SNAP INTO ACTION

2016 FINAL REPORT

Prepared by: Megan Wilson, SNAP into Action Coordinator
Idaho Hunger Relief Task Force
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table of Contents:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major Accomplishments</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major Challenges and Solutions Developed</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation Methodology and Findings</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix A Partner Evaluation Survey</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix B SNAP into Action Partner</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commitment Letter Template</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix C SNAP into Action Map of Services</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SNAP into Action - 2016 FINAL REPORT

Prepared by: Megan Wilson, SNAP into Action Coordinator - Idaho Hunger Relief Task Force

Introduction:

Developed in July 2013, SNAP into Action is Idaho’s plan to increase participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) Program to strengthen food security and decrease poverty throughout the state. Increasing SNAP participation is also a goal of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) division. To address this goal, FNS offers a 50% reimbursement of administrative costs to state SNAP departments who submit a SNAP Education and Access Plan for approval every year. Close to 100% of states submit plans. Currently, Idaho chooses not to participate, preventing the Department of Health and Welfare from engaging in SNAP education and access efforts. Therefore, Idaho is unique in that it has the only privately-funded SNAP Education and Access Plan in the nation and is administered by the Idaho Hunger Relief Task Force (IHRTF). This document is meant to capture the successes and barriers observed throughout the plan’s third year of implementation.

The IHRTF convenes the Idaho SNAP Advisory Network which guides development and execution of the plan. The 2016 advisory network was comprised of the following 12 partner organizations:

- 2-1-1 Idaho Careline, (2-1-1)
- Community Action Partnership Association of Idaho, (CAPAI)
- Community Council of Idaho, (CCI)
- Duck Valley Indian Reservation Garden Growers, (DVGG)
- The Hunger Coalition, (THC)
- Idaho Farmers Market Association, (IFMA)
- Idaho Hunger Relief Task Force, (IHRTF)
- Idaho Interfaith Roundtable Against Hunger, (IIRAH)
- The Idaho Foodbank, (IFB)
- Metro Meals on Wheels, (MMOW)
- Payette Valley Food Connection, (PVFC)
- University of Idaho Extension Eat Smart Idaho, (Eat Smart)

While not one of the Plan partners, the following is a participating organization:
- Idaho Department of Health and Welfare – Food Stamp Program, (DHW)

Along with quarterly data reporting, partners were given an evaluation survey at the year’s end. The information from both sources has been summarized below to highlight major accomplishments and challenges. A copy of the survey can be found at the end of this document as Appendix A.

Major Accomplishments:

In 2016, the Idaho SNAP Advisory Network worked collaboratively to improve food stamp education and participation. Major accomplishments include:

- hosting four value-added presentations for the SNAP Advisory Network
- The Bloom program of the Blaine County Hunger Coalition
- new food-stamp-friendly farmers’ markets
• smooth transition to staggered issuance of food stamps
• 2016 Summit on Hunger and Food Security

The following presentations were offered to the SNAP Advisory Network:
• Idaho Food Stamp Education and Access Plan, by Andy Naja-Riese, Western Region USDA FNS
• Community Food Systems, by Sharon Thornberry, Oregon Food Bank
• Farm to Summer, by Kristie Hubbard, Western Region USDA FNS
• Idaho Hispanic Parents Speak Out, by Angel Gonzalez, BLUUM

The Blaine County Hunger Coalition developed the Bloom program where children in isolated areas of Blaine County received a free summer lunch and library books. Ninety-five percent more children were given a summer meal than the prior year without the Bloom program. Other organizations like 4-H, the Forest Service, and the Animal Shelter of the Wood River Valley delivered free activities for participating youth. In the seasonal-worker community of Carey, Idaho, youth were perceived as distrusting of the Bloom volunteers but eventually displayed a great interest and involvement in the activities.

The IFMA established six new food-stamp-friendly farmers’ markets and implemented the Double Up Food Bucks program where customers can double the value of their food stamp transaction and purchase additional fruits and vegetables. Under this program, customers used $17,035 of food stamp benefits on fresh, local produce.

Implemented July of 2016, staggered issuance allowed food stamp benefits to be issued during the first ten days of each month rather than solely the first day of each month. Partners collaborated to raise awareness of this change so that food stamp participants could be proactive in bridging a gap in benefits. Endorser organizations of IIRAH offered financial assistance to vulnerable families during the first ten days of July 2016 but the transition was smooth and no one requested this assistance. The IFB experienced effective communications relating to staggered issuance and felt as though their partner agencies were well prepared and informed.

