Healthy Choices, Healthy Lives

FoodWIse is federally funded by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed) and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP). We advance healthy eating habits, active lifestyles and healthy community environments for Wisconsin residents with limited incomes through nutrition education at the individual, community and systems levels.

Who We Serve

26 Total Learners
48 Not Hispanic/Latino
24 Total Learners
290 Direct Educational Contacts

Program HIGHLIGHTS

Direct-Ed Highlights
• FoodWIse collaborated with SOAR, an organization who's mission is to empower people with differing abilities, to offer nutrition education in conjunction with an existing cooking class to program participants. Topics include food safety, food groups, microwave safety and healthy beverages.

Outagamie County FoodWIse had a vacant nutrition educator position for all of FY19

PSE Highlights
• Connected with 16 potential partners.
• Held 12 one-on-one meetings with potential partners, including public health, a school district, a food pantry, a farmers market, organizations that serve diverse communities, youth-serving organizations, and the regional planning commission.
• Collaborated with Edison Elementary on Smarter Lunchrooms.
• Attended 10 meetings of coalitions and other groups that serve the county.

ACHIEVING MORE TOGETHER

UW-Madison Division of Extension works alongside the people of Wisconsin to deliver practical educational programs where people live and work – on the farm, in schools and throughout urban and rural communities. In Outagamie County, FoodWIse partners with WIC, food pantries, income eligible elementary schools, SOAR and coalitions to help make the healthy choice the easy choice in our communities.
Engaging New Partners

This year brought new capacity to engage in PSE work in Outagamie County, through the onboarding of our Healthy Communities Coordinator, Hannah. Much of PSE work begins with relationship building. Unfortunately, having had an educator vacancy throughout FY19, there were few existing relationships to build on. Hannah has spent a great deal of time this year assessing needs and resources, building relationships with potential PSE partners in the county, and assessing interest in PSE projects, through one-on-one meetings with stakeholders and potential partners. These meetings have established her role, helped identify opportunities for collaboration, and allowed for a greater understanding of the challenges and resources in Outagamie County communities.

Through this relationship building work, a partnership was developed with Edison Elementary School in Appleton. Though 53% of this school’s students are eligible for free and reduced lunch, FoodWIse had not partnered with them in the past. As the Healthy Communities Coordinator reached out to schools to learn about the work they have done to support health behaviors in students, she discovered that Edison has implemented some innovative and impactful strategies to reduce classroom aggression and improve classroom behavior through physical activity. Hannah met with gym teacher, Chuck Heurkens, to learn more about their work and share information about our FoodWIse services. Chuck was intrigued by the Smarter Lunchrooms movement.

He invited Hannah to come back in September to observe the lunchroom and fill out a Smarter Lunchrooms scorecard. Hannah attended the Healthy Kids Committee meeting the following week to share more information with staff about Smarter Lunchrooms and talk about what was seen during the lunchroom observation.

This observation also opened the door to broader reach. While observing the lunchroom, Hannah met one of the Assistant Food Service Directors for the Appleton Area School District, Miranda. Miranda was interested in learning more about Smarter Lunchrooms, and welcomed Hannah to visit other schools, mentioning one SNAP-Ed eligible school in particular that might be receptive to joining the Smarter Lunchrooms movement.

FoodWIse Welcomed a New Nutrition Educator to the Team

After more than a year-long vacancy in the Outagamie County Extension Office, FoodWIse welcomed Miranda Dawson to the team. Miranda graduated from UW-Stevens Point in May, 2017 with a degree in Dietetics and a Spanish minor. After graduating, Miranda served with AmeriCorps (AC) for two years in health and nutrition focused programs. From September 2017 to August 2018 she was in Wood County as the Community Outreach Coordinator for the AC Farm to School program, and from October 2018 to August 2019 Miranda served UW-Oshkosh Head Start with the Weight of the Fox Valley AC program. Born and raised in Oshkosh, WI, Miranda is excited to use her education and experience so close to home.

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