

# ENRICHING THE COMMUNITY

A monthly publication for friends of Family Enrichment Network

## Nutrition Outreach and Education Program

For the last 15 years the Nutrition Outreach and Education Program (NOEP) has been one of the programs in the Family Support Services Department at Family Enrichment Network. This program was designed to remove the barriers and challenges preventing eligible people from applying for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

SNAP is the current name for food stamps and there are many reasons that food insecure people are not receiving SNAP benefits. These include: rural residents with no transportation, home-bound seniors, those with literacy deficits or difficulty completing forms, those who do not have copies of needed documents or have trouble understanding confusing regulations.

The NOEP Coordinator's (NC) job is to help remove these barriers to allow as many food insecure people as possible, to access SNAP. Hunger or food insecurity creates serious damage in a community, when children are unable to learn properly at school, seniors or those with medical conditions/disabilities cannot keep healthy because of lack of nutrition and poor working families don't get enough to eat. SNAP is available to everyone who is eligible and is not a handout, anymore than social security is a handout for retired individuals.

The NC helps with the SNAP application process, first conducting a prescreen for potential eligibility, then meeting in a convenient location such as home, community or office, next making copies of required documents and finally setting up the SNAP phone interview at the Department of Social Services (DSS). The completed SNAP applications are hand delivered to DSS and the NC remains an advocate for the SNAP applicant in case any issues should arise with the application.

To see if you or someone else may be eligible for SNAP, please call the NOEP Coordinator at (607) 723-8313 ext. 827 or email to [broomenoep@familyenrichment.org](mailto:broomenoep@familyenrichment.org). If you live outside of Broome County, call our NOEP Coordinator for the contact name of the NOEP Coordinator for your county.

For more information about Family Enrichment Network Programs, please visit us at [www.familyenrichment.org](http://www.familyenrichment.org) or call (607) 723-8313.



*The mission of Family Enrichment Network is to provide supportive services for the optimal development of children and families. We believe in coordinating children and family services using a comprehensive and collaborative approach to improve their quality of life while ensuring the greatest value for our investment in child, adult, and parent development.*

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