



# IMPACT 2017

Through Extension programs across the nation, Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Educators provide a multitude of Educational opportunities to meet the needs of diverse audiences.

## Healthy Homes and the Environment

Extension Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) educators provide training and support to help individuals and family economically care for and enjoy a healthy home. A safe, secure environment reduces risks for injury and prevention of chronic diseases.

### Healthy Indoor Air and Household Management Practices

There were 218 workshops reaching 3,191 adults nationwide with topics relevant for everyday issues home owners face for healthy indoor air.

**Mississippi** Extension's *Healthy Homes Initiative* provided workshops to 1,091 community-dwelling older adults, low-income housing residents, child care providers, and families on improving their



indoor environment's safety and health. Participants overwhelmingly showed knowledge increases and reported making home improvements.

*"Everybody that's dealing with a house needs some kind of this training. People need and want to know what to do, how to keep their homes clean and safe, and everyone can use this training to fix problems."*

~ **Mississippi** Housing Authority representative

Residents in **Montana** have the opportunity to learn about radon, mold and carbon monoxide and healthy indoor air quality. This *Love Your Home* series was presented in an 8-county area.

Lead poisoning in **New Jersey** is disproportionately impacting children of color and lower income families. Research shows eleven cities in NJ and 2 counties with dangerous levels comparable to Flint, Michigan. A total of 210 school health teachers and school nurses in Plainfield, NJ, indicated the training program met 95% of their needs, and 96% learned new information. One-year follow-up indicated 85% were actively using information learned, including the testing of school water.

**Georgia** and **North Carolina** Extension partnered to create webinars for child care providers. There were 82 participants. Most reported increased knowledge and an intention to make changes like cleaning more and making parents aware of reducing asthma triggers at home.

**Montana** *Weatherization* programs help low-income individuals lower their energy burden. The program addresses energy deficiencies in residential construction by scientifically analyzing a structure and then implementing cost-effective measures designed to lower energy use and thus lower energy bills for the homeowner.

**Kentucky** tackled the ever-changing world of laundry detergents, machine choices, general laundry care practices and provided education for 1126 consumers to make the safest, most efficient choices for homemakers. At least one new cost-saving technique was reported by 86% of participants to utilize in their laundry routine.

Raising kids, Eating right, Spending smart 

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## Home Safety and Disaster Preparedness

**Montana** participated in a National Healthy Home Partnership initiative. In a survey, the 150 participants reported significant improvement in knowledge about home-related hazards and contaminants and were more likely to check their home environment for these issues.

**Kentucky's Stand Up to Falling** teaches ways to reduce the risk of falling to help seniors maintain quality of life, aging in place. These programs have the potential to save an estimated \$18,000 in health care costs per person. Kentucky potentially saved \$6,552,000 in Medicare/Medicaid claims.



**Oklahoma** ranks third for federally declared disasters. Youth who are prepared to respond to emergencies at home will be less fearful. Evaluation data show youth know how to stay safe in severe weather, around household chemicals, and when riding ATVs. Progressive Farmer Safety Day camps were conducted in 10 rural counties reaching 1,738 youth.

*"My favorite station was first aid because we got to make our own first aid kit."* ~ **Oklahoma** Safety Day participant

To help individuals and families in **Oregon** prepare for the Cascadia Subduction Zone Event (8.0 to 9.0 "earthquake" and resulting tsunami), Extension educators have shared safe food and water storage resources with over 3000 Oregonians that will prepare residents to survive-in-place for several weeks.

**National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (NEAFCS)** provides professional development for Extension professionals who improve the quality of life for individuals, families, and communities and provide education in the areas of: Childhood Obesity Prevention; Community Health and Wellness; Diabetes Prevention and Management; Financial Management; Food and Nutrition; Food Safety; Healthy Homes and the Environment; Improving Children's Lives; and Protecting our Resources – Family Life. NEAFCS is an equal opportunity/affirmative action association. NEAFCS values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of race, color, gender, age, religion, national origin, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation. Membership is not by invitation. (Strategic Plan 1993-97)

In **Missouri**, 13 sessions of Disaster Preparedness-Emergency Management training were offered. This program teaches families a five-step process for dealing with possible disasters. This includes: (1) identifying hazards, (2) mitigating against hazards, (3) developing a response plan, (4) plan for coping after disaster, and (5) implementing drills and family education.

## Home Ownership

**Michigan** State University Extension delivered foreclosure prevention education and counseling by certified counselors, working one-on-one with 323 Michigan residents. Of those households with reported outcomes, 98% were able to keep their current house with 74% of those initiating a repayment plan, 5% modified their mortgage, and 9% were able to bring their debt current.

*"I think that everybody that either owns a home or is considering buying one should attend this class. It provides a lot of useful information and I believe that they would benefit from coming."*

~**Michigan** Home Buyers Education course participant

A Michigan Extension counselor helped a woman who had medical issues causing her to miss work and enter foreclosure resulting in depression and weight gain. After receiving assistance, she excitedly replied, "Now I can focus on me."

**Michigan** State University Extension assisted 860 individuals become knowledgeable home-buyers through *Home Buyers Education*. After six hours of training, over 85% of participants were able to review the appropriate mortgage paperwork, identify mortgage loans for their needs, and understood the importance of paying mortgage payments on time.

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