

Nutrition Partnerships, Collaborations, Liaison Committees

Major Federal Initiatives -- Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs)

HealthierUS Initiative – In June 2002, President Bush launched HealthierUS, a disease prevention and health promotion initiative designed to give Americans the guidance they need to reverse the nation's unhealthy lifestyle trends. More information on this Administration Initiative is available at www.healthierUS.gov. In support of this initiative, FNS is working with other Federal agencies to better coordinate our efforts in promoting healthy eating and active lifestyles. One of the first actions in HealthierUS was the signing of three Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) between Federal agencies. USDA is a partner in all of these MOUs.

1. *Partnership to Improve Nutrition, Physical Activity and Health of the Nation's Children*
 - The Departments of Agriculture, Education and Health and Human Services are working together to expand school-based efforts to help children and young people develop healthy eating and physical activity skills that will last a lifetime.
2. *Promoting Public Health and Recreation*
 - The Departments of Agriculture, Health and Human Services, Interior and the Army are working together to promote healthy lifestyles through sound nutrition, physical activity and recreation in America's great outdoors.
3. *Promoting the Consumption of Fruits and Vegetables: the 5 A Day Program*
 - The Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services are working together to establish a general framework for enhancing and more effectively coordinating the national 5 A Day for Better Health Program, whose goal is to increase fruit and vegetable consumption to 5 to 9 servings per day for all Americans. www.5aday.org/html/background/partnership.php

FNS Working with Other USDA Agencies

- **Economic Research Service (ERS) Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Program**-- FNS provides input to the Economic Research Service on priorities for research activities. FNS staff also participates in review of some proposals, provides comments on some deliverables for select projects, and reviews reports prior to publication.

FNS Working with Other USDA Agencies (continued)

- **Food And Nutrition Information Center/ National Agricultural Library --**
The Food and Nutrition Information Center (FNIC) is located at the National Agricultural Library (NAL), part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Agricultural Research Service (ARS). FNIC's mission is to collect and disseminate information about food and human nutrition. FNS has cooperative agreements with FNIC to support resource websites for FNS nutrition assistance programs.
www.nal.usda.gov/fnic
- **Nutrition Education and Research Coordinating Council (NERCC) --** FNS is a part of this committee that serves as a coordinating structure within USDA to assure coordination of all activities addressing research and education relating to human nutrition, including scientific and economic research as well as public education and information programs.
- **Nutrition and Food Safety Education Task Force --** FNS is a member of this USDA interagency task force that serves as a forum for the exchange of materials and ideas on nutrition education and food safety.
- **USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service and Farm Service Agency --**FNS works with these two agencies and the food industry to periodically update current commodity specifications and develop specifications for new commodity offerings as needed. During this process, USDA makes every effort to offer healthful commodities that support *The Dietary Guidelines for Americans*.
- **USDA Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES) --** FNS' Team Nutrition is working to partner with Cooperative Extension and Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) to further the reach of *Changing the Scene* and implementation materials and on childhood obesity issues. FNS also works closely with CSREES on a number of food stamp nutrition education issues. CSREES serves as one of the primary subcontractors in the delivery source of Food Stamp Nutrition Education (FSNE).
www.fns.usda.gov/tn/Resources/changing.html
- **USDA Food Safety Risk Assessment Committee --**FNS (FDD) is part of this new committee that will focus on those hazards along the farm-to-table continuum that pose the greatest risk to public health. It will build a solid scientific basis on which to base regulatory and policy decisions.
- **USDA Human Nutrition Coordinating Committee (HNCC) --** FNS serves on this committee whose purpose is to ensure communication among agencies involved in human nutrition within the Department and to explore and recommend positions on human nutrition related policy issues.

FNS Working with Other USDA Agencies (continued)

- **USDA Interagency Working Group on Dioxin** – FNS is part of the working group that shares information on dioxin exposure and risks, including information on how to reduce exposure through the food supply.

