

PA SNAP-Ed Works

RESPONDING TO PARTICIPANT AND COMMUNITY
NEEDS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



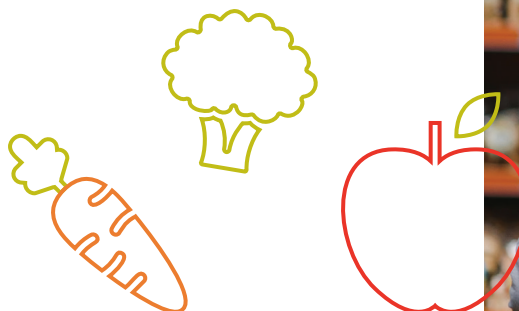
SUCCESS STORIES

THE FOOD TRUST

SNAP-Ed staff from The Food Trust supported Philadelphia farmers markets in remaining open in 2020 by working with the local health department to understand and adapt to COVID guidelines, training staff on safety protocols, and promoting the markets to SNAP-Ed eligible communities. The farmers markets serve as a vital resource for residents to use SNAP, Farmers Market Nutrition Program, and Philly Food Bucks to purchase healthy foods. These programs all saw a surge at the markets during the summer.

The Food Trust staff participated in a “Cultivating Community” task force in the city of Reading to support a Victory Garden Project aimed at providing families with fruit and vegetable plants to grow at home. The project was a collaborative effort, including a number of partners across the city, which successfully distributed plants to 181 families along with free food, nutrition education reinforcement items, and links to virtual nutrition education lessons.

SNAP-Ed staff from The Food Trust filmed nutrition education lessons for preschool, school-age and adult participants as part of a new Online Learning Hub. Teachers and community members are now able to directly access a variety of interactive videos from cooking workshops to gardening lessons on the Hub.



PENNSYLVANIA NUTRITION EDUCATION NETWORK

The Pennsylvania Nutrition Education Network promoted emergency food distribution programs and locations through their website and social media accounts. A webpage called “COVID-19 Food Resources” was established to provide resources on food access and food safety for SNAP-Ed eligible populations during the pandemic. On the webpage, Pennsylvania food banks and pantries are listed by region, and free meal sites for students during school closures and the summer months. The webpage has over 4,000 unique pageviews since it was posted to the website in March 2020.



FAYETTE COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY

Fayette County Community Action Agency began providing nutrition education programming via telephone to seniors, many who have not been able to participate in past in-person programming. Seniors reported their appreciation of being able to participate in SNAP-Ed classes while remaining safe in their homes, the quality of nutrition education lessons provided, and the ability to remain connected to Fayette County Community Action Agency's SNAP-Ed program.

COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP OF LANCASTER COUNTY

Community Action Partnership of Lancaster County added recipes to food boxes that were sent each week to Health Food Pantry partners. Other partner food pantries were sent recipes and additional nutritional education handouts with their regular food distribution pick-ups whether weekly, biweekly, or monthly.

AND MORE...

Multiple PA SNAP-Ed partners, including the School District of Philadelphia, Community Action Partnership of Lancaster County, and The Food Trust leveraged resources from public and private partnerships to provide nutrition education programming to those at risk of food insecurity due to the COVID-19 pandemic. PA SNAP-Ed remains committed to providing nutrition education to helping make the healthy choice the easy choice, and keeping families safe.



DREXEL EAT RIGHT PHILLY

Drexel Eat Right Philly's SNAP-Ed program created online learning opportunities for students in high school and elementary schools:

- One high school teacher reported back that he really enjoyed and appreciated the online lessons. He said that “he particularly liked the videos because they helped to explain concepts much more clearly than he is able to do.”

—HS TEACHER, JUNE 2020

- “Despite the new-found difficulties of virtual lessons, students in two elementary school classes have made those difficulties worth it! During lessons in June, three students decided to cook along with me from home. Other students wrote down the recipe so they could make it later with their families and others talked about what they would have changed in the recipes. One classroom teacher told me: ‘Being able to talk about food, watch you cook, and cook alongside you is what gets the students excited for Monday lessons.’”

—DREXEL EAT RIGHT PHILLY EDUCATOR

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PA SNAP-ED, VISIT:
www.sites.psu.edu/pasnaped

