



September 30, 2016

**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Food and
Nutrition
Service

Western Region

90 Seventh St.
Suite 10-100
San Francisco, CA
94103

Kim McCoy Wade
Chief
CalFresh Branch
California Department of Social Services
744 P Street, MS 8-9-32
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chief McCoy Wade:

This letter provides Food and Nutrition Service’s (FNS) final approval of California’s Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2017 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) Plan. We are approving a total of **\$104,500,733** in FFY 2017 funds and understand the balance of the FFY 2017 allocation will be requested via a Plan amendment. We are approving **\$4,393,918** to be awarded to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), which includes contracts with the Department of Health Care Services and Public Health Institute; **\$86,354,843** to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH); **\$10,106,722** to the University of California CalFresh Nutrition Education (UC CalFresh); **\$1,032,750** to the California Department of Aging (CDA); and **\$2,612,500** to Catholic Charities of California (CCC). In addition, we are approving a total of **\$16,611,041** in FFY 2016 carry-in funds based on the proposals submitted in the 2016 State SNAP-Ed Plan. Both the 2016 carry-in and 2017 amounts are subject to the availability of federal funds.

	FFY 2016 Carry-In	FFY 2017
California Department of Social Services	\$2,835,003	\$4,393,918
California Department of Public Health	\$9,156,182	\$86,354,843
UC CalFresh	\$3,730,437	\$10,106,722
California Department of Aging	\$0	\$1,032,750
Catholic Charities of California	\$889,419	\$2,612,500
Total Costs	\$16,611,041	\$104,500,733

The State agency should obligate FFY 2016 carry-in funds by September 30, 2017 and liquidate them by December 30, 2017. FFY 2017 funding will be available for expenditure over the two-year period of FFY 2017 and FFY 2018. Using the First In, First Out (FIFO) principle, it is incumbent on the State to expend FFY 2016 funds prior to expending FFY 2017 funds, unless there are notable exceptions. The Federal funding is granted with the understanding that should FNS at a later date identify

activities and costs that cannot be justified or require further clarification, FNS reserves the right to request additional documentation and/or withhold funds for any questionable portion of activities.

California must provide FNS with the FFY 2016 SNAP-Ed Annual Report no later than January 31, 2017. Please note the change of due date from November 30, 2016 to January 31, 2017. The two month extension provides States with a longer timeframe to analyze and report on program activities and budget. In addition, FFY 2017 Plan Amendment requests must be submitted to FNS no later than May 1, 2017. FNS also requests that any new social marketing or media materials funded by SNAP-Ed be shared with FNS for prior approval to ensure the messaging is science-based and appropriate for a low-income population.

The final FFY 2017 approved funding amount includes reduction in staffing to CDPH to 97.3 total full-time equivalents (FTE) and within their subcontract with the Nutrition Policy Institute to 18.87 FTE to ensure staffing levels are reasonable and necessary for the respective scopes of work.

We are pleased to see that CDSS, CDPH, UC CalFresh, CDA and CCC jointly developed an integrated three year work plan for FFY 2017-2019. The FFY 2017-19 Plan demonstrates efforts to continue to streamline and focus statewide projects, including training, technical assistance and evaluation, across State Implementing Agencies (SIAs). The Plan also exhibits innovation in State-level projects, including sustaining partnerships to better understand the relationship between SNAP-Ed and healthcare costs, to begin focused work with Native American communities, to engage with oral health practitioners, to utilize afterschool programs and youth engagement methods to work on policy, system and environmental (PSE) changes, to further farm to fork initiatives, and to build a meaningful State Nutrition Action Council.

FNS appreciates the effort to strengthen several projects' objectives to clearly demonstrate progression over the course of the three year grant period based on the feedback provided. As discussed, FNS also expects CDSS and CDPH to reinstate the statewide surveys – CA Dietary Practices, CalTEENS, and CalCHEEPS – to ensure the continuance of California as a National leader in SNAP-Ed evaluation. Furthermore, FNS expects the list of related nutrition and obesity prevention programs in the State Plan to be updated to reflect existing and potential partnerships, as opposed to static program descriptions. Additionally, FNS strongly encourages all SIAs to use a common descriptor to refer to SNAP-Ed, which might necessitate a statewide rebranding.

Local integrated work plans varied in strength, but excelled at integrating FNS feedback. Los Angeles County, in particular, has achieved a robust collective impact approach accompanied by an enhanced evaluation strategy, including simulation modeling of PSE effects. WRO requests a meeting with Los Angeles staff to ensure

this project meets SNAP-Ed allowability and evaluation parameters prior to design and execution.

We would like to express our appreciation for Ana Bolanos, Katie Lewis, Kimberly Ramson, and the rest of your staff, as well as staff of the SIAs, in responding to our review comments thoroughly and expeditiously.

Should you have any questions, please contact Kacie O'Brien of my staff at (415) 645-1925.

Sincerely,



DENNIS STEWART
Regional Program Director
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Western Region

cc: Ana Bolanos, CDSS
Katie Lewis, CDSS
Kimberly Ramson, CDSS
Gil Sisneros, CDPH
David Ginsberg, CA UC CalFresh
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WRO File Code: SNAP 10-6_CA