

Alaska 2005-2007 Team Nutrition Grant Summary

Alaska's School Wellness Policy Initiative is the focus of Alaska's Team Nutrition (TN) for 2005. Its purpose is to build school and community support that enable schools to develop and adopt meaningful school wellness policies that promote healthy eating and physical activity, and to provide resources to schools and local organizations in order for them to be successful.

The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHHS), Division of Public Health (DPH), will collaborate with the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) and other health programs and organizations in order to carry out *Alaska's School Wellness Policy Initiative*. The project will be under the direction of the School Health Coordinator within the Alaska Division of Public Health

The project director will work with the Child Nutrition Services Program (CNS) staff and CNS Advisory Committee, schools, Residential Child Care Institutions (RCCIs), the State's Obesity Prevention and Control Program, the State's Family Nutrition Program (FNP), and other partners that have programs and initiatives addressing issues of child nutrition to promote healthy eating and physical activity. These include the Alaska Chronic Disease Policy Academy, Alaska Action for Healthy Kids Coalition, Alaska PTA, Alaska School Nutrition Association, Eat Smart Alaska, Alaskans Promoting Physical Activity, the Community Wellness Advocate Program, school administrators, school boards, school staff, and students.

We will assist Local Education Agencies (LEA's) to establish wellness policies by:

- 1) strengthening partnerships that build school and community support for school wellness policies through vigorous outreach and marketing activities such as presenting information and conducting workshops at statewide conferences and meetings and distributing information and materials through partner networks;
- 2) developing and disseminating a statewide model school wellness policy and other resources to schools and partners;
- 3) providing tools and incentives for local communities to establish wellness teams representative of the school and community to assess, develop and adopt school wellness policies;
- 4) providing training and technical assistance to schools and other organizations, including sponsoring a statewide *Alaska School Wellness Institute*. The institute will provide in-depth training on developing and implementing community based local wellness policies and best practice strategies to promote healthy eating and physical activity. It will be attended by school/community teams and successful grantees; and
- 5) providing implementation grants in year two through a competitive grant program to districts that have developed an implementation plan.

Resources developed in the previous Alaska TN grant (2002) will provide tools to advance the implementation of the school wellness policy initiative.