

Kansas State Profile

State Partnerships Improving Nutrition & Equity

Overview

State Partnerships Improving Nutrition & Equity (SPINE) is a program of the [National Association of Chronic Disease Directors](#) (NACDD) [Center for Advancing Healthy Communities](#). In collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity (DNPAO), NACDD is providing funding to nine DNPAO Ambassador states to address food and nutrition security through equitable and sustainable actions that tackle economic and social conditions limiting food and nutrition security across the lifespan. State Health Departments receiving funding are Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oklahoma, and Oregon. Five states – Iowa, Michigan, Nevada, New Hampshire, and Oklahoma – received additional funding to augment existing efforts in their states to improve initiation, exclusivity, and duration of breastfeeding/chestfeeding.

SPINE states are developing meaningful partnerships or enhancing existing partnerships to support the implementation of a SPINE State Action Plan (SAP) that serves as a strategic roadmap for carrying out equitable food and nutrition security activities throughout their state. The initial project period was January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022; an additional year of funding was awarded in 2022, expanding the project period to December 31, 2023.

Learn more about the [SPINE program](#).

Activities

Overarching

- Partner with the Kansas Food Action Network to complete a food assessment in a diverse and high-need region of southwest Kansas to address barriers to accessing healthy food across the lifespan.
- Engage leaders and partners across communities of focus in developing a strategic plan and provide targeted technical assistance to support policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) change.

Food and Nutrition Security

- Develop a regional food assessment tool that captures information on the regional landscape, agricultural landscape/food production, food system infrastructure, food retail environment, access to food, food consumption and health, and food waste and recovery.
- Convene roundtable discussions with food systems partners to discuss challenges and opportunities for the southwest Kansas local food system in agriculture and local food production, food system infrastructure, food retail environment, access to food/health, and food waste and recovery.
- Develop a strategic plan for implementing PSE changes that address food and nutrition insecurity in the southwest Kansas regional food system.

- Form a Community Action Team that will lead and execute the strategic plan to address food access issues in southwest Kansas and provide tailored technical assistance throughout the implementation of the strategic plan.
- Create work plans for each focus area of the strategic plan, as identified by the food system assessment, and designate workgroups to carry out activities associated with each focus area.

Health Equity

- Work with New Venture Advisors, a firm with extensive experience conducting regional food assessments with an equity perspective, to develop the regional food assessment.
- Conduct food assessment interviews with six individuals with lived experience from the population of focus.
- Recruit diverse community leaders, partners, and persons with lived experience to participate on the Community Action Team.

Health Equity Spotlight

Identify and interview non-English speaking food system community stakeholders as part of the regional food assessment to ensure that the voices of immigrants with lived experience are included.



Contact Information

Courtney Koenig

courtney.koenig@ks.gov

Physical Activity and Nutrition Manager

Bureau of Health Promotion

Kansas Department of Health and Environment

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