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Our goal at the University of California's CalFresh Healthy Living Program is to inspire and empower under-served Californians to improve their health by promoting awareness, education, and community change through diverse partnerships. As one of the four State Implementing Agencies in California, we teach those eligible for SNAP about nutrition, how to make their food dollars stretch, and how to be physically active at any age. Effective, evidence-based nutrition education and physical activity classes are aligned with policy, systems and environmental change strategies to create long lasting community impact. We work in 34 counties throughout the State – delivering our programming where people, live, learn, shop, and work. The majority of our participants are youth ages 3-17 and their families.

Our partners at the Federal Level (USDA FNS) are trusted allies who have the ability to support our work with funding, resources and technical assistance. During the pandemic, we have all felt and seen the effects of the broken food system and have worked tirelessly to get nutritious foods to those most vulnerable. One issue that we hope comes out of the White House Conference on Food, Nutrition, Hunger and Health is a new level of flexibility afforded to those like us -- practitioners at the State & Regional – and even local level -- who are in constant touch with our target population. We know how to meet the needs of our populations - with their input and voice at the center of our work. We need greater flexibility within the administrative sections of the SNAP-Ed guidance in order to deliver timely and innovative, data-driven programming that is culturally relevant, appropriate and effective.