

Administration/Management Issues
Discussion Session – 17 March 2004
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If a magic fairy would grant your wishes for program management what would they be?

- All plans approved by 10/1 – timely; highest priority; no contingencies
- Consistent messages from regional offices; consistent interpretation of Guidance
- Nomenclature is so important – e.g. in-kind; across federal, state, and local systems
- Nutrition Education is a valued part of the Food Stamp Program; recognition that everyone is working to make this happen; valuing the work that we (CES) do
- Start with the positives – build upon our strengths
- Understand our audience
- Thanks to the national office for making a commitment of time for this meeting
- Ask FNS to intern or visit in states – understanding culture and valuing

Questions/concerns

- Time and Effort – what about planned confirmation? Need to have document in hand; also have been told by regional office must specifically state for FSNE
- Audit concerns – reporting inconsistencies – calendar year versus federal fiscal year versus state fiscal year
- Required time for administration overshadows ability to program
- All in the U.S. Department of Agriculture – why not have a Memorandum of Understanding between FNS and CSREES?
- Need to build trust
- Non-duplicated audits
- Offices of sponsored programs/projects need to be included in discussions
- Need Guidance in December
- Need FNS to acknowledge that this is one of their nutrition education programs
- Limiting to Food Stamp recipients plus applicants – exclusivity waivers will be the exception; yet, outreach is our strength; [FNS Headquarter Response] – FSNE never meant to be a nutrition education program for low-income audiences; is for Food Stamp Recipients
- Need language – terminology clarification
- Make all FNS programs fit together
- More adult programming – this program is preventative – need to keep schools involved
- Use research to back this work
- Mixed message – social services leading to more self sufficiency; USDA is about agriculture

- Food Stamp Act – for Food Stamp recipients and applicants; cannot separate out food stamp recipients and applicants from the population; not reasonable or feasible; need to quantify that are primarily reaching Food Stamp audiences
- Needing a waiver for every project
- States vary in reporting total or partial cost share (up to 50%); one state was contributing more and reported only up to 50% - was required to go back and resubmit all invoices and to submit total cost and total cost share – why?
- What ownership do we (cooperators) have in all aspects of the program?
- Inaccessibility of regional offices to cooperators

Positives

- Good connections with state Food Stamp offices
- FSNE has enhanced our ability to reach the Food Stamp audience
- Have enhanced relationships at the local level

Guidance clarification

- Breastfeeding - WIC has lead role; need specific Memorandum of Understanding with WIC