



National Institute of Food and Agriculture
www.nifa.usda.gov

Division of Family & Consumer Sciences

Child and Family Development

Aida Balsano

FCS Leader's Meeting
September 28-29, 2011



Child and Family Development in Family and Consumer Sciences

NIFA's support of research, education and extension programs in child and family development focus on:

- Prenatal and early childhood health, nutrition, care and education;
- Maternal health;
- Parent education;
- Kinship care;
- Intergenerational programs;
- Caregiver professional capacity development; and
- Rural families health and well-being.



Rural Health and Safety Education (RHSE) Competitive Grants Program

- In FY 2011, approx. \$1.6 million was available, for grants up to \$300,000
- Post RFA release, conducted 3 RFA-specific webinars and one on-line grant-writing workshop.
 - Applications received: 51
 - Applications reviewed: 49
 - Awards made: 10 (7 to 1862s and 3 to 1994s)
 - In FY 2010, 26 applications were received, eight (8) were recommended for funding for the period of one year.
- Expect that funding will be available in FY 2012.



– Funded projects will focus on:

- Increasing community readiness to change food and activity choices in 3 rural counties; (Cornell University)
- Culturally-competent, community-relevant, non-formal health education; (Stone Child College)
- Integration of health and personal finance education; (Colorado State University)
- Health risks associated with bullying behaviors among middle school youth; (University of New Hampshire)
- Household water quality education and testing; (Virginia State University)
- Adoption of health messages by rural, low-income mothers; (University of Massachusetts)
- Effectiveness of on-line dissemination of parenting education; (University of Illinois)
- Increasing caregivers' motivation to purchase healthy foods and prepare more nutritious, home-cooked meals. (University of Minnesota)
- Providing education on in health literacy, elder abuse and physical activity; (College of Menominee)
- Increasing their physical activity and knowledge and skills among youth. (University of Alaska)



National Council on Family Relations (NCFR)

Extension Family Specialists Preconference

- Date: **November 15th, 2011**
- Location: Orlando, FL
- Focus: Meeting National and NIFA Priorities through Integrated and Interdisciplinary Extension Projects
 - Keynote speaker: Dr. Robert Fetsch (Colorado State University)
- Extension Program Showcase
 - An opportunity to share new and updated resources, research findings and information relevant to Family Life;
 - Now accepting applications; deadline October 25th, 2011



Strengthening Capacity of Extension FCS

NIFA Fellowships Grant Program

- Part of AFRI Competitive Grants Program
- FY 2012 RFA is out
 - Letter of Intent deadline : **November 8, 2011**
 - Application deadline: January 19, 2012
- Approximately \$12 million available
- Up to \$75,000 (including institutional allowance) for *Predoctoral Fellows*, to support research or education projects for periods of up to 2 years.
- Up to \$130,000 (including institutional allowance) for *Postdoctoral Fellows* to support research, education, extension, or integrated projects for periods of up to 2 years.



- Fellowships will support projects that address one or more of the following issues:
 - Projects aligned with one of the five AFRI Challenge Areas:
 - Agricultural Science for Climate Variability and Change;
 - Childhood Obesity Prevention;
 - Food Safety;
 - Food Security; and
 - Sustainable Bioenergy.
 - Projects aligned with one of the six AFRI Foundational areas:
 - Plant health and production and plant products;
 - Animal health and production and animal products;
 - Food safety, nutrition, and health;
 - Renewable energy, natural resources, and environment;
 - Agriculture systems and technology; and
 - Agriculture economics and rural communities.
- This FY, DFCS represented on the AFRI Fellowship Management Team.



Increasing the Impact of Extension FCS

Healthy Weight Collaborative

- Trans-Federal initiative, led by US Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in partnership with the National Initiative for Children's Healthcare Quality (NICHQ).
- To enable communities to promote healthy weight and health equity through implementation of evidence-based and promising clinical and community practices.
- Approach:
 - Community teams will establish trans-sectoral partnerships that will leverage community strengths and form the basis for sustainable positive community environmental and individual health behavior change.
- Goal:
 - 50 teams across the nation will identify, test and implement program and policy changes in their communities to better prevent and treat obesity.



- Great opportunity for Extension to network, partner and direct change at the local level to better lives of children and families.
- Phase 1 of the project already under way.
 - Ten teams selected (from MA, NY, VI, FL, OH, AR, MI, MO, CA and WA).
 - Team from NY has Extension representation!
- Phase 2 starts this winter, when 40 additional teams will be selected.
- For more information, contact Aida or go to:
<http://www.collaborateforhealthyweight.org/>



Staying Connected and Informed

DFCS Child and Family Development Listserv

- Used by NIFA, Land-Grant University and Cooperative Extension staff, specialists and educators;
- To share news in the following areas of child and family development:
 - on-going and new research studies;
 - evidence-informed and evidence-based programs;
 - multistate activities;
 - program evaluation resources and trends;
 - extension education and training opportunities;
 - State and Federal meetings/conferences, collaborations and partnerships;
 - funding opportunities; and
 - job vacancy announcements.
- Give your work national visibility. Join the listserv.



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Contact

Aida Balsano

NPL for Child & Family Development

abalsano@nifa.usda.gov

202-720-4436



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