Since 1995, the Oklahoma SNAP-Ed program, delivered by the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, has worked with low-income families and youth improving their diets and food related behaviors. Additionally, families increased their ability to manage food budgets and related sources such as SNAP benefits (previously food stamps) in order to not run out of food by the end of the month. In 2017, SNAP-Ed reached 2,126 adults and 14,093 youth directly and nearly 6,328 family members indirectly.

DEFINING THE PROBLEM
Oklahoma’s statistics on hunger and food insecurity are startling. Oklahoma consistently ranks as one of the most hungry states, with 1 in 4 children at risk. In addition, more than 17% of the population is considered food insecure.

REACHING DIVERSE POPULATIONS
At least 42% of all SNAP-Ed adults are minorities.

YOUTH SERVED
Nutrition education was delivered to low-income youth through three unique programs in 2017: Food & Fun for Everyone, a series of nutrition education lessons; OrganWise Guys, a schoolwide program promoting a healthy lifestyle; and Farm to You, a traveling, interactive nutrition exhibit. The three programs have an overarching goal of encouraging youth to make positive choices that will help them lead healthier lives. Combined, the programs taught 14,093 elementary-age students across Oklahoma about healthy living through school enrichment programs and short-term educational activities.

2017 IMPACTS: OKLAHOMA SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - EDUCATION (SNAP-ED)
INVESTING IN THE SOLUTION

Statewide the SNAP-Ed program leverages federal and state funds and provides approximately 50 job opportunities to local citizens, which contributes more than $2.2 million to the state economy in salary and benefits. The program operates in 34 counties across Oklahoma. In addition to funding, fully staffed county Extension offices are key contributors to the overall success of SNAP-Ed.

WHY IT WORKS

Extension Educators support the Nutrition Education Assistants (NEAs) in day-to-day program activities and provide consistent access to research-based information. SNAP-Ed strives to hire NEAs with a strong understanding of the barriers many limited-income families face in achieving a healthy diet. As paraprofessionals, the NEAs are skilled in using hands-on interactive teaching methods which enable them to influence changes in behavior and impact the lives of those they teach.

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COMMUNITY SUPPORT

In 2017, 380 community volunteers committed 3,994 hours in support of the SNAP-Ed mission for an estimated dollar value of $88,188*.

*Independent Sector valuation