The IHRTF and partners coordinated the sixth statewide 2016 Summit on Hunger and Food Security in Idaho on October 28. With attendance at close to 260, from 50 Idaho cities, 26 counties, all seven regions, two tribes, and nine guest states. Opening keynote was Kevin Concannon, Under Secretary of USDA FNS and luncheon speaker was Ellen Teller from Food Research and Action Center. ‘Next Steps’ were identified for Idaho from the seven workshop tracks.

Major Challenges and Solutions Developed:

The state’s restrictions on the DHW’s involvement in food stamp education and access prove to be an ongoing barrier. Unable to receive 50% reimbursement of administration costs from the USDA FNS through the state agency, the SNAP Advisory Network partners fund 100% of the activities. During this third year, partners’ contributions are estimated at $125,148. The efforts required an estimated 7.75 FTE positions that included staff, AmeriCorps VISTA members, student interns and numerous volunteers. Federal funding for this work would significantly improve the ability of network partners to expand their impact.

Because SNAP into Action does not currently receive the USDA FNS 50% reimbursement, the Network utilizes the AmeriCorps VISTA program and provides value-added webinars to build the organizational capacity of partners. Webinars are described above and the SNAP Advisory
Network partners share they found these presentations to be beneficial to their organization’s growth and development.

As a result of the 2016 Western Region USDA FNS Plan review, presentation, and discussion, the SNAP Advisory Network is categorizing goals as the following:
1. Program Information and Access
2. Multicultural Food Systems
3. Healthcare Partnership
4. Advocacy and Awareness
5. Community Food Security

The SNAP into Action Commitment Letters for 2016 represent the Western Region USDA recommendations on Goal Areas, in Appendix B.

**Evaluation Methodology and Findings:**

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<tr>
<th>Partner</th>
<th>2-1-1 Idaho Careline</th>
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| **Goals**        | Public referral to low-cost or affordable medical care and/or medical nutritional advisement  
                  | Public referral to food pantries and food assistance  
                  | Maintain database of community partners in support that address need areas |
| **Outcomes**     | 10,156 callers referred for access to medical care  
                  | 2,385 resources in the community support database that address medical care  
                  | 4,538 callers referred for access to food pantries or food assistance  
<pre><code>              | 475 community partners in support database that address food pantries and food assistance |
</code></pre>
<p>| <strong>Evaluation</strong>   | The number of callers referred for access to medical care and the number of resources and community partners in support database that address this need area were recorded throughout the year. |</p>
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<tr>
<th>Partner</th>
<th>Community Council of Idaho</th>
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| Goals   | • Expand the food stamps train-the-trainer curriculum through Latino/Hispanic community surveys  
|         | • Coordinate partner training on Idaho Latino Community |
| Outcomes| o Food Stamp survey participants – 32 surveys for a total of 168  
|         | o Final Report of the *Barriers to Food Stamp Participation in Canyon County, Idaho*  
|         | o Spanish version of the Food Stamp ‘Train the Trainer’ |
| Evaluation| The number of Latino surveys completed. A Final Report of the survey results and a PowerPoint of the Food Stamp ‘train the trainer’ tailored to the Latino community and in Spanish. |

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<tr>
<th>Partner</th>
<th>Community Action Partnership Association of Idaho</th>
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| Goals   | • Disseminate outreach material to create public awareness around recertification  
|         | • Relay communication of staggered issuance to CAP agencies |
| Outcomes| o 3438 Recertification fliers distributed  
|         | o Staggered issuance communications throughout May 2016 |
| Evaluation| Record number of materials distributed |

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<tr>
<th>Partner</th>
<th>Duck Valley Indian Reservation Garden Growers</th>
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| Goals   | • Duck Valley Farmers Market accepts EBT  
|         | • 2016 Hunger Summit Tribal Nutrition |
| Outcomes| o Tachini Pete from Seattle Potlatch Indian Initiative presented at the Tribal Nutrition Workshop Track.  
|         | o 23 attendees from four tribes at the workshop track  
|         | o Duck Valley Garden Growers gain USDA vendor status |
| Evaluation| Application for EBT vendor status by Duck Valley Garden Growers. Tribal presenter and # of attendees at the 2016 Tribal Nutrition workshop track. |

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<th>Partner</th>
<th>The Blaine County Hunger Coalition</th>
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</table>
| Goals   | • Application assistance and referrals to Idaho Food Stamp Program  
|         | • Advocacy for Blaine County Hispanic population at risk of food insecurity  
|         | • Cooking Matters in collaboration with the Idaho Foodbank and other partners  
|         | • Fresh Bucks |
| Outcomes| o 148 applications taken  
|         | o 51 people referred  
|         | o 15 one-on-one assistances conducted  
|         | o 9 applications sent for individuals  
|         | o $744 Fresh Bucks |
### Evaluation
The Blaine County Hunger Coalition tracked application distribution and assistance for English and Spanish speaking clientele. Clients are offered the option to use The Hunger Coalition’s phone number and address as their own for application purposes and keeps track of this number.

