

Introduction

As part of the agency’s effort to promote use of collaborative nutrition education approaches across FNS nutrition assistance programs, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) initiated State Nutrition Action Plans (SNAP) at the 2003 FNS National Nutrition Education Conference. Through the SNAP process, State teams identify a common nutrition goal and formulate a plan for working together across programs to achieve that goal. SNAP efforts include joint planning, and collaborating on intervention development and implementation to ensure delivery of common nutrition messages across programs. Advancing implementation of SNAPs in all States was a Fiscal Year 2007 FNS Corporate Priority. The Nutrition Services Staff located in the Office of Research, Nutrition, and Analysis (ORNA) coordinates SNAP, but all FNS programs play a vital role in its success.

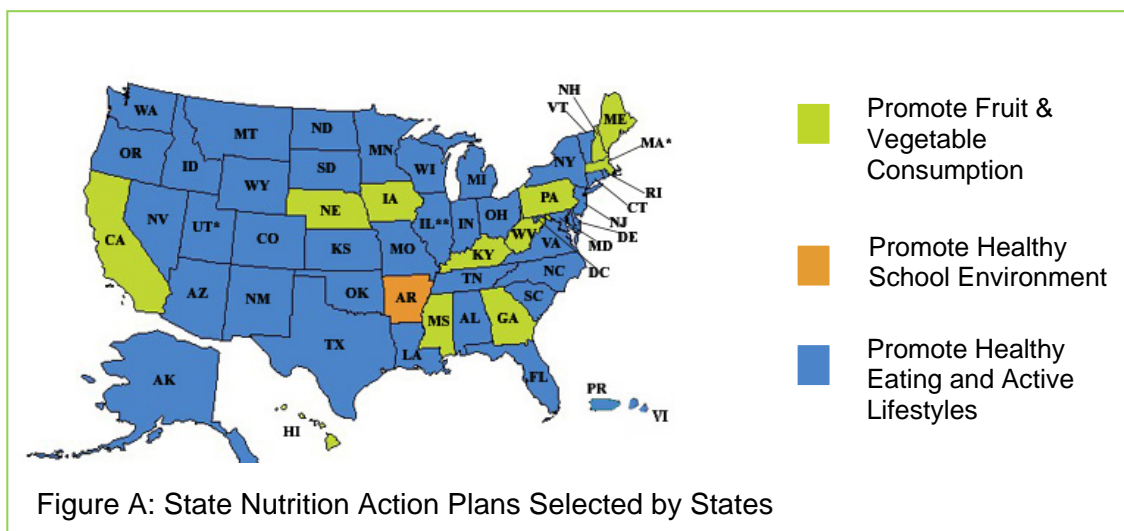


SNAP Vision Statement

Cross-program collaboration among our programs is a standard operating procedure and SNAP a routine process. FNS programs work in concert to deliver consistent nutrition education messages through all program channels to reach America’s children and low-income households and communities.

Current SNAP Status

- Today, 49 States have a SNAP and FNS program staff are working together to develop and implement strategies to achieve shared nutrition goals (see Figure A: State Nutrition Action Plans Selected by States).
- The majority of SNAP goals fall within the categories of “Promoting Healthy Eating and Active Lifestyles” and “Promoting Fruit and Vegetable Consumption.”



SNAP Accomplishments

- Secretary's Honor Award.** The FNS SNAP Team received the USDA Secretary's Honor Award in October 2007. The Honor Awards are the most prestigious awards given by USDA to honor employees who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to provide truly exceptional service. This award recognized achievements of SNAP Teams in fostering integrated, cross-program and comprehensive nutrition education approaches in nutrition assistance programs, resulting in the development of State-wide nutrition action plans and enhanced cross-program collaboration.



The Food and Nutrition Service SNAP Team with Acting Secretary Chuck Conner.

- SNAP Web Site.** The SNAP Web site was updated during 2007 to increase navigation and usability. The site shares the latest information about State-specific SNAP activities and accomplishments, SNAP contact information, funding levels for nutrition education, State participation levels for each FNS program and collaboration resources. The Web site also houses the "Take Action" series, which encourages FNS program participants and staff to take actions to improve their health by making positive changes in key dietary and related behaviors. Access the site at: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/oane/SNAP/SNAP.htm>.
- Regional SNAP Summaries.** Each fiscal year, FNS provides the Regional offices with a profile of SNAPs in their States. This profile highlights Regional and State accomplishments and identifies areas for improvement.
- Regional SNAP Conference Calls.** The FNS SNAP team holds quarterly conference calls to address issues, report on programs, and provide support. Each Region also conducts conference calls with States to provide technical assistance, support, and share information.
- Regional Cross-program Meetings.** Both the Mountain Plains and the Southeast Regions held Regional cross-program nutrition education meetings during Fiscal Year 2006. The Midwest and Southwest Regions held their meetings during Fiscal Year 2007 (see brochures below). Highlights from the Regional meetings are posted on the SNAP Web site.

