



Institute for Community
Health Innovation

Feeding Futures

Strengthening School Nutrition
through Collaboration



Who We Are

The Institute for Community Health Innovation is a team of passionate leaders transforming health in Arkansas.

Our mission is to improve health in Arkansas through bold innovation and collaborative partnerships, creating **a better state of health for all.**



➤ **Our Goal:** a better state of health for all

Speakers



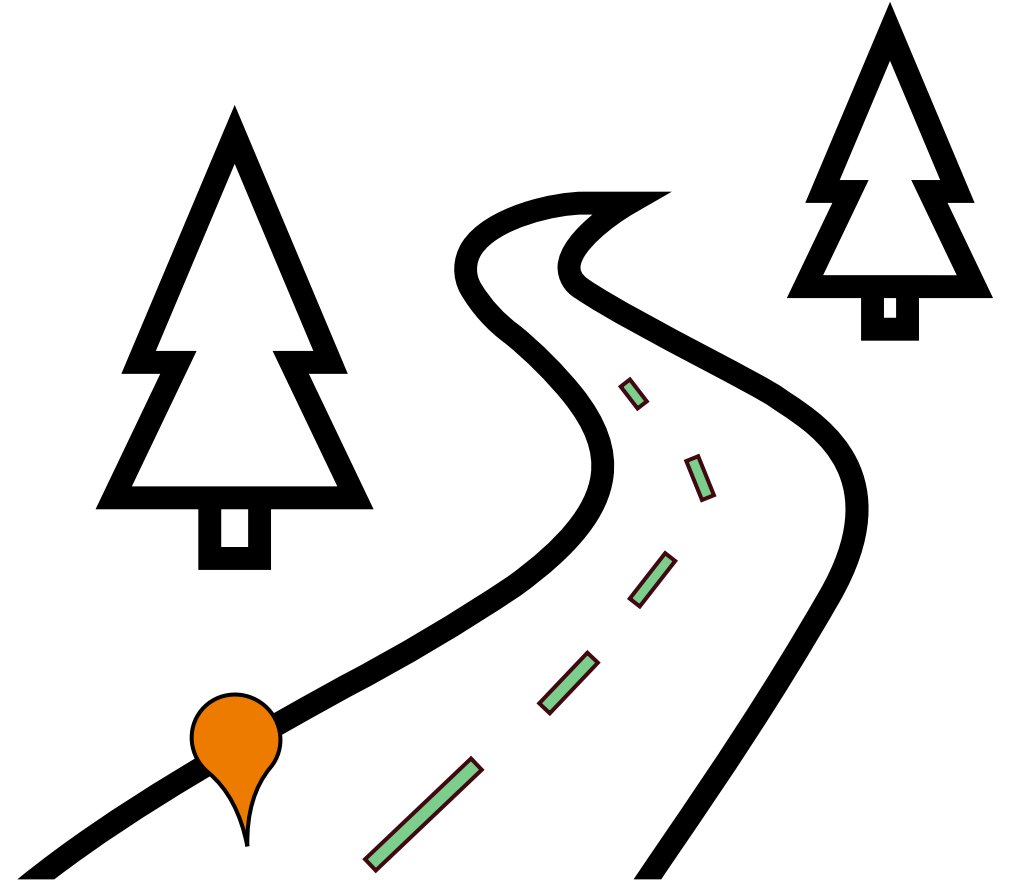
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Where It All Started

- SRCP (Sodium Reduction in Communities Program)
 - Reduce dietary sodium intake through policy, systems, and environmental approaches
 - Springdale reduced sodium served per diner by **11%** on average each year for 5 years.





CHEFS

Creating Healthy Environments for Schools

Designed to reduce:

- Sodium
- Saturated Fat
- Sugar

Program Components

- Customized nutrition plans
- Modified and replaced menu items
- Procured healthier food
- Provided equipment grants
- Trained cafeteria staff
- Implemented environmental changes
- Engaged students and parents
- Supported sustainability

Langner et al, 2024

School Nutrition Toolbox





CHEFS RCT (Randomized Control Trial)

- Evaluated the effects of a comprehensive school nutrition enrichment intervention on student health, eating habits, and school food served
- Currently analyzing data

