

WNEP New Staff Training Overview

February 2006

Learning Outcomes:

As a result of participating in WNEP New Staff training, new educators will:

- Have knowledge of core subject content in food, nutrition, food safety and food resource management
- Understand the situations of hunger and poverty in Wisconsin and the impact on families, their health, food choices and decisions
- Have knowledge of resources and tools for teaching and working with families to impact food choices and buying decisions
- Describe the importance of having a plan for teaching and evaluation of WNEP education
- Describe what it means to teach within WNEP guidelines
- Gain a better understanding of the need and have knowledge of approaches for teaching adult learners, youth and those with low literacy

Program Implementation and Strategies:

- Cooperative Extension Academic Staff (Coordinators and Nutrition Educators) hired by WNEP with an annual appointment are expected to attend WNEP new staff training during their first year and an half of employment.
- The training is funded with dollars UWEX receives from USDA for delivery of the Food Stamp Nutrition Education program (FSNE) and EFNEP. These dollars support materials, staff time and effort in addition to county support when necessary.
- The training is designed to be an independent study course in which trainees receive a course manual and assignments prior to meeting as a group. During the face to face training sessions, study units are reviewed and emphasis is on techniques and delivery of content to program learners.
- During the group sessions a variety of delivery methods are used including group discussions, lecture with audio visual, talking circles and participant sharing.
- Interspersed in the training are the concepts of poverty, food insecurity, diversity, low literacy and working with adult learners to help new educators understand their learners and best practices to establish rapport with them according to current research.
- Group sessions usually have 12-15 trainees in attendance representing both rural and urban counties, with a varied degree of work experience and educational attainment. Racial and ethnic diversity is representative of Native American, Hispanic, Hmong, African American and Anglo American cultures.
- Sessions are conducted utilizing Cooperative Extension Faculty and Academic staff as facilitators (State Specialists and County Family Living Agents) conducting sessions on various topics (see training outline).
- WNEP New Staff training is a five day event, held three times each year; 2-days in late winter, 1-day in spring and 2-days mid-year.
- WNEP New Staff training is planned and coordinated by the WNEP Program Specialist for Training, with assistance provided by other WNEP Program Area Specialists, the WNEP State Coordinator, and program based staff serving in the counties.
- WNEP New Staff Training is intended to be a part, not all, of a new colleague's training experience; other components are the New Colleague Orientation, as well as orientation provided in the District, by county Department Heads, Co-workers, Program Leaders/Advisors and county based program collaborators.