



## THE MAINE SNAP-ED PROGRAM

**Mission:** Maine Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – Education (SNAP-Ed) aims to improve the likelihood that individuals eligible for SNAP will make healthy food choices within a limited budget and choose physically active lifestyles consistent with the current Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Food Guidance.

**Funding:** SNAP-Ed is funded by the USDA’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, which is administered by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and implemented by the University of New England (UNE).

**Model:** The Maine SNAP-Ed plan is a decentralized model administered by UNE, whereby the majority of the grant funds go directly to the Healthy Maine Partnerships (HMPs), a statewide network of community health coalitions that form Maine’s public health infrastructure. The HMPs hire qualified Nutrition Educators to deliver nutrition education programming to youth and adults who are eligible for SNAP benefits.

**Programming:** Maine SNAP-Ed uses evidence-based curricula and multi-level approaches to improve the likelihood that low-income families will have the knowledge and skills to be able to make healthier food and physical activity choices on a limited budget. The Maine SNAP-Ed program provides nutrition education opportunities, implements social marketing campaigns, and helps create environmental supports to enable low-income families to establish and sustain healthy eating behaviors. SNAP-Ed Nutrition Educators work to reach low-income families through new and long-standing partnerships created with local community organizations.

Maine SNAP-Ed provides nutrition education services in settings that are most accessible to individuals eligible for SNAP, including: schools, food pantries, Head Starts and other child care settings, grocery stores and regional DHHS offices.

***For more information, contact Maine SNAP-Ed at 207-221-4560 or [Mainesnap-ed@une.edu](mailto:Mainesnap-ed@une.edu)***