

CAN-Act Communicator

Happy New Year! Do you have comments on the content or format? Suggestions, links, calendar events, horns to toot? If so, contact your [Board member](mailto:melody@can-act.net) (can-act.net/CAN-Actboard.html) or melody@can-act.net and we'll put it in our next issue.



California
Association of
Nutrition &
Activity Programs

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Association Update

CAN-Act has finalized a **strategic plan** which will help guide our activities and fund-raising strategies for the next three to five years. The strategic plan was written to fulfill a vision that assumes —> **Community Benefit: local programs are providing services in order to achieve healthier eating and physical activity practices among Californians with low incomes** —> **Member Benefit: in order to be successful in achieving this mission, local programs benefit from the support of CAN-Act (as well as the Network and the USDA)** —> **Organizational Effectiveness: in order for CAN-Act to provide support and services to mem-**

bers, its organizational structure and operations are fully functional, —> **Board Effectiveness: in order for CAN-Act to be fully operational, it's Board must be performing at peak capacity.** As a provider association, CAN-Act does not provide services directly to the priority population; thus we have developed goals to address the latter three elements of our vision.

We invited all current and potential CAN-Act members to participate in a prioritizing process, and it was through this process that we established priorities.

(continued, page 2)

Why become a CAN-Act member?

CAN-Act is the only organization working solely on behalf of FSNE-funded organizations. We are working with the Network to streamline administration and improve communications and working at the federal level to improve the rules. But we need your support to keep working! Download a membership form [here](http://can-act.net/files/membership_brochure_with_dues_list_9-08.pdf). (Can-act.net/files/membership_brochure_with_dues_list_9-08.pdf)

Note regarding embedded links: if link isn't automatic, copy and paste into browser.

An Invitation to CAN-Act Members

Among the hardest parts of managing a *Network* contract is documenting staff time and various allowable expenditures. The spirit of documentation is to demonstrate compliance with the USDA's *federal financial participation* requirements—e.g., to assure the state and federal agencies and the public that our programs are “playing by the rules.”

If you have ideas on alternative ways of docu-

menting staff time and program expenses that could reduce the administrative burden associated with FSNE, we want to hear from you. [Send an email to melody@can-act.net](mailto:melody@can-act.net) by March 15 with a detailed description your proposed alternative and a persuasive argument/s for using your alternative. Your input will be incorporated into discussions and proposals from the NSC Operations Subcommittee.

Association Update (continued)

The first two goals under “**Member Benefit**” that FSNE administration is manageable and reasonably proportionate with service delivery, and that providers have an active role in planning and implementing statewide efforts. Under “**Organizational Effectiveness**,” the top two goals include that CAN-Act has an open and fruitful working relationship with the state agency, and that CAN-Act has sufficient non-foundation funding for core operations

and Board management and development. Top priorities under “**Board Effectiveness**” are that Board members are visible and clearly engaged with the membership and state and federal agencies, and that Board members are actively engaged in monitoring the director and setting Association policy. The final version of the strategic plan will be posted to CAN-Act’s website later this month (www.can-act.net/links)

California Association of Nutrition & Activity Programs

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Our mission is to support healthy eating and active living in low-income communities through provider leadership, client empowerment, and vigorous support for better food stamp nutrition education.

In the News

PARENTS KEY TO HEALTHY CHILDREN

Record Searchlight



The Network for a Healthy California recommends working with your child to make healthy choices together.

Here are the network's tips to encourage healthy eating habits.
<http://tinyurl.com/8ftvq3>

NEW STUDY DEBUNKS MYTH THAT KIDS HATE VEGETABLES

India Journal

... A new study released by First 5 California found that parents don't need to sneak fruits and vegetables into their children's meals – kids say they actually like them! Interviews with more than 100 preschoolers across California revealed that kids not only know it's important to eat fruits and vegetables, they frequently prefer them to candy.
<http://tinyurl.com/93dhzk>



TARGETING OBESITY ALONGSIDE HUNGER

Washington Post

The worsening economic crunch is causing the tab for food assistance programs to balloon, and with the rising costs has come an intensifying debate over whether -- and how -- the U.S. government can tackle simultaneously the paradoxically linked problems of hunger and obesity.

Upcoming Events

More information on most of these events is available from the Network's Calendar of Events <http://tinyurl.com/4fr44j>

Network-Funded Project's Quarterly Call, January 8

California Working Families Policy Summit, January 13, Sacramento, CA

North Coast Regional Brand Tour, February 5, Ukiah, CA

10th Annual Food Stamp Forum by CFPA, February 10, Sacto, CA (www.cfpa.net)

Network LIA Fiscal Training, February 18, Carson, CA and February 26, Sacto, CA

Network RFA Conference

Call, February 19 and February 23

Network Annual Conference, March 3-5, Sacto, CA

Network-Funded Project's Quarterly Call, March 12

Network Semi-annual Progress Report Webinar, March 18