

Center for Food and Nutrition SNAP-Ed Program Evaluation and Technical Assistance

Altarum Institute's Center for Food and Nutrition assists administrators of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed) with developing and implementing nutrition education programming to improve the likelihood that persons eligible for SNAP will make healthy food choices and pursue physically active lifestyles. Nationally recognized for conducting evaluations and providing technical

assistance to strengthen SNAP-Ed at the federal and state levels, Altarum is committed to improving the nutrition and health of low-income families through the promotion and implementation of evidence-based practices. We assess program operations and develop nutrition education strategies to maximize the impact of SNAP-Ed on participants' healthy choices and active lifestyles.

Supporting Healthy Behaviors

SNAP-Ed guidance calls for multilayered intervention approaches that are evidence based and behaviorally focused. A comprehensive, integrated nutrition education strategy supports and sustains healthy behaviors and includes direct education; policy, systems, and environmental change (PSE); social marketing; and message consistency.

With decades of real world experience managing food and nutrition programs, Altarum strengthens SNAP-Ed programs and positive nutrition outcomes through:

- ▲ Strategic planning and technical assistance
- ▲ Formative research, process, impact, and outcome evaluation, including surveys, focus groups, and key information interviews
- ▲ Customized implementation and evaluation plans that incorporate the Social-Ecological Model



Services Offered by Altarum's Center for Food and Nutrition

▲ Formative Research and Technical Assistance

Altarum assists states in conducting formative program research at the state and local levels. Formative research and needs assessments are critical in developing effective nutrition education strategies that promote the adoption of positive nutrition and health-related behaviors by SNAP-Ed participants.

▲ Program Evaluation

Altarum offers a team of experienced evaluators who possess a deep understanding of rigorous qualitative and quantitative evaluation methodologies, including surveys, focus group facilitation, and interviewing. We tailor evaluation methodologies and instruments to meet the needs of individual state programs.

▲ SNAP-Ed Systems Change Model

The evolution of SNAP-Ed necessitated the creation of a systems change model that provides a framework for implementing interventions using the Social-Ecological Model and other public health approaches. Developed by Altarum, the model presents performance indicators and includes examples of successful multilevel interventions, including PSE approaches, that are consistent with U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) guidance. The systems model is customized to help states develop comprehensive, multilevel interventions.

▲ Integration with Other Nutrition Education Programs

When state and local nutrition education programs work together, they build stronger programs and maximize their budgets. Altarum provides experience and expertise to help state agencies collaborate and build integrated programming that incorporates direct service and broader environmental and system changes.



Examples of Altarum's Work to Support SNAP-Ed Programs

- ▲ Formative research, process, and outcome evaluations of the Louisiana SNAP-Ed social marketing campaign
- ▲ Technical assistance to the Michigan Fitness Foundation with selection of SNAP-Ed subgrantees, evaluations of its social marketing campaign, and the identification and piloting of physical activity assessment tools
- ▲ Assessment of Arkansas SNAP-Ed to create a model for PSE change implementation and evaluation
- ▲ A multiyear process, outcome, and impact evaluation of Maine SNAP-Ed's nutrition curricula and social marketing campaign
- ▲ Technical assistance to the University of Tennessee and the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture for the creation of a Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Center of Excellence for SNAP and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program



- ▲ Comprehensive assessment of Kentucky SNAP-Ed's county-based programming and statewide operations
- ▲ Rigorous process and impact evaluations of national models of SNAP nutrition education for FNS

Altarum's SNAP-Ed Clients

Maine Office of Family Independence

Michigan Fitness Foundation

University of Kentucky Research Foundation

Louisiana State University AgCenter

University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension

University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture

U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service

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