

SRPLN FCS State Report 2014

Reporting Institution: 1862 1890 (check one)

Name of Institution University of Kentucky

Budget Situation: After multiple years of declining higher education budgets, state level funding for higher education flattened. Dollars were reallocated to enable pay raises for faculty and staff for the second consecutive year. The University is preparing to implement a new financial budget model in 2015-16. Specific impact upon Family and Consumer Sciences Extension is yet to be determined.

Staffing Update (field and state office): Total: 259.5

Field/County: 118 filled FCS Agent positions and 9 vacancies
104 Nutrition Education Program Assistants
2 CYFAR Program Assistants

State Staff: 10.5 Specialists
12 Specialists (grant funded)
2 Asst Director and Program Leader
6 Support Staff
5 Support Staff (grant funded)

How Institution is Addressing the Situation:

As indicated in the staffing breakdown displayed above, FCS Extension relies on competitive grants to fund numerous state staff positions. Reallocation of resources within units and departments, increased county based assessment for extension programming and a continued pool of vacant county positions contribute toward resolving budget constraints.

Top 3 Program Highlights of Current Year: (program, collaborators, impacts)

- The diabetes curriculum, "Taking Ownership of your Diabetes" provides a cost-effective means for individuals to manage their diabetes. Poorly controlled diabetes too often results in complications such as heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, blindness, kidney disease, nervous system disease, dental disease, and amputations. The curriculum is evidence based and used the stages of change theory to bring about behavior change. As a result of the program, 42.8% set one or more goals to help manage their diabetes, with 38.1% accomplishing at least one of those goals. Post program evaluations also indicated that as a result of the program, 39.3% of program participants implemented at least three healthy eating practices to help address their diabetes.

- Military Family Programming in FCS extension at UK focuses on military families living in civilian communities. The primary goal is to improve family resilience through the deployment cycle and beyond and involves a number of initiatives: Department of Defense deployment support camps, military teen adventure camps, Operation: Military Kids (OMK), Childcare and Youth Training and Technical Assistance Project. Formative and summative data have shown that Kentucky OMK's programs/trainings have helped military families with reintegration by connecting them with resources throughout the reunion phase during post deployment; with sustainment by providing programs that help soldiers reconnect with their families; with healthy parent/child relationships by involving the entire family in activities together; and with connecting geographically-dispersed military youth and families with each other and with community resources, activities, and events through collaborative programs with Extension Offices and community partners.
- It's Your Reality is a financial life skills simulation for college students designed to impress upon students the need for basic skills in financial planning, goal setting, decision making and career planning; to clarify the need for college students to examine their attitudes about their futures and their career aspirations; to help college students understand the relationship between behavior choices and future financial implications; and to achieve these goals in a fun and exciting way.

Through the program, students receive the equivalent of one month's starting salary based on their chosen major. Once taxes are deducted, their net income is then used at "store" simulations to purchase housing, transportation, child care, pay toward student loans, credit card debt, etc. In two semesters, 670 of the 1,000 student participants completed an exit evaluation (retrospective pretest) and reported the following intentions toward behavior change: 97% intended to think more about the impact of a purchase decision on finances; 92% planned to limit their use of credit cards or other forms of debt; 89% planned to delay having children; 82% reported intending to change how they purchase clothing, food, and entertainment; and 74% indicated that they would consider seeking education beyond a bachelor's degree.

New or Unique Collaborations and/or Funding Sources:

A Kentucky Military Family Caregiver Network was formed to promote collaboration among organizations working in any capacity with active status or Veteran status military and their families in the area of caregiving. To date, the following have participated in developing a mission and identifying goals: FCS Extension, UK academic departments, Veteran's Resource Centers, VA, Aging and Independent Living, Warrior Transition Battalion, Office of the Governor, National Guard, Reserve, Life Adventure Center, Center for Courageous Kids, Brain Injury Alliance of Kentucky, Healthy Caregiver Community Foundation, Military Officers

Association of America, Division of Behavioral Health, Soldier and Family Assistance Center, Kentucky Department of Veteran Affairs, Veterans and family caregivers.

A new USDA - Children, Youth and Families At-Risk Sustainable Community Projects (CYFAR SCP) grant will enable collaboration between FCS extension and YMCA of Greater Louisville. The grant will fund life skills programs for homeless and precariously housed youth in the Kentucky's largest, most urban county. The goal is for targeted youth to exhibit an increase in the critical life skills they possess (communication/conflict resolution, decision making/goal setting, stress/anger management, self-responsibility/boundaries, teamwork, personal safety, healthy lifestyles, workforce preparation) to become more self-sufficient.

Contact for Additional Information:

Cherry Kay Smith or Ann Vail