FNS Working with Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) Agencies

- **Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Head Start Nutrition Education Advisory Committee** – FNS serves on the committee to: 1) Review the present needs for nutrition education for children, staff and parents of Head Start, 2) Consider existing preschool nutrition curricula, audiovisuals and other materials, called upon to serve on Federal Focus Groups related to regulations and guidance in areas of health and nutrition component 3) Consider how Head Start grantees can critique the sources, and 4) Make recommendations to the Head Start Bureau for a comprehensive nutrition education action plan.
- **Breastfeeding Promotion Consortium (BPC)** – FNS co-hosts, with DHHS, biannual meetings of the BPC to exchange ideas on how the Federal government and private health organizations can collaboratively promote breastfeeding as the optimal form of infant nutrition. The BPC includes representatives from over 30 partnering organizations and Federal agencies.
- **FNS and Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** --FNS and FDA signed a Memorandum of Understanding to develop the *Power of Choice*. *The Power of Choice* is a healthy lifestyle initiative designed to involve kids and give them a chance to explore the links between health, food choices, food safety, and fitness. The kit contains sessions on making healthy food and activity choices, 150+ reproducible Nutrition Fact Labels, a reproducible recipe booklet, a PowerPoint presentation, music and a song, and a training guide and video for the leaders.
- **Healthy People 2010 Nutrition Work Group** – This group works to coordinate periodic reviews of progress towards the HP 2000 nutrition objectives and develop the HP2010 nutrition objectives. Healthy People 2010 is a set of health objectives for the Nation to achieve over the first decade of the new century.
www.healthypeople.gov
- **Joint USDA/DHHS Nutrition Education Committee for Maternal and Child Nutrition Publications** – This committee provides a systematic mechanism for USDA and DHHS Agencies to report plans and progress related to maternal and child nutrition education to avoid duplication and facilitate coordination and make more effective use of resources.

FNS Working with Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) Agencies (Continued)

- **Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), DHHS** – FNS and MCHB communicate and coordinate on numerous prenatal, infant and child issues and concerns that support Program goals such as breastfeeding promotion and support activities, and Bright Futures in Practice: Nutrition Guide.
 - **Bright Futures** -- This initiative of the Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Bureau is a national health promotion initiative dedicated to the principle that every child deserves to be healthy and that optimal health involves a trusting relationship between the health professional, the child, the family, and the community as partners in health practice.
 - **Bright Futures for Infants, Children, and Adolescents Program (BFICAP)** – The mission is to promote and improve the health and well being of infants, children, and adolescents.
 - **Bright Futures for Women's Health and Wellness (BFWHW)** – The vision is to achieve physical, mental, social, and spiritual health, Bright Futures for Women's Health and Wellness identifies opportunities for integrating prevention into self-care, culturally competent health care, and community action.
 - **Maternal and Child Health Interorganizational Nutrition Group (MCHING)** -- Partnership of national, professional, voluntary, and federal agencies concerned with improving nutrition status of mothers, children and families through interorganizational collaboration and action.
 - **National Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies Coalition** -- To promote public education efforts in maternal and child health through collaborative activities and the sharing of information among professional, voluntary, and government organizations.
- **Nutrition and Physical Activity Work Group (NUPAWG)** – FNS is the USDA representative to NUPAWG, a consultative group to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Division on Nutrition and Physical Activity (CDC-DNPA). NUPAWG represents key national, state, and local public health and education partners, working together to improve the nation's dietary and physical activity practices.

FNS Working with Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) Agencies (Continued)

- **Secretary's Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality (SACIM)** -- FNS is part of the SACIM that is sponsored by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The purpose of SACIM is to advise the Secretary of HHS on Department programs which are directed at reducing infant mortality and improving the health status of pregnant women and infants. SACIM also provides advice on how best to coordinate the variety of Federal, State, local and private programs and efforts that are designed to deal with the health and social problems impacting on infant mortality.

FNS Working with USDA and DHHS Agencies

- **Dietary Guidance Working Group (DGWG)** -- The purpose of the group is to ensure consistency with the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* across USDA Agencies and DHHS Agencies. To ensure that dietary guidance accurately reflects the USDA/DHHS *Dietary Guidelines and Food Guide Pyramid* and is supported by research-based knowledge and is objective in its presentation.
- **National Nutrition Monitoring:** FNS participates with the Nation Center for Health Statistics and other USDA agencies in the development of questionnaires for surveys such as the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.

FNS Working with Department of Defense (DOD):

- **DOD Supply Center Philadelphia** – USDA has partnered with DOD to deliver over 60 types of nutritious high quality fresh produce to school children and Indian Tribes. Under this system, participating schools and Tribes order fresh produce directly from Defense Supply Center prime vendors. USDA pays DOD for the products purchased.

