

Snap-Ed

Current research indicates that 2 out of 3 adults are overweight or obese. One in six youths, ages 2 to 19, are also considered to be obese. Those who are overweight or obese are at a greater risk for Hypertension, Dyslipidemia, Type 2 Diabetes, Osteoarthritis, Sleep Apnea and certain types of cancers. Although very complex, overweight and obesity can be in part attributed to dietary patterns and sedentary behavior. These issues influence our healthcare, military preparedness, and educational systems. Nutrition education is the antidote to cure these ills. Under current law, two programs designed to address nutrition education to low-income audiences are the SNAP-Ed Program (section 28 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008) and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP).

The House of Representatives is in the process of considering H.R. 2, the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill), which includes amendments to SNAP-Ed and EFNEP. The 2018 Farm Bill continues funding for these nutrition education initiatives and modifies how the programs are structured and funded. Section 4033 of the 2018 Farm Bill wedges the merits of SNAP-Ed and EFNEP into one unified Nutrition Education and Obesity Grant Program. This reform will eliminate perceived and real duplications, and will allow for SNAP recipients and other low-income individuals to still receive the important education necessary to inform nutrition decisions and habits.

The SNAP-Ed reforms will utilize the unique nationwide county-by-county footprint of the cooperative extension system. The reforms will allow cooperative extension to provide nutrition education at the grass roots level, metric the results and the program, allow researchers to analyze the data and then incorporate that analysis into the nutrition education. It will result in a continuous cycle of program delivery and improvement through extension, research, and education. Under the reformed program--

- Nutrition education will now be a combination of the merits of SNAP-Ed and EFNEP, including the training and utilization of paraprofessional aides and the partnering between public and private entities in the delivery of services.
- USDA will implement SNAP-Ed through NIFA in consultation with FNS.
- FNS will provide guidance in SNAP policies, procedures, administrative oversight, and technical assistance.
- 1862 and 1890 Land-grant Universities will deliver nutrition education and obesity prevention services in partnership with other public and private entities.
- The State SNAP administering agency will consult with the eligible institution to submit the nutrition education State plan.
- The State plan will document how funding is disseminated amongst eligible institutions and their partners.
- Nutrition education will receive \$485 million in mandatory funding, adjusted for inflation, and \$65 million in discretionary funding.
- Mandatory funding will be allocated pro rata based on SNAP caseload.
- LGUs are permitted to retain up to 10% for administrative/indirect expenses.