

Healthy Kids Healthy Communities

Building Healthier Tomorrows

A Healthy Kids New Mexico publication

Summer 2015

Change Ahead for SNAP-Ed

“DOH has the resources and the expertise to enhance the work of SNAP-Ed by further integrating the Policy Systems Environment (PSE) work required since the passage of the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 with its emphasis on obesity prevention. DOH is successfully administering their nationally acclaimed Healthy Kids Healthy Communities initiative to reverse the climbing obesity rate among New Mexico children, making this transfer a great fit for SNAP-Ed.”

The New Mexico Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Education Program (SNAP-Ed) is getting a facelift.

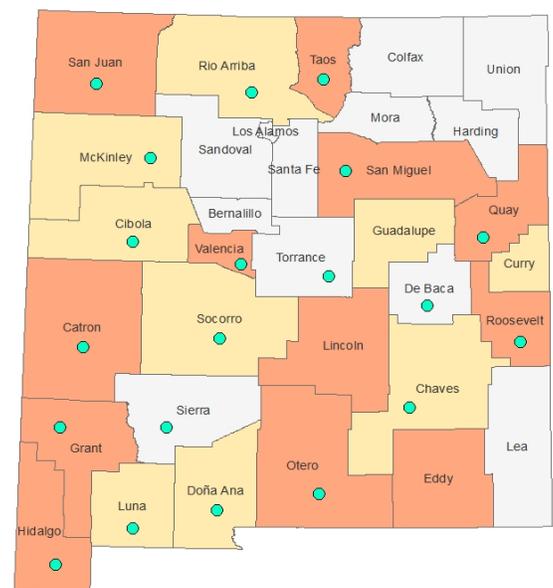
For starters, the program will be transferred from the NM Human Services Department to the NM Department of Health beginning October 1, 2015. Due primarily to an increased focus on PSE work at the local level, DOH's Obesity, Nutrition and Physical Activity Program was recognized as an appropriate implementing agency for SNAP-Ed (see above quote taken directly from the Letter of Transfer jointly issued by DOH and HSD).

Formerly the federal Food Stamp Program, SNAP has always been intricately linked with nutrition. But, for the first time, states are now required to develop a comprehensive plan that balances direct nutrition education and PSE multi-level interventions at the organizational, community, and population-based levels.



Healthy Kids Healthy Communities is Expanding!

Policy, system, and environmental efforts to address childhood obesity at the local level happens primarily in communities with high poverty rates through HKHC in coordination with over 400 state and local partners across New Mexico. With the addition of SNAP-Ed funding, HKHC will expand its reach to at least 20 counties and 9 tribal communities! The map below shows the counties identified for expansion (in orange).



- Non-Participating Counties
- HKHC: Expanded Reach
- HKHC: Current Counties
- Counties with highest percentage of persons living in poverty

HKHC is Teaming Up with Cooperative Extension Service

If the map above is any indication, HKHC is about to become very busy! Thankfully, a partnership is in the works that will not only help HKHC expand its reach, but also increase SNAP-Ed's impact on low-income New Mexicans across the state. Through NMSU Cooperative Extension Service's ICAN program, local Nutrition Educators will provide nutrition education to both complement and enhance PSE work in the very same areas HKHC is creating healthy opportunities. NMSU and ICAN Home Economists and Agriculture Agents can also help advance school wellness policy and community garden efforts as well as establish community coalitions in HKHC expansion counties. As a result of this exciting partnership, at least half of New Mexico's population will benefit from collaborative SNAP-Ed nutrition education and PSE implementation!



HKHC Snapshots



Showing off veggies in the Zuni Summer Camp garden



Bike scavenger hunt in Socorro using newly installed citywide wayfinding signs

Growing Tribal Partnerships

Healthy Kids New Mexico is thrilled to begin working with 7 new tribal communities on SNAP-Ed efforts around healthy eating. *Navajo, Ohkay Owingeh, Pojoaque, Santa Ana, Santo Domingo, Taos, and To'Hajiilee* have now joined the ranks, adding to HKNM's existing partnerships with San Ildefonso and Zuni.

Tribes will tackle projects that include establishing and maintaining sustainable edible gardens, conducting short gardening, tasting and cooking lessons highlighting garden produce, and increasing access to a healthy and affordable food supply through community edible gardens, healthy food or mobile grocery stores, farmers' markets, and food buying clubs.

Zuni, one of HKNM's longtime partners, already has a head start. The IHS demonstration garden, now in its third summer, is producing lettuce, zucchini, broccoli, peppers, tomatoes, and tomatillos, and staff proudly incorporate the produce into patient meals. Now, a traditional waffle garden has been constructed at the ZYEP Community Green Space site alongside the Zuni River, an area where small-scale agriculture has occurred for generations.



Waffle garden at the ZYEP Community Green Space in Zuni

On a Roll: Wellness Policies Move Forward in Childcare

Childcare centers in rural, urban, and tribal areas across New Mexico are serious about creating their own unique wellness policies to support a healthy childcare environment, and Healthy Kids Healthy Childcare specialist Adrienne Barrett is helping them get it done. In the past year, Barrett has worked closely with individual centers to build their wellness teams, develop action plans for implementation, and draft their wellness policies.



To date, **78** centers have drafted policies, and an additional **140** (plus **25** in tribal areas) are set to begin drafting. Talk about a statewide reach, that's nearly 100 percent of centers!

Don't forget about our HKNM website! There are so many resources to enhance your work in schools (including **5.2.1.O** Challenge materials) and communities. School is back in session, so visit soon! <http://archive.healthykidsnm.org/>

Join us for our next HKHC Quarterly Meeting!

When: Monday **October 19th** – Wednesday **October 21st**

Where: Nusenda Credit Union / 4100 Pan American Fwy NE, Albuquerque, NM 87107

Agenda forthcoming: Hope to see you there!

DINKY AND THE HARVEST PARADE

The 5th book in the Dinky Series



... COMING SOON!



Healthy Kids New Mexico builds state and local partnerships to expand children's opportunities for healthy eating and active living where they live, learn and play.