### Partner | Idaho Farmers Market Association
---|---
### Goals
- Statewide Food Stamp Friendly Farmers Market Messaging
- Food Stamp Friendly Farmers Market Expansion
- Double Up Food Bucks Strengthening and Expansion

### Outcomes
- Promotional materials developed: 3
- Food stamps in markets promotional materials developed: 1002
- New markets accepting food stamps: 7
- Food stamp benefits redeemed at Double Up Food Bucks markets: $17,035
- Proposal to FINI USDA grant for DUFB 2017 season

### Evaluation
FINI grant proposal submitted, new markets are accepting food stamp benefits, and promotional materials have been disseminated

### Partner | Idaho Hunger Relief Task Force
---|---
### Goals
- Idaho Food Stamp Train-the-Trainer curriculum update
- Idaho SNAP Advisory Network Coordination
- Screen and Intervene in low-income medical clinic settings
- Food Stamp EBT in local food systems

### Outcomes
- Train-the-Trainer curriculum updates: 2
- Train-the-Trainer trainings: 4
- Training participants: 48
- SNAP into Action meetings: 4
- Screen and Intervene patient households identified as food insecure and received follow-up referrals: 105 households
- New farmers’ markets accepting EBT: 7

### Evaluation
IHRTF advised and supported AmeriCorps VISTAs and their projects at the Community Council of Idaho, Idaho Farmers’ Market Association, and University of Idaho Extension – Payette County.

### Partner | Idaho Interfaith Roundtable Against Hunger
---|---
| Goals |  
| --- | --- |
| • Send an IIRAH informational hunger/SNAP letter to endorsers. Information will be posted on the IIRAH website with a link to the Idaho State Plan—SNAP into action  
• Send emails to endorsers encouraging them to include SNAP information in their social justice portfolios  
• Further SNAP education by incorporating it into an open meeting on Idaho’s food system |  
| Outcomes |  
| o Letters sent to endorsers: 42  
| o Email correspondences: 42  
| o Information posted to website: yes  
| o Flyer sent to USPS: Yes  
| o Supporters and members who attended meeting: 32 |  
| Evaluation | IIRAH kept track of the number of correspondences sent out regarding SNAP data tracked the number of supports and members who attended meeting. |  
| Partner | Idaho Department of Health and Welfare |  
| Goals |  
| • SNAP-Ed Evaluation Report  
• Provide food stamp participation data access by county in specific categories |  
| Outcomes |  
| o Data provided: quarterly |  
| Evaluation | DHW provided food stamp participation data access by county in five specific categories; 1) all participants 49 and under, 2) participants 50-64, 3) participants 65+, 4) Latino participants between the ages of 50 and 64, and 5) Latino participants ages 65 and older. |  
| Partner | Idaho Foodbank |  
| Goals |  
| • Provide food stamp information to The Idaho Foodbank’s partner agency network  
• Direct distribution of Food Stamp Program Materials  
• Nutrition education through Cooking Matters classes |  
| Outcomes |  
| o Materials distributed to partner agencies: 4  
| o Staggered issuance emails and fliers distributed: 25  
| o Mobile pantry participants provided with materials: 6400  
| o Cooking Matters graduates: 353  
| o Cooking Matters at The Store participants: 144  
| o CSFP participants provided with materials: 2000 |  
| Evaluation | The Idaho Foodbank was successful with providing information to clients about staggered issuance and increased the number of Cooking Matters graduates. |  
| Partner | Metro Meals on Wheels |  
| Goals |  
| • SNAP Pilot Program  
• Expanding SNAP awareness |  
| Outcomes |  
| o # materials created and distributed: 2-3 ongoing  
<p>| o # pilot volunteers managed: 400 |</p>
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<tr>
<th>Partner</th>
<th>Payette Valley Food Connection</th>
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<tr>
<td>Goals</td>
<td>Farm Stand &amp; Farmer’s Market EBT Acceptance Outreach Campaign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Promotion of Payette and Weiser Farmers Markets-EBT at the Market</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outcomes</td>
<td>18 new contacts made through dinner invite packets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 food stamp friendly farmers market referral to IFMA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Local food directory website completed</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1086 website visits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation</td>
<td>PVFC obtained new contacts for potential food stamp friendly farmers markets and met with IFMA</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>representative to discuss action plan for involving more markets in the western Idaho area</td>
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<tr>
<td>Partner</td>
<td>University of Idaho Extension Eat Smart Idaho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goals</td>
<td>Train the Trainer Curriculum Instruction</td>
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<td>Brochure and Live Better Idaho faculty and staff trainings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outcomes</td>
<td>51 educators completed Train the Trainer</td>
</tr>
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<td>66 staff and faculty underwent training of new SNAP brochures and Live Better Idaho website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation</td>
<td>The number of people receiving trainings was recorded</td>
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Appendix A. Partner Evaluation Survey

