The Purdue Extension Nutrition Education Program (NEP) believes every Hoosier should have access to nutritious food and opportunities to exercise. Supporting our efforts are two U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) educational programs: the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP).

With social restrictions largely past, 2022 saw a substantial return to in-person classes for our Nutrition Education Program Advisors (NEPAs) and community events with our Community Wellness Coordinators (CWCs).

As a result, NEPAs saw 24,265 participants, almost 10,000 more than 2021. CWCs collaborated with community partners on 329 initiatives, reaching an estimated 512,493 SNAP-eligible Hoosiers. We are committed to making the healthy choice the easy choice where limited-resource Hoosiers live, eat, work, play, and shop.

**SNAP-ED**
- 53% increased the quantity of fruits and/or vegetables they ate each day
- 76% improved a physical activity, nutrition, or dietary behavior

**EFNEP ADULTS**
- 66% increased physical activity
- 73% now use more safe food practices
- 95% managed their food resources more efficiently
- 96% improved their diet quality

**EFNEP YOUTH**
- 60% now use more safe food practices
- 59% increased physical activity
- 89% showed improvement in selecting foods based on federal dietary guidelines

Learn more at eatgathergo.org
Community Wellness Coordinators (CWCs) and their community partners continue to address health inequities across Indiana, collaborating on 329 Policy, Systems, and Environmental (PSE) initiatives in 2022. That includes 45 community and school gardens, 39 food pantries, and 22 school and community physical fitness programs. To fund their efforts, CWC and their partners were awarded nearly $12.4 million in grants. As a result, an estimated 512,493 SNAP-eligible Hoosiers saw increased access to nutrition and physical activity opportunities.

MORE THAN

20,046 OF PRODUCE

(20,046 pounds or 60,138 servings)

were harvested from community gardens and shared with 58 agencies, such as food banks and pantries, as part of the MULTI-STATE PROJECT GROWING TOGETHER.

70 & 14 NEW CURRENT

were created and protected TO SUPPORT PSE INITIATIVES.

These employees work in farmers markets, community gardens, grocery stores, parks and open spaces, community food donations, and community partnership initiatives.

796 PSE CHANGES were adopted through 329 PSE INITIATIVES in fiscal year 2022.

When NEP Community Wellness Coordinator Ashlee Sudbury and her partners envisioned a food prescription program for expecting and new mothers, the vision was ambitious. They hoped to introduce families to more nutritious meals, strengthen the local food system, and build the community’s economy by sourcing all food used in the program from county businesses.

Thanks to the efforts of NEP, Indiana University Center for Rural Engagement, the Indiana Rural Health Association, Retired Senior Volunteer Program, the Daviess Community Hospital, Jamestown Square Apartments, and other partners, 20 families received 16 weekly food kits filled with groceries, locally grown produce, recipe sheets with QR codes, and additional support.

When residents clicked on the QR code, they were led to YouTube videos featuring classes taught by NEP Advisor Chris Clark. The videos included cooking lessons using the food provided.

Ashlee filmed the lessons, edited the videos, and worked with residents hired to translate the content into Spanish and Haitian Creole.

“This has been so helpful,” said Brenda Caravantes, one of the participants. She and husband Hosea have a 2-year-old son, Axel, and a daughter Amara, 1 month. “I wanted to be healthy so I could feel better. This helps so much with that.

“It’s just nice because with two little ones, it can be exhausting, but this makes making a healthy meal so much easier.”