



## FEAST Community Food Summit: Engaging the Public in Systems Change

### Intervention Summary

On October 17, 2014, the Plumas County SNAP-Ed Program partnered with the Plumas-Sierra Community Food Council, farmers, ranchers, retailers, educators, emergency food providers, and community members to host the FEAST Community Food Summit.

The purpose of this event was to work together to identify both strengths and weaknesses in the regional food system. Through this understanding, the group would be able to identify action areas to increase food security, improve food distribution & access to healthy food, and support local food production.

The event was a striking success, with 81 people in attendance, representing more than 40 organizations. Interactive activities inspired a substantial amount of conversation and brainstorming, and brought people from different backgrounds together in the same room for a meaningful dialogue. By the end of the day, the group had identified seven priority areas for action.

From the perspective of SNAP-Ed PSE interventions this event was an important first step in effecting change. It provided a community perspective about priority areas for future work. This information, coupled with Communities of Excellence survey data, provides the Plumas County SNAP-Ed team with an incredible foundation for moving forward with PSE interventions.

### Description of Barriers Encountered and Identified or Proposed Solutions

One barrier that was encountered occurred after the conclusion of the FEAST Community Food Summit event. Although enthusiasm was high during the event,

interest and continued participation dropped off sharply in subsequent communications with the group. The majority of participants at the Summit seemed uninterested in continued action.

Thankfully, the community's invaluable input had been obtained, and a core group of long-term partners emerged. These partners continue to work together with the Plumas County SNAP-Ed team, and will be important allies as future PSE strategies are developed and implemented.

## **Future Directions/Sustainable Success**

The FEAST Community Food Summit community self-assessment process was not intended to be a long-term PSE intervention in and of itself, but rather a means to engage communities in understanding their own circumstances.

The Plumas County Public Health Agency SNAP-Ed Program intends to focus on the Retail Environment for PSE Interventions. Useful information was obtained during the Summit, and will assist in selecting appropriate intervention strategies.

## **Contact information about this Narrative**

**Local Health Department Grant Name: Plumas County Public Health Agency SNAP-Ed**

**Grant #: 13-20097**

**Author's Name: Zach Revene**

**Phone: (530) 283-6366**

**Email: [ZachRevene@countyofplumas.com](mailto:ZachRevene@countyofplumas.com)**

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