SNAP into Action – 2016 Survey

Partner Organization: ______________________________ Date: __________

Note: all below questions are in relation to the SNAP into Action 2016 Final Report and your organization’s letter of commitment to the SNAP into Action plan and education activities

1. What population are you serving in Idaho through your work related to SNAP education? How is it related to SNAP education?

2. In which of these areas would you like additional support or training to assist with SNAP education efforts?
   a. Distribution of materials
   b. Working one-on-one with clients
   c. Developing effective materials
   d. Evaluating effectiveness of materials
   e. Other
   f. None

3. How comfortable with the current quarterly reporting methods are you? (1-5)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Very uncomfortable</th>
<th>Uncomfortable</th>
<th>Neither uncomfortable or comfortable</th>
<th>Comfortable</th>
<th>Very comfortable</th>
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4. Were emails an effective means of communication? Would you benefit from more or less reminder emails?

5. The SNAP into Action Network facilitated quarterly value-added presentations, were these beneficial to you?

| Idaho Food Stamp Education and Access Plan  – Western Region USDA - Andy Naja-Riese |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Not at all beneficial | Not beneficial | Neutral | Beneficial | Very Beneficial |
|                     |                |         |           |                |
| Community Food Systems, Oregon Food Bank, Sharon Thornberry |
| Not at all beneficial | Not beneficial | Neutral | Beneficial | Very Beneficial |
|                     |                |         |           |                |
| Farm to Summer, USDA, ISDE, Boys and Girls Club of Ada County |
| Not at all beneficial | Not beneficial | Neutral | Beneficial | Very Beneficial |
|                     |                |         |           |                |
| Not at all beneficial | Not beneficial | Neutral | Beneficial | Very Beneficial |
6. Would you like to see any of these presentations again? What topics would you like us to cover in the value-added presentations?

7. Regarding your commitment letter goals, have you conducted any type of follow up evaluation?

8. What barriers did you or your clientele face while working on SNAP education?

9. Have you found ways to address these barriers?

10. Do you have any success stories or best practices that could be highlighted in the final report?
The [organization] is submitting this Letter of Partner Commitment for the annual [year] project period. Specifically, the [organization] will commit to the following activities:

GOAL I. Program Information and Access

Title: 
Description: 
Timeline: 
Evaluation: 

GOAL II. Multicultural Food Security

Title: 
Description: 
Timeline: 
Evaluation: 

GOAL III. Health Care Partnerships

Title: 
Description: 
Timeline: 
Evaluation:
GOAL IV. Advocacy and Awareness

Title:
Description:
Timeline:
Evaluation:

GOAL V. Community Food Security

Title:
Description:
Timeline:
Evaluation:

Sincerely,

[Signature]
2-1-1 Idaho Careline
  o Statewide

Community Council of Idaho (CCI)
  o Canyon
  o Bingham
  o Bonneville
  o Twin Falls

Duck Valley Garden Growers (DVGG)
  o Duck Valley Indian Reservation

Department of Health and Welfare (DHW)
  o Statewide

Eat Smart Idaho (U of I Ext)
  o Statewide

The Hunger Coalition (THC)
  o Blaine

Idaho Interfaith Roundtable Against Hunger (IIRAH)
  o Ada
  o Bonneville
  o Canyon
  o Gem
  o Idaho
  o Jerome
  o Nez Perce
  o Payette

Idaho Farmers Market Association (IFMA)
  o Ada
  o Canyon
  o Fremont
  o Kootenai
  o Latah
  o Owyhee
  o Shoshone

Idaho Hunger Relief Task Force (IHRTF)
  o Ada
  o Blaine
- Canyon
- Owyhee
- Twin Falls
- Latah

The Idaho Foodbank (IFB)
- Statewide

Metro Meals on Wheels (MMOW)
- Ada

Payette Valley Food Connection (FVFC)
- Payette
- Washington