

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact: Katherine Pinto
Nutrition, Food Safety and Health Agent, Wildcat Extension District
kdpinto@ksu.edu, 620-724-8233

SNAP-Ed Send-Off

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) was a federally funded grant program that provided evidence-based education and helped people make their SNAP dollars stretch, taught them how to cook healthy meals, and led physically active lifestyles. The goal of SNAP-Ed was to implement a nutrition education and obesity prevention program for SNAP-eligible individuals that promotes healthy food choices and physical activity consistent with the most recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

As you may have heard, federal legislation has recently been passed eliminating funding for the SNAP-Ed program. This means that current funding will end with the close of the federal fiscal year on September 30, 2025. I think it is important to give SNAP-Ed a proper send-off and shed light on just some of the impacts from the [2024 SNAP-Ed Impact Report in Kansas](#).

- SNAP-Ed works in diverse communities and focuses on those who benefit more from improved access to nutrition education and health resources.
 - **55,959** Kansans were reached by at least one intervention
 - **7,600** Kansans received nutrition education
- Direct education supports participants navigating challenging systems so that they:
 - Have the resources they need to make healthy choices:
 - **48%** of adults surveyed reported that they started to eat fruit daily
 - **18%** of adults surveyed reported that they started exercising for 30 minutes at least 5 days a week.
 - Can navigate complex food systems:
 - **26%** of adults surveyed reported that they started planning their meals before going to the store
 - **20%** of the adults surveyed reported that they worried about food less often
 - Can foster a culture of health for the future:
 - **37%** of the youth surveyed reported that they began washing their produce prior to eating
 - **12%** of the youth surveyed reported that they started making healthier choices when eating out

- SNAP-Ed is built on the foundation of building strong communities to make meaningful and lasting impacts:
 - **20,770** Kansans benefited from policy, systems, or environmental changes in their communities that helped make healthy choices easier choices for them and their families
 - **382** Community partners collaborated with SNAP-Ed to support the health of their community

As we prepare for the end of SNAP-Ed, it's important to take a moment to reflect on all that it has accomplished. This program didn't just teach people how to eat better or move more; it gave individuals the tools to live healthier lives and helped communities come together around shared goals. The impact of SNAP-Ed can be seen in the thousands of Kansans who made small, meaningful changes for themselves and their families.

While the end of funding marks a significant loss, the relationships, skills, and positive changes that SNAP-Ed helped create won't disappear. They live on in classrooms, kitchens, and communities across the state. I'm proud to have been a part of this work, and I'm grateful for the lasting difference it made, not only in the lives of others but in my own as well.

For more information, visit www.usda.gov, OR contact Katherine Pinto, Nutrition, Food Safety and Health Agent, kdpinto@ksu.edu or 620-724-8233.

###

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director of K-State Research and Extension, Kansas State University, County Extension Councils, Extension Districts.