

Food Stamp Nutrition Education Systems Review Quarterly Status Report

**FY 2004 Quarter 1
October through December 2003**

In September 2003, the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) contracted with Abt Associates, Inc., a nonpartisan public policy research organization in Cambridge, MA, to conduct a two-year study of food stamp nutrition education (FSNE). The objective is to obtain a comprehensive and systematic picture of FSNE operations among States, implementing agencies, and local FSNE projects.

The Food Stamp Nutrition Education Systems Review involves a major multi-level data collection effort including: data abstraction from existing FSNE documents; a web-based survey of all State food stamp agencies and FSNE implementing agencies in States providing FSNE services; and in-person interviews at State and local levels in a sample of approximately 24 States. Study questions will explore a range of topics including: FSNE organizational structure, planning and decision-making, nutrition education messages, delivery and target audiences, and funding issues.

Major research activity in the first quarter of FY 2004 focused on the collection and review of FY 2004 FSNE State plans and related documents. Data abstraction from the policy documents is underway and is expected to be complete in January 2004.

The State and implementing agency samples will be selected by Spring 2004. Data collection instruments will be developed and finalized by Summer 2004. Both the web-based survey and in-person interviews will be conducted in Fall 2004. A final report and public-use data file will be available in Fall 2005.

For more information, please contact Kristen Dowling Hyatt with the FNS Office of Analysis, Nutrition and Evaluation. She can be reached by phone at (703) 305-2135 or by email at Kristen.hyatt@fns.usda.gov.

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Office of Analysis, Nutrition, and Evaluation
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
3101 Park Center Drive
Room 1014
Alexandria, VA 22302