

Arctic Food Security and Nutrition Network—Goals

In fall 2015, AFSNN members identified three goals: 1) reduce food insecurity in Alaska, Yukon, and Northern Canada, 2) make policy makers aware of what we are doing and how they can help, and 3) establish cross-border relationships on food security and nutrition.



AFSNN Member Activities

SY 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Alaska Supplemental Nutrition Assistance and Education Program (SNAP ED), in the Alaska Division of Public Assistance, initiated and continues to facilitate monthly AFSNN teleconferences. • SNAP ED funds covered travel and per diem costs to bring two Canadian food security speakers (Norma Kassi, Arctic Institute of Community-Based Research, and Amanda Sheedy, Food Secure Canada) to attend the Alaska Food Policy Council and Festival in Anchorage on March 26-27. • Arctic Institute for Community Based Research hosts Yukon Food Security Summit, May 18-19 and Kathleen Wayne, Family Nutrition Program, AKDHSS, is a guest speaker on AFSNN and Alaska’s food assistance programs. • The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (AKDF&G) and SNAP ED are partnering to measure food security in rural populations that utilize a mixed economy with subsistence hunting, fishing and gathering, SNAP/WIC benefits, and cash money as means to procure foods for their households. Some communities have the opportunity to use their SNAP benefits to purchase hunting and fishing gear to support their subsistence practices. Questions on the frequency and types of use and impact of SNAP benefits in this way were added to the AKDF&G household surveys during the 2016 field research season. Preliminary results show low use of SNAP benefits to purchase subsistence hunting and fishing gear and further analysis and follow-up with community members will provide insight into the awareness of the SNAP benefits use in this unique way, options and availability of approved gear in community stores, and personal reasons that impact a household’s decision to utilize SNAP benefits for the purchase of gear or food from the store. • AFSNN was included in presentation at the National Association of Farmer’s Market Nutrition Programs Annual Conference, Juneau, Alaska, June • AFSNN Poster session on at the First Annual Conference on American Native Nutrition, Prior Lake, Minnesota, September 26-27
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AFSNN presentation at the Alaska Public Health Summit, January 16-18, 2017, Anchorage, Alaska.