

Hi Everyone,

Family Nutrition Programs has added a new federal nutrition program under its umbrella-- the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program's (SNAP) Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Program (SNAP ED) is now being coordinated under Family Nutrition Programs. Elaine and I will be working with the University of Fairbanks, Cooperative Extension Office to observe and learn how this program operates in Alaska, as well as establishing program goals and objective for future years.

Attached to this update are draft sketches of the 4th Alaska Nutrition Theme: Fruits and Vegetables So Good For Me. Evon Zerbetz has once again agreed to design a poster that can be used to promote this theme. The State plans to work with UAA to help develop talking points and lessons plans for WIC and SNAP ED clients. Our vision for the poster is to promote Alaska Farmer's Markets, but also promote frozen and canned fruits and vegetables. Our target audience is Alaskan families of various ethnicities, ages, and sizes. Please let me know by May 23 if you like a particular poster or if you would like to see additions or changes in the posters.

Take care,

Kathleen

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1. Preconceptional nutrition small grants announcement—see attachment
2. Native Village of Eyak Update: The NVE closed the Cordova clinic on April 27 and is keeping the Valdez clinic open through June 30. Sue Arts is the only WIC staff in the EYAK service area providing services and her number is 835-2173. Muni has been awarded the grant to provided WIC services to this region in FY 13.
3. Breastfeeding Coordinators--The announcement you've all been waiting for!A new WIC breastfeeding peer counseling page is now on WIC Works Resource System at <http://1.usa.gov/WICPeerCounseling>The new page contains background information on the WIC breastfeeding peer counseling program and a link to the download for the peer counseling training platform. Also posted are selected curricula files from the platform (speaker notes for both the management and the peer counselor training, the Peer Counselor Handbook, and the YouTube videos and podcasts for peer counselors).
4. SPIRIT Update---- SPIRIT Transfer Project Update: On Friday of last week, Pat Nault, the SPIRIT Project Manager, assessed the status of the SPIRIT implementation in regard to readiness to begin user acceptance testing (UAT) as scheduled on June 11. Although that date is 4 weeks away, progress to date does not indicate that all the work that needs to be completed by the implementation contractor and approved by the state before the system is ready for testing will be done in time to meet that schedule. Therefore Pat decided to delay the scheduled start of UAT until July 9. The dates for July are the same as they were previously, but the second round will be In August from 8/6/12-8/23/12.

We are very sorry for the additional work that this change in schedule causes for you. Many of you have indicated that you or another clinic staff member would be able to help test the SPIRIT system during UAT. When you can find time, would you review the revised schedule and let me know what dates will work for you?

Please contact me with any questions.

Thank you,

Terry Hoskinson

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Nice To Know:

Thanks to Tanana Chiefs Conference The Council Facebook page for their coverage of the 4th Annual RNS Practicum Fair held yesterday.

See: "Learning Rural Nutrition" at <http://www.facebook.com/TheCouncilNewsletter>