

# The Food Stamp Nutrition Connection:

## Formation of an Education & Administrative Reporting System

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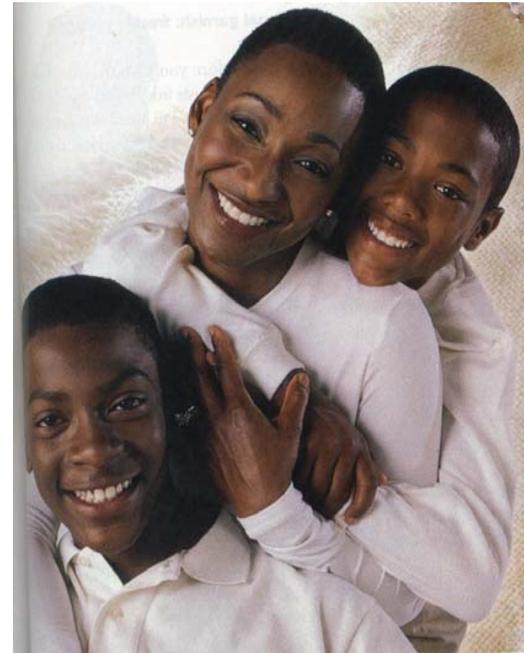
Director, Nutrition Services Staff  
FNS/USDA

Post Conference Session, SNE  
July 31, 2003



# Outline

- ☀ Education & Administrative Reporting System (EARS)
  - Why
  - What
  - How
  - Timelines





# FSNE: 2004 Guidance

☀️ Allows States flexibility:

- Goals and objectives
- Interventions & educational strategies
- Service delivery settings





# Target Groups



Pre-conception-5  
**WIC**, CACFP, CSFP,  
 FMNP

School Age 6-18  
**CNP** (SFP, ASFP,  
 FDP)

Adults-19-64  
 Pregnant postpartum  
 lactating women (WIC)

Elderly-DHHS, FDP  
 (SFNMP, CACFP,  
 CSFP)

Birth ← Food Stamp Program → Maturity →

Reaching needy people with nutrition assistance across the lifecycle.



# How program reporting supports evaluation?

- ☀ Primary target audience
- ☀ Goals & objectives
- ☀ Key groups reached
- ☀ Gaps in service
- ☀ Channels used
- ☀ Resource allocation & use
- ☀ Inform understanding of process



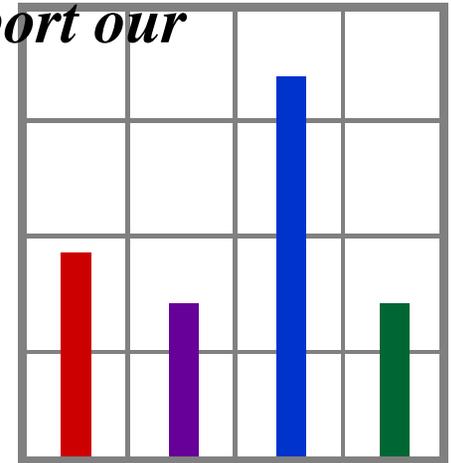


# The Education & Administrative Report System (EARS).

*Why do we need it?*

*To secure national data & information to support our stewardship role and responsibilities.*

- ☀ Inform management decisions
- ☀ Support policy initiatives
- ☀ Documentation for legislative, budget or other requests
- ☀ Support the planning function





# What is the Education & Administrative Report?

- Standard Report States submit periodically that provides “Core” data/information
  - Keep it simple, low burden, get reliable data
- Component of the National and State Reporting Systems
- Uniform data elements and definitions
- Yield high quality & consistent data
- Paint of picture of States activities



# How will we develop EARS?

Use a Collaborative Process

Form National Working Group

Key partners and stakeholders

- ☀ State and local
  - Food Stamp Staff
  - Nutrition Educators
- ☀ NGO
- ☀ Academic
- ☀ Federal



# EARS Development- 10 Key Steps

Public notice

Information gathering

Support Services for Process

Establish Workgroup

Draft report & secure comments

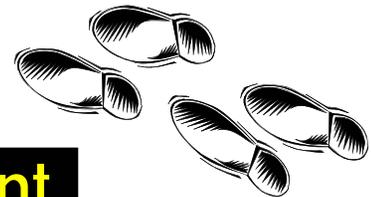
Revise, test & solicit comments

Conduct field test

OMB Clearance

Implement

Monitor



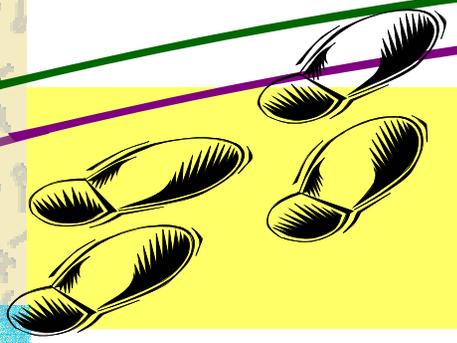


# EARS

## What have we accomplished?

- ☀ Published public notice
- ☀ Hiring a facilitator for the Working Group
- ☀ Solicited name of candidates for Working Group
- ☀ Reviewing 2002 State Reports for common elements
- ☀ Released RFP for field testing





# EARS Next Steps?

- Synthesize data from 2002 Report
- Invite candidates to serve on the EARS Work group
- Convene Working Group
- Award contract for the field test



# Preliminary Timeline

Public Notice 6/03

RFP for Facilitator/Field Test 7/ 03

Obtain & Review 02 Annual Reports 7-8/03

Invitation Work Group Members 8/03

Annual Reports Analyzed 8-9/03

Facilitator Hired 9/03

Contract Awarded for Field Test 9/ 03

Milestone –  
Work Group  
Formed

Work Group meets, Completes 1<sup>st</sup> Draft

July

August

September

October

# Timeline

Comments due on 1st Draft EARS

Comments compiled & analyzed  
w/ recommended changes

Milestone – 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft  
and definitions  
completed

Comments/testing by stakeholders

Field Testing Edited Form (2-3 mo)

Field test completed  
workgroup reviews results

Modify and Clear Report

OMB Clearance

Implement Grace Period



Dec

Jan

Mar

June

Sept

Oct

05-06



Thanks for your  
attention!