

Funding for Nutrition Education

With growing levels of food insecurity in the U.S., it is even more crucial that low-income families have access to quality nutrition education. The PA Nutrition Education Program (PA NEP) works to do just that. Currently it is looking for new project partners for October 2006.

PA NEP programming is divided into three tracks: pre-school, school-age, and adult/senior tracks. Objectives, strategies, evidenced-based curricula, nutrition education materials and evaluation methods are outlined for each track. Local projects choose from a bank of resources and methodologies for their programming. This year, 15 local organizations are included in the PA NEP working in a total of 36 counties. Federal funding per project ranges between \$23,000 and \$3 million. Current PA NEP projects offer shopping tips, recipes, cooking demonstrations, adult classes, after-school programs, classroom lessons, senior workshops and more.

Projects may be public and private agencies that provide nutrition education to food stamp-eligible households using public, non-federal money. For example, a school that provides (or would like to provide) nutrition education in the classroom could qualify. Each non-federal public dollar and each public in-kind dollar used in a project (for example, a portion of a teacher's salary) can be matched by a dollar from the Food Stamp Program if that dollar is also used to provide nutrition education to food stamp-eligible audiences. Fundable costs include salaries and benefits, materials and supplies, and the production or acquisition of education materials for approved nutrition and food education activities.

Penn State University, which manages the PA NEP for the Department of Public Welfare, will release the 2007 Request for Proposals (RFP) in December; completed proposals will be due in January or February. For more information, contact PA NEN Promoter, Steve Gauvry (717.233.1791, sgauvry@pahunger.org) or PA NEP Program Manager, Paula Shipman (814.863.0074 or pjs30@psu.edu).