

2014-2016 Michigan Team Nutrition Evaluation Consultant

Overview:

Michigan State University Extension will be partnering with Michigan Department of Education on the recently awarded 2014 USDA Team Nutrition grant. MSU Extension educators across the state will be working directly with 50 schools to conduct [Smarter Lunchroom Assessments](#) in the school's cafeterias. Schools that participate will receive a small financial incentive to complete 10 activities in the cafeteria. The evidence-based activities are designed to equip schools with tools that improve child eating behaviors, improve the cafeteria environment and food offerings. Thirty-five of those schools will also be given the opportunity to receive additional support from MSU Extension staff to implement a Healthier School Environment Toolkit. The Toolkit will include resources on: Coordinated School Health Teams; [Healthy School Action Tool Assessment](#); Local Wellness Policies; [Smart Snacks](#) Legislation; and other evidence based strategies such as: taste testing, working with student teams, healthy meetings, and adult and peer modeling/coaching to make healthy choices. MSU Extension staff will receive specialized training on conducting Smarter Lunchroom Assessments, a program designed by the [Cornell Center for Behavioral Economics in Child Nutrition Program](#).

Program Evaluation:

In an effort to demonstrate project impact, MDE and MSUE are seeking an evaluator familiar with school based interventions, developing evaluation protocol and working in a collaborative arena with state agencies and non-profits.

Timeline:

Work will be completed by September 30, 2016

2014-16 Team Nutrition Evaluator will:

1. Develop a training evaluation form for MSU Extension staff and trainers to complete after the training and booster sessions starting in February 2015
2. Adapt the Smarter Lunchroom Scorecard and HSAT to create School Environment and Policy Checklist pre/post survey.
3. Determine which behavior change(s) group to focus on and identify appropriate instruments for tracking that change in these potential groups.
 - a. Food service staff
 - b. School personnel
 - c. Community stakeholders
 - d. Purchasing changes that coincide with Smarter Lunchroom changes
4. Determine if/ how much MSUE community coaching impacts the school environment.
5. Monitor evaluation efforts, collect and enter data, and track and report demonstrated behavior change for SNAP-ED and Non SNAP-ED Schools.

Please submit letter of interest and resume/CV to Becky Henne at henner@msu.edu