



**INNOVATIVE  
HEALTH  
SOLUTIONS**

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## **CalFresh Healthy Living Program (SNAP-Ed) News**

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**A Time of Change and Opportunity—Updates on SNAP-Ed and  
Our Path Forward**



Dear Community Partners, Colleagues, and Friends,

We hope this message finds you well and thriving. As valued partners in promoting community health, I want to share an important update that impacts all of us working to promote equity and wellness across California.

On July 4, 2025, the passage of H.R. 1 marked a significant shift in federal nutrition policy by ending the nearly 30-year-old Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP-Ed), Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Program (NEOP), known in California as the CalFresh Healthy Living Program.

For organizations like Innovative Health Solutions (IHS), this change is deeply significant—and for me, it's personal. My journey began in 2009 when the program, then known as the Network for a Healthy California, selected me as a Champion for Change Mom. In 2010, my family and I were honored to be featured in its statewide CalFresh media campaign. By 2011, IHS (formerly known as Healthy Cooking with Kids, Inc.) received our first contract to lead a countywide nutrition education initiative for the Napa County Public Health Department. By 2019, our work expanded into Solano County through partnerships with the Nutrition Services Bureau and the Older and Disabled Adults Area Agency on Aging of Solano County Health and Social Services.

Over the years, my team and I have flourished alongside the CalFresh Healthy Living Program and its funding, which has enabled us to achieve several key milestones: delivering culturally relevant nutrition education, promoting physical activity through engaging initiatives, empowering families to make healthier lifestyle choices, and creating evidence-based curricula, such as our "Everybody Loves Line Dancing" program. While the conclusion of this program presents some significant challenges, it also provides us with a unique opportunity to reimagine, rebuild, and reinvigorate our collective mission to advance health equity and strengthen community well-being.

## How We're Moving Forward

### ***Strengthening Advocacy***

We are aligning with state and national partners to advocate for the restoration of SNAP-Ed and to push for the creation of innovative, equity-centered funding streams that protect the health of vulnerable communities.

### ***Strategic Transition Planning***

Our team is designing a comprehensive transition plan to help ensure continuity of services. We're exploring new collaborations, realigning resources, and keeping equity at the center of every decision.

### ***Ongoing Resource Access***

Our commitment to accessibility remains strong. All educational materials—including favorites like "Everybody Loves Line Dancing", lesson plans, activity guides, and recorded trainings—will remain available on our website to support your ongoing work.

### ***Community Support and Inspiration***

We're more than a program—we're a community. To keep our collective momentum strong, we'll continue to provide spaces for connection, peer learning, and shared leadership.

## **How You Can Stay Involved**

### ***Connect and Collaborate***

Do you have creative ideas for sustaining nutrition education in your community? Do you face new barriers you'd like to share? We'd love to hear from you. Let's co-create solutions together.

### ***Use and Share Resources***

We are committed to continuing to share materials for your outreach, staff training, and community events. Let us know what works well for you or what you need more of.

### ***Advocate in Your Own Circles***

Use your voice to raise awareness about the importance of community-based nutrition education. Even small efforts—like sharing stories of local impact—can inspire broader change.

## **Let's Turn Challenge into Opportunity**

We recognize that this transition brings uncertainty. With the elimination of funding, we are also facing the difficult loss of key team members—individuals who have played a vital role in our work alongside you and in the communities we serve.

Yet even in the midst of these changes, we remain grounded in our belief in this community's **strength, creativity, and unwavering commitment to advancing health equity**.

Through **collaboration, courage, and a shared sense of purpose**, we can transform this period of disruption into a powerful opportunity for **innovation, resilience, and collective growth**.

We remain deeply grateful for your continued partnership and leadership. Let's keep moving forward—together.

I leave you with a quote that continues to inspire our work:

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

— Margaret Mead

With much gratitude,

Dr. Norma Rodriguez de Lisenko, DrPH, MPH  
and the IHS Team



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