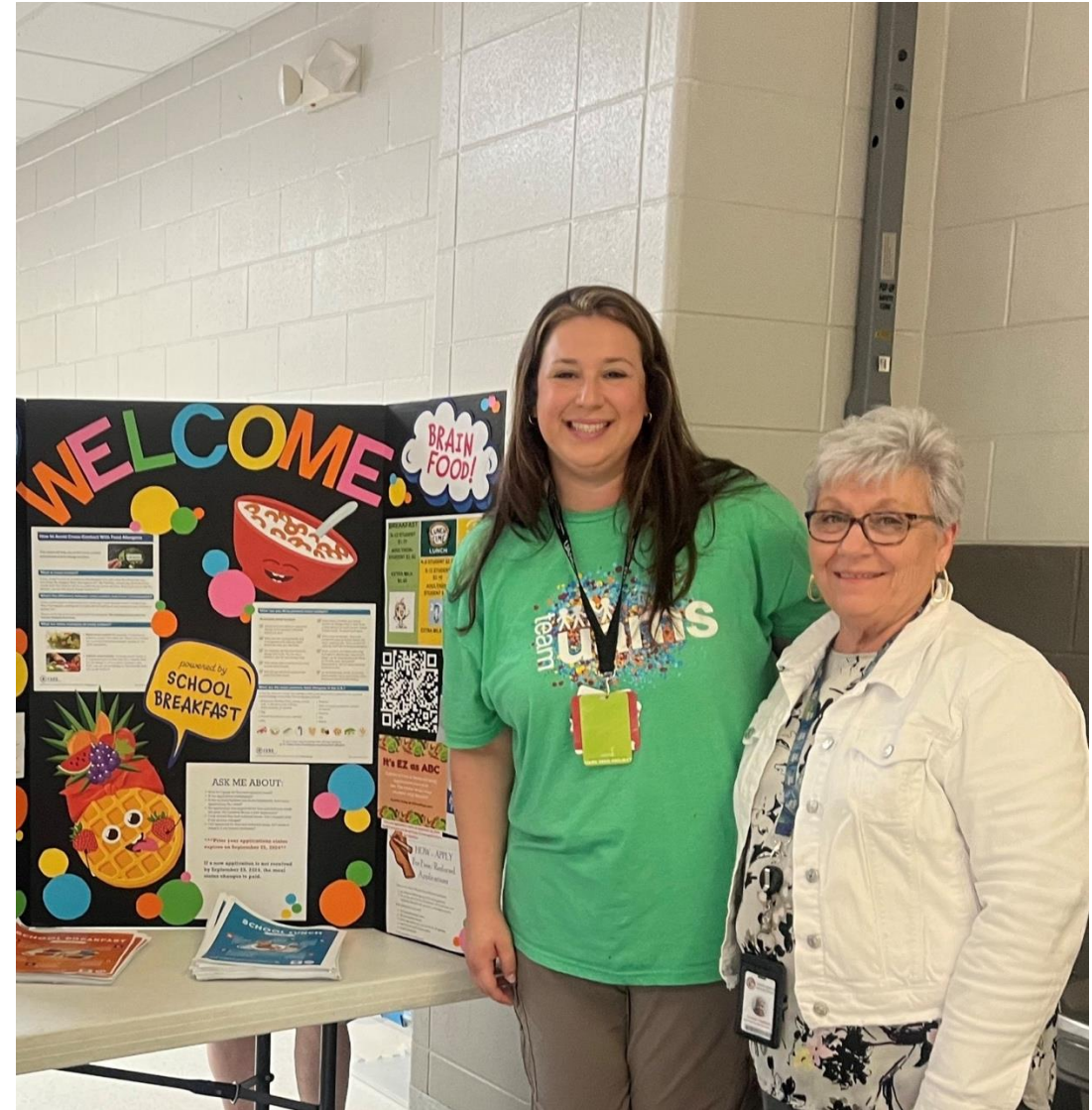
CHEFS has brought awareness of certain issues. It has impacted the way I think and act going forward. When I choose menu items, **I am thinking about sodium, sugar, and fat because of CHEFS.**

I am more sensitive to those things now because **we are constantly talking about how to improve.**

- Child Nutrition Director

Lessons Learned

Through ongoing **feedback** and **engagement**, we refined and developed a new approach designed to better meet participant needs.



What's Next

Equip nutrition teams with the, **knowledge**, **tools**, and **support** needed to prepare for upcoming changes to the school meal pattern through **innovative**, **efficient**, and **sustainable** strategies.





Assessment

Readiness/Needs Assessment

- Infrastructure
- Ability to implement changes
- Desire to change
- Barriers



Focus Areas

Menu/procurement support

- Provided by a Registered Dietitian

Scratch cooking support

- Equipment grants
- Technical assistance by a highly qualified trainer

Evaluation



Support For You and Your Child Nutrition Team

Discussion

Next Steps

Visit us at our booth and fill out our interest form using the QR code below.





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Thank you!

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