FNS Working with Other Federal Agencies

- **Early Childhood Longitudinal Survey:** FNS has provided funding and participates in the interdepartmental work group that provides input on design and implementation issues of the Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics survey.
- **Inter-Agency Forum on Child and Family Statistics** – The Forum was established in 1994 to foster greater coordination among federal agencies concerning the collection and reporting of data on children and families. Members include the heads of major federal statistical agencies. The OANE Director represents USDA on the Forum and staff serves on the reporting and writing committees. The Forum produces an annual report, *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being*.

FNS Working with Federal Agencies and Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs)

- **Empowering Youth with Nutrition and Physical Activity** – Through a Memorandum of Understanding, FNS collaborated with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the 100 Black Men of America, Inc. to introduce a nutrition and physical activity component in the 100 BMA Inc. mentoring program. The purpose of the initiative was to empower African-American males between the ages of 8-18 to act as change agents for healthier communities. A curriculum entitled *Nutrition and Physical Activity the 100 Way* was developed to promote sound dietary and physical activity practices in populations served by FNS and CDC, particularly adolescent African-American males and their families.
- **National Association of Food Distribution Programs on Indian Reservations (NAFDPIR)** — FNS works in collaboration with NAFDPIR on providing nutrition education to participants in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), and in efforts to continually improve the FDPIR food package. FNS formed a team that meets periodically with the objective of improving the nutritional profile of the FDPIR food package and its appeal to program participants. The team consists of representatives from FDPIR tribal programs, the Centers for Disease Control, the Indian Health Service, the Agricultural Marketing Service, the Farm Service Agency, FNS Regional Offices, and FNS Headquarters.
- **National Coordinating Committee on School Health** -- The National Coordinating Committee on School Health (NCCSH) brings together Federal departments with approximately 65 nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to support quality comprehensive school health programs in the nation's schools. Member organizations include professional, health, and youth-serving organizations as well as groups focused on policy and advocacy. The U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Education, and Health and Human Services (HHS) support the committee.
- **President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children** – FNS served on the Task Force coordinated by the Environmental Protection Agency to develop the Children's Health Month Calendar. The calendar provides parents with daily tips on topics such as disease and injury prevention, environmental safety, and school health. Children's Health Month is celebrated annually in October.

FNS Working with Federal Agencies and Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs) (Continued)

- **WIC-Immunization National Working Group** --- This partnership is working to implement a national strategic plan to improve immunization rates of infants and children participating in WIC. The partnership includes seven member organizations: FNS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (National Immunization Program); the American Academy of Pediatrics; National WIC Association; Association of State and Territorial Health Officials; Association of Immunization Managers; and Every Child By Two.

FNS Working with Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs)

- **Action for Healthy Kids (AFHK)** – FNS’ Team Nutrition works collaboratively with AFHK in projects that promote healthy school nutrition environments. AFHK is a nationwide initiative dedicated to improving the health and educational performance of children through better nutrition and physical activity in schools. www.actionforhealthykids.org
- **American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Committee on Nutrition** - FNS maintains an active liaison with the Academy’s Committee on Nutrition concerning all aspects of nutrition related to infants, children, and adolescents. The standards set forth in AAP's Pediatric Nutrition Handbook and Committee Statements form the scientific basis for many aspects of FNS' nutrition policy.
- **American Diabetes Association (ADA) Awakening the Spirit Native American Outreach Project** – FNS has begun discussions with ADA on a collaborative effort geared to FDPIR participants to promote healthy eating.
- **American School Food Service Association (ASFSA)** – FNS’ Office of Analysis, Nutrition, and Evaluation works with ASFSA to provide updates to studies and evaluations. Also, ASFSA is a partner with FNS on the Eat Smart. Play Hard.™ nutrition education and promotion campaign as well as efforts to expand the Summer Food Service Program. FNS is partnering with ASFSA to market the updated “ASFSA Keys to Excellence.” The updated Keys to Excellence will provide child nutrition programs with operational competencies to achieve and maintain nutrition and program integrity through the following channels: communication and marketing; administration; nutrition and nutrition education; and operations. www.asfsa.org

