

SNAP-Ed & EFNEP Coordinators: Strengthening Partnerships

Mutual respect and understanding are the foundations of effective collaborations. Creating and maintaining solid relationships in complex, multi-level, multi-agency partnerships takes time and effort but is crucial. Following are suggestions from state SNAP-Ed and EFNEP coordinators for creating and strengthening partnerships.



Communication is Key!

- ◆ Hold regularly scheduled conference calls or meetings with key staff and partners including State Agency contacts, SNAP-Ed and EFNEP coordinators, and local SNAP directors to plan and implement effective programming.
- ◆ Participate in state SNAP conferences to network and encourage partnerships with local offices. Participation can be through a training, a display, or an informational session.
- ◆ Invite State Agency contacts to present at SNAP-Ed annual meetings and trainings with local staff or to visit and observe local programs.
- ◆ Hold regional conference calls for SNAP-Ed and EFNEP coordinators on a monthly or quarterly basis.
- ◆ Attend annual regional meetings for training, networking, and collaboration.
- ◆ Work with SNAP-Ed and EFNEP coordinators to identify audiences, hold joint trainings, and coordinate reporting.
- ◆ Visit programs in other states. Meet with their State Agency personnel, SNAP-Ed and EFNEP coordinators, local partners, grants office, and local staff.
- ◆ Seek out and use the available resources of your university – other departments and other specialists have much to offer.
- ◆ Let everyone in the SNAP-Ed system get to know each other. Set up a meeting for your Program Leader, State coordinators, State Agency contacts, Grants Office personnel, etc.
- ◆ Meet regularly with SNAP or other interagency groups to share goals and ideas, create social marketing plans, develop campaigns, and coordinate collaborative efforts.
- ◆ Work with other state agencies to enhance programming. For example, the State Department of Agriculture can provide a list of commodities that will be arriving at the food pantries so local staff can prepare nutrition lessons and food demonstrations using these foods.