SHIP Orientation - Nutrition

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CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

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Photos submitted by Valenchia Brown and Lisa Arvin

Nutrition SHIP Workgroup Leaders



Marlene Goodlett, WIC Workgroup Leader



Shelley Carter, SNAP Workgroup Leader



Lisa Arvin, Fruit and Vegetable Program Workgroup Leader

Photos submitted by Marlene Goodlett, Shelley Carter and Lisa Arvin

State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP)

Purpose

Increase consumption of fruits and vegetables through expansion of produce prescription voucher programs, maintaining or increasing enrollment and use of food assistance programs and increasing healthy food access.

Nutrition Priority – Past Activity

- State Health Assessment published August 2023
- SHIP meetings for input
  - With partners: 9/27/23
  - With LHDs: 10/25/23
- Convene five SHIP workgroups: 10/2023
- Workgroups meet virtually to develop goals, objectives and activities workplans October 2023-present

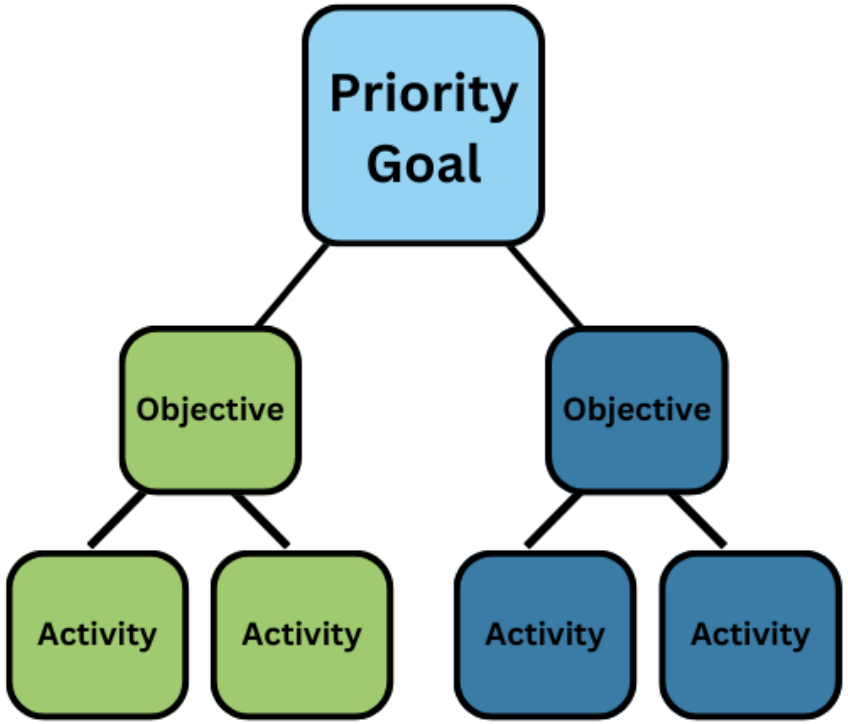


Image source: SHIP presentation by Carissa Adams, 2/2024

State Health Improvement Plan Priorities

Five areas of priority emerged to become the SHIP workgroups:

- Mental Health
- Access to Care
- Smoking, Vaping and Tobacco
- Drug Use
- Nutrition



SHIP Timeline

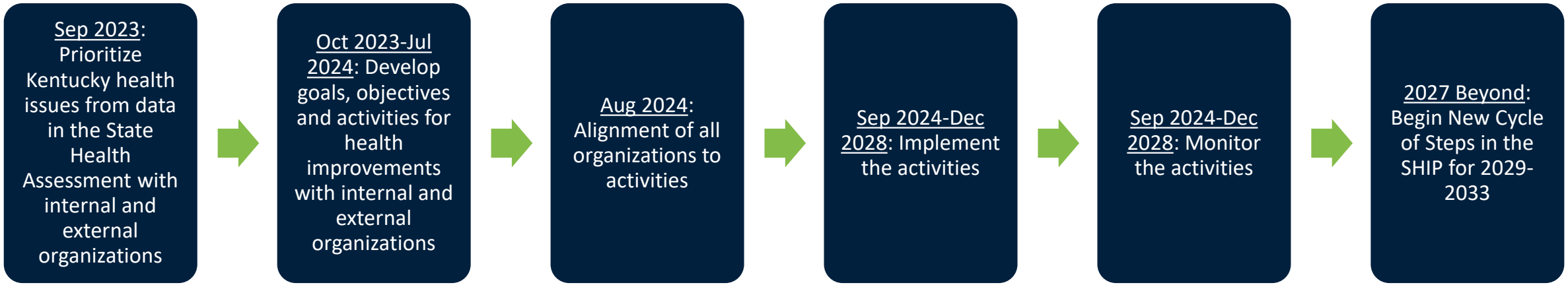


Image source: SHIP presentation by Dr. Connie White, 8/2024

Nutrition Priority – Timeline

2023: Through multiple meetings and much discussion, the group decided highest nutrition priorities

