
- Recommended initiatives for South Carolina SNAC to address.

SNAC PARTNERS:

- Clemson University Youth Learning Institute:
 - Expanded Food and Nutrition Program and Rural Health and Nutrition Extension Program
- Department on Aging - Governor's Office
- Department of Agriculture:
 - The Emergency Food Assistance Program, The Commodity Supplemental Food Program, and Farmers Market Nutrition Program
- Department of Education - Office of Health and Nutrition
 - Local Wellness Policies, Summer Food Service Program, Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program, and Farm to School Program
- Department of Health and Environmental Control:
 - SNAP-Ed, Women Infant and Children Program, and Public Health Nutrition Practice
- Department of Social Services:
 - Senior Farmers Market Program, SNAP-Ed, Healthy Bucks Incentive Program, State Office - SNAP-Ed/Healthy Bucks, Child & Adult Care Food Program, and Farm 2 Preschool
- Lowcountry Food Bank
- University of South Carolina:
 - SNAP-Ed and FoodShare Program



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First of all, I think education is the key. We tend to share information and assume that everyone knows what proper eating entails. In my opinion, a statewide campaign to promote awareness of what healthy eating and adequate physical activity look like is essential to impact obesity in South Carolina. The next step would be to increase accessibility and make healthy foods available in food deserts. Availability and accessibility are major issues and impact one's ability to consume healthy foods. If we want people to live healthy lifestyles, we must give them the knowledge and skills to make informed choices and ensure that they have access to fresh, healthy foods where they work, play, live and learn.

- Coalition Member

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OUTCOME/IMPACT

South Carolina SNAC totals 24 members with representation from 15 FNS programs across nine agencies within South Carolina. All five meetings were well-attended and very productive. Coalition members have eagerly participated and presented during the past few months. For the first time, all the South Carolina FNS programs are working together cooperatively, meeting regularly to share program information and discuss ways to address obesity, increase food security, and improve food access.

NEXT STEPS

South Carolina SNAC is in the process of selecting and implementing our first initiative. We are working toward identifying an initiative that resonates with all coalition members. Once an initiative is selected, a plan will be developed to implement and evaluate it. We will continue to facilitate educational learning opportunities during coalition meetings. Each program, agency, and essential partner will have an opportunity to highlight their program during monthly meetings. Active participation in these meetings will allow the coalition to continue building on our knowledge of each program, bridge gaps between services, and connect vital resources to the clients we serve.



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TENNESSEE

Getting It Right: How Networking Saved Our Project

The Tennessee Southeast SNAC group started as a project-based group in 2018. The group had a few growing pains at first due to multiple agencies having staff turnover and transition. However, that factor did not significantly impact the SNAC group. The major change was that the Department of Education School Nutrition Program would be responsible for the liaison role instead of the Tennessee Department of Education Whole Child team.

The first main project we worked on included the revamp of the ABC123 Healthy Kids in Tennessee: Let's Eat Well and Play Every Day Toolkit already developed by a SNAC partner, the Middle Tennessee State University Center for Health and Human Services. The toolkit was created to help target preschool-aged children through nutrition education, physical education, and tobacco cessation education. The toolkit is comprised of resources and materials to be utilized by childcare workers. The materials also align with Tennessee Gold Sneaker initiative standards.

The initial pilot studies were conducted from 2007-2011, with an in-depth field study taking place during 2010. In 2019, after conducting a basic needs assessment of resources available across Tennessee, the SNAC group recognized a gap in reaching the preschool audience and saw value in revitalizing this toolkit. The SNAC group removed the tobacco cessation portion from the toolkit since the initial partnership and funding stream for tobacco education was no longer active. Then the group utilized the skills of the experts within the coalition to focus on nutrition and physical activity education. Once the materials were updated, the toolkit (website) was revised to reflect the newly improved ABC123 Toolkit. The coalition's quick progress of this particular project was presented at the 2019 Southern Obesity Summit in Oklahoma City, OK.

The plan was to disseminate the revamped toolkit via the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education team and the Department of Human Services as part of childcare center required trainings. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, the revised trainings did not take place due to restricted travel, closure of childcare centers, etc. The resource was shared with SNAC members and was distributed electronically as a stand-alone resource. However, without the toolkit as a part of the required trainings, there wasn't much incentive for childcare providers to utilize it, especially during times of closure. Once the subscription ran out to the website domain name, the domain was not renewed and the toolkit is not currently active online.

SNAC PARTNERS:

- Coordinated School Health
- Tennessee State University
- Tennessee Department of Health
- WIC
- UT Extension
- Tennessee Department of Human Service
- SNAP-Ed
- Middle Tennessee State University
- Tennessee Dairy Alliance
- Tennessee Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance
- Family Engagement and School Improvement YMCA of Middle Tennessee
- Tennessee Justice Center
- Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability
- No Kid Hungry Share Our Strength
- University of Tennessee
- Governor's Foundation for Health and Wellness
- Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee
- Tennessee Afterschool Network
- Tennessee Department of Conservation and Energy
- Family Resource Centers
- Tennessee Department of Education



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Moving forward the Tennessee SNAC group will harness the partnerships that have been forged and will continue to work together to enhance work already in progress across the state and create new opportunities to help impact food access and obesity prevention in Tennessee.

- SNAC Partner

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Like many adjustments that had to be made during a global pandemic, the SNAC group pivoted from a project lead group to a networking and resource sharing coalition. Thus far, we feel as though this has been a tremendous improvement regarding participation among coalition members. Through this transition, we believe a collaborative approach is most beneficial to all those involved and if intra-agency projects are a by-product of the group, even better! Stay tuned for projects we have in the works!

OUTCOME/IMPACT

From the original project, the primary impact of the SNAC partnership included the additional nutrition experts and physical education experts we had among the team. Also, by dividing out the workload the toolkit was able to be revamped within a respectable timeframe, further indicating an outcome of a revamped toolkit ready for distribution as the overall outcome.

NEXT STEPS

Moving forward the Tennessee SNAC group will harness the partnerships that have been forged and will continue to work together to enhance work already in progress across the state and create new opportunities to help impact food access and obesity prevention in Tennessee.



**A-B-C 1-2-3 Healthy Kids in Tennessee:
Let's Eat Well and Play Every Day!**

CONTACT INFORMATION:

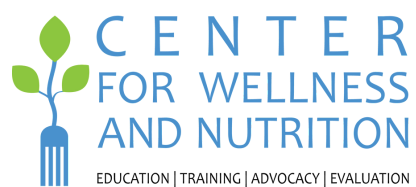
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