FNS Working with Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs) (Continued)

- **ASFSA/Child Nutrition Foundation** – FNS (FDD) is on the School Food Safety Committee, which provides professional development, financial aid and research programs to child nutrition professionals in the area of food safety in schools such as Serving It Safe Training.
- **American School Health Association, Council on Food and Nutrition** – FNS serves on the council that assists the ASHA with their efforts to promote and conduct nutrition education and food service activities that will contribute to the development, improvement, and continuity of quality programs in the school environment.
www.ashaweb.org
- **America's Second Harvest** – America's Second Harvest is a partner with FNS to expand the Summer Food Service Program. They are a non-profit, domestic hunger relief organization that supports over 200 food banks and food-rescue programs. They distribute food and grocery products to food pantries, soup kitchens, women's shelters, Kids Cafes, Community Kitchens, and other local organizations that provide food assistance.
www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Summer/Default.htm
- **Association of State Nutrition Networks (ASNNA)**-FNS works closely with ASNNA on Food Stamp Nutrition Education issues. The Networks uses traditional nutrition education methods, and combine them with a unique emphasis on social marketing.
- **Association of State and Territorial Public Health Nutrition Directors (ASTPHND)** – ASTPHND's goal is the communication and coordination on recruitment and retention of nutrition professionals and other nutrition issues. USDA published a survey of the Public Health Nutrition Workforce. The census, performed in collaboration with the USDA, was designed to evaluate several aspects of the public health nutrition workforce, including measuring the workforce's capacity to accomplish goals and identifying the training needs, credentials and qualifications of personnel working with the WIC program.
www.fns.usda.gov/oane/MENU/Published/WIC/FILES/Publichealthsurvey.pdf
- **Institute of Medicine of the National Academies (NAS)** – FNS serves on the Dietary Reference Intakes (DRI) Federal Steering Committee to provide coordinated Federal oversight for all DRI-related activities. FNS also periodically contracts with the Institute of Medicine to obtain independent expert review and recommendations on complex scientific issues underlying national nutrition policy.

FNS Working with Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs) (Continued)

- **National Association of School Nurses (NASN)** – FNS’ Team Nutrition will work with NASN in a “Healthy Weights,” one-day course they are designing for their members. FNS’ *Changing the Scene* kit will be a component of the training. The NASN is a non-profit specialty nursing organization committed to providing quality health care services to schoolchildren.
www.fns.usda.gov/tn/Resources/changing.html
- **National Coalition for Food Safe Schools (NCFSS)**—FNS (FDD) is a member of this group working to provide safe and nutritious school meals to children nationwide and to provide children, parents, and school staff with information and resources that can be used to prevent food borne illness both at school and at home.
- **National Dairy Council (NDC)** – FNS and NDC work with local schools to improve school nutrition environments using FNS’ *Changing the Scene* through efforts such as helping selected school districts to train key school personnel to initiate change in school nutrition environments. The action kit is designed to help those at the local level promote school environments that allow students to learn about and participate in healthy eating and physical activity.
www.fns.usda.gov/tn/Resources/changing.html
- **National Food Service Management Institute (NFSMI)** – NFSMI is a national resource for the Child Nutrition Programs, authorized under the National School Lunch Act. NFSMI provides information services and referral, conducts applied research, and offers training and education opportunities in all areas of nutrition and food service for children. Its services are available to anyone who is connected with the Child Nutrition Programs. NFSMI receives some funding from FNS’ Team Nutrition and offers some of the Team Nutrition materials for sale at cost. NFSMI also has an on-line educational system located at:
www.olemiss.edu/depts/nfsmi/Information/Guide.html
- **National Parent Teacher Association (PTA)** – FNS’ Team Nutrition and the National PTA are collaborating on the revision of *Team Up at Home: Team Nutrition Activity Booklet*. This collection of hands-on nutrition education activities for parents to use with their school-age children will be revised and updated. This 20+ page activity booklet is produced for classroom and community use.
www.fns.usda.gov/tn/
- **National WIC Association (NWA)** – FNS and NWA work on issues related to improving WIC Program administration, the WIC Participant Characteristics Minimum Data Set, studies, and evaluations, conference calls, RISC criteria, and the food packages.
www.nwica.org