2024: Three main focuses are agreed upon and workgroups are created:

- Fruit and vegetable programs
- Increasing utilization of WIC
- Increasing utilization of SNAP

2025: Due to federal changes within programs we partner with, it was necessary to delay work due to funding cuts and staff loss

2025/2026: Due to various factors, the loss of two co-chairs and two workgroup leaders necessitated taking time to fill these roles

Nutrition Goal 1: Fruit/Vegetable Programs

Progress from 7/1/2025-6/30/2026

Goal 1: Expand fruit and vegetable voucher incentive and produce prescription programs by July 2026

Previous: Landscape analysis completed and Allen County Produce Prescription Program implemented

Current: There are three ways the State Physical Activity & Nutrition (SPAN) Program is creating and expanding programs:

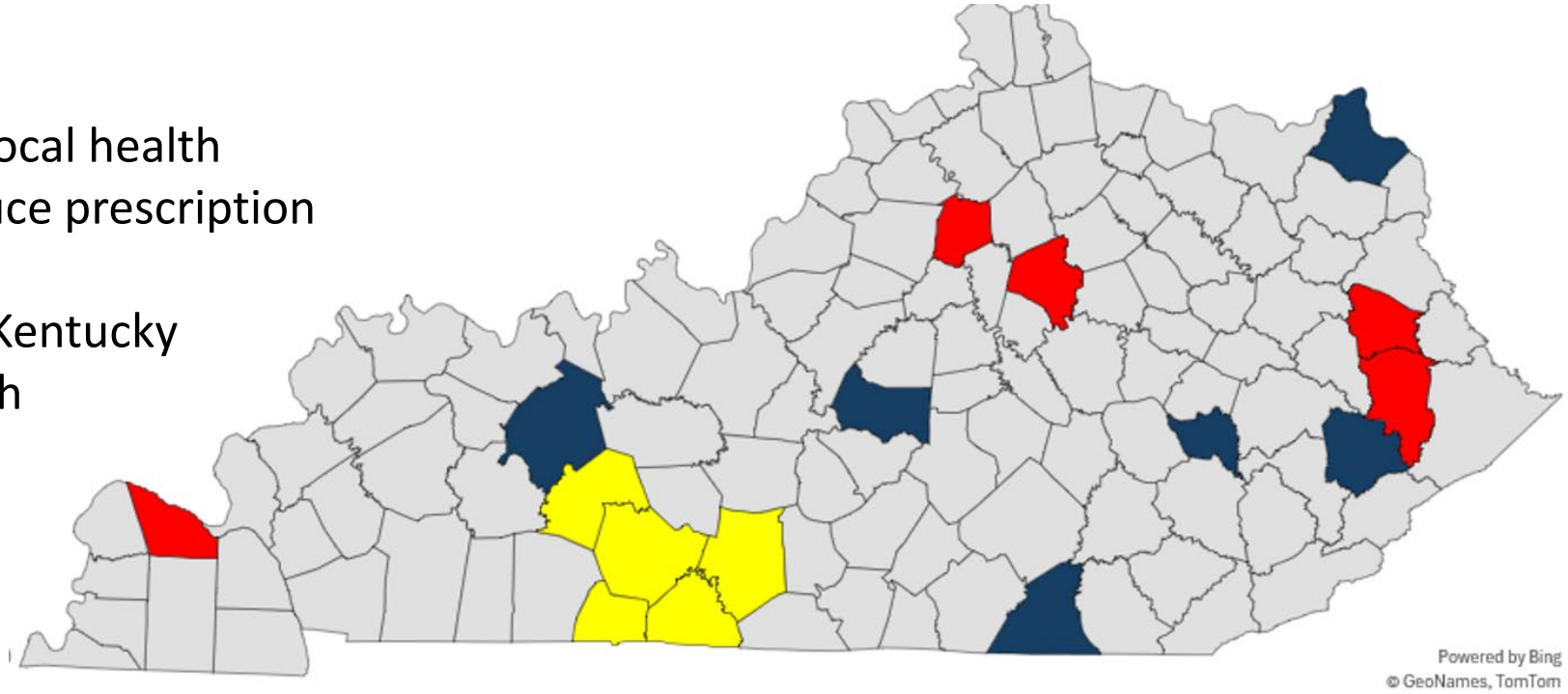
- Partnerships with local health departments and producers for produce prescription
- Partnership with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture funding a tech pilot to increase reach for the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

Next steps: SPAN will fund 8 sub-award projects to create new or expand already existing fruit and vegetable programs (10/1/2026-6/30/2027)

Fruit and Vegetable Program Summary

Map shows the three ways SPAN is supporting fruit and vegetable programs:

- **Red:** Sub-award funding
- **Yellow:** SPAN partnerships with local health departments/producers for produce prescription
- **Dark blue:** partnership with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture for tech pilot to increase reach of the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program



Nutrition Goal 2: SNAP/WIC

Progress from 7/1/2025 – 6/30/2026

Goal 2: Maintain or increase the number of eligible Kentuckians using food assