



Legislation & Policy: Applications for EFNEP

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The Statutory Authority Hierarchy

- The U.S. Constitution
- Laws
- CSREES Regulations
- USDA Regulations
- Federal Regulations
- CSREES Policies



Research Carefully!

- Read all sources in context.
- Consult with CSREES with any questions. We are not attorneys!!
- May need to consult your own legal counsel!



EFNEP -Past, Present, and Future

- 1969 – First year of EFNEP
- 1980s – Program Policy
- 1990s – Data Collection
- 2000s – Nesting of EFNEP within other Systems
- 2000s – Revisiting Policy and Data Collection Decisions



Current
Program

Policy

Guidelines

Good Starting
Point



Extension
Service
October 1983

Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program Policies



EFNEP Policy

Key Points - Legislation

- Part of Smith Lever funding
- Low-income individuals and families
- Nutritionally sound
- Food purchasing and preparation practices
- Employment and training of professional and paraprofessional aides
- Direct education
- Other appropriate nutrition education programs
- Hired from indigenous target population



EFNEP Policy

Other Key Points - Summary

- Audience - low-income families & youth
- Content – food related, more than nutrition and health/obesity
 - Diet Quality and Physical Activity (Dietary Guidelines)
 - Food Resource Management (select, purchase, prepare, food budgets)
 - Food Security (other supporting resources)
 - Food Safety (Fight BAC!, etc.)



EFNEP Policy

Other Key Points - Summary

- Primarily **direct teaching** – group and one/one
 - Other complementary methods potentially okay
- Allocation – timing; 60% paraprofessionals and their support
- Use of funds – proportionate to time spent on EFNEP; primarily to teach participants



Need for New Policy Document

- Policy document doesn't reflect changes and developments over the past 25 years
 - Farm Bill legislation
 - Research (evidence) based
 - USDA recommendations, current knowledge, and other relevant information
 - Link to new Administrative Officers Handbook



New Policy Document contd.

- Plan to comprehensively revisit
- Will seek Partner and other input
 - Include recent Federal legislation
 - Address target audience needs
 - Reflect current science
 - Reflect wisdom of experience