



California Association of Nutrition and Activity Providers  
CAN-Act September Update

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**EARS Comments:** CAN-Act submitted comments on USDA's proposed EARS (Evaluation And Reporting System). There are a number of problematic issues with this proposed data collection and "evaluation" system ó among the problems with this "proposed" system is that it doesn't measure impact at all, it asks for data that local contractors don't (and for all practical purposes, can't) collect, and it will likely add another layer of administrative burden to an already administratively intense program . CAN-Act's letter to the USDA on EARS will be posted on the website in the next week ó click on the "Policy" link.

**FSNE Reform:** CAN-Act worked with various stakeholders and the United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association (UFFVA) to insert some FSNE reform language into a federal bill authored by Congressman Pombo (R-Livermore). This bill is early in the entire Farm Bill process and will likely undergo many iterations before/if it is passed. Hang on for now - we'll keep you posted and let you know if any action is needed.

**Nutrition Network TA Contract:** CAN-Act is poised to begin a technical assistance contract with the Network to attempt to streamline some of the administrative processes. Among the activities we will undertake under this contract are to conduct a needs assessment to determine priorities for reducing the administrative workload borne by local contractors and figure out what can be done to address those priorities; convene networking sessions to share "best practices" related to local/state share budget and documentation, evaluation, etc.; develop templates for scope of work objectives and budgets that projects can "drop in" to their contract documents; and assist with some TA sessions around these templates and the annual FAP. I'll be contacting RNN directors to get a list of already scheduled meetings and to get names of people who might be interested in working on setting agendas for the "best practices" sessions. *If you want to help put some structure around these sessions, please feel free to drop me an email to let me know (melody@can-act.net).*

**Action:** Regarding the **needs assessment** mentioned above, it will be very important for folks to complete it once it is released. We are planning a web-based version through "survey monkey" and will also offer a paper version for people who prefer that. We know that you have more than



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enough forms to complete and are over-burdened with administrative functions, but it is important to have actual contractors weigh in with their priorities regarding what needs to be fixed. I am anticipating that we will release the needs assessment by the end of October.

That's all for now. Remember ó if you have concerns or feedback for CAN-Act, email your regional CAN-Act Board member. Let's work together for the improvement and future of FSNE.

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