

National Alliance for Nutrition and Activity

Nutrition Education

❖ **Recommendation:** Enhance and strengthen the Team Nutrition program by adding a state-level infrastructure and networking component called the “Team Nutrition Network.” Fund by increasing the State Administrative Expense formula from 1.5% to 2% and dedicating the 0.5% increase to nutrition education (to provide \$40 million annually). Maintain the current level of funding (\$10 million per year) for existing Team Nutrition program components and give the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) more flexibility to spend those resources.

❖ **Rationale:**

- The need for nutrition education in schools continues to grow, as obesity rates have doubled in children and tripled in adolescents over the last two decades. The negative health consequences of rising obesity rates are already evident. Rates of type 2 diabetes have increased ten-fold in children over ten years.
- The existing Team Nutrition program at USDA includes many of the components of an integrated, behavior-based, comprehensive program for promoting the nutritional health of the nation’s children. The goal of Team Nutrition is to improve children’s lifelong eating and physical activity habits through nutrition education based on the principles of the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* and the Food Guide Pyramid.
 - Team Nutrition uses multiple communication channels, including classroom activities, food service initiatives, school-wide events, home activities, community programs and events, media events and coverage, and a state-based grant program. Currently 20,010 schools participate in Team Nutrition.
- While the current Team Nutrition state-based grant program has been effective in helping states to develop innovative nutrition education programs, the grant program does not provide consistent and reliable funding year-to-year and does not include a central mechanism to facilitate sharing of information between states on best practices and innovations. An additional state-level infrastructure component is needed to develop and deliver effective nutrition education programs and activities in schools.
- We recommend \$40 million in new funding for the Team Nutrition Network, including staff and program funds (see Table). The Team Nutrition Network would fund a staff person in each state agency (in the same state agency that oversees the child nutrition programs) to administer and coordinate comprehensive, integrated, state nutrition education efforts and enhance networking within and between states. State-level infrastructure, including a central point of contact at the state level, is critical to the ability of Team Nutrition to deliver effective, ongoing nutrition education.
 - The Team Nutrition Network coordinator would work and coordinate with other school health efforts in the state, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Coordinated School Health Program, and other agencies within USDA. The TNN

program funds (\$30 million) would be used by the TNN coordinators to conduct program activities such as:

- dissemination of information, e.g., via the internet, mailings, conferences
- surveillance and evaluation
- grants for school districts or groups of school districts
- professional development and training for teachers and staff
- monitoring local use of TNN funding
- technical assistance to initiate and maintain programs at the local level

Team Nutrition and Team Nutrition Networks Funding Recommendations

Team Nutrition Component	FY02 funding level	NANA Recommendation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical assistance materials • Print & Electronic Resources • National Food Service Management Institute • Grants to states • Other (partnerships, nutrition education, Eat Smart/Play Hard) 	\$10 million	Maintain FY 02 funding level of \$10 million. Allow FNS flexibility in determining funding for key components. FNS should consult with a variety of stakeholders within and outside of the government to help determine how to effectively deliver key TN concepts and the funding levels for such initiatives and components.
<p>Team Nutrition Infrastructure</p> <p>Team Nutrition Network - staff</p> <p>Team Nutrition Network - program funds</p>	None	<p>\$40 million total as follows:</p> <p>\$10 million: staffing (approx. \$150,000 per state position including benefits, for each state, territory, and the District of Columbia)</p> <p>\$30 million: program operation (provide a state minimum grant, index to the number of school meals served in the state)</p>
TOTAL	\$10 million	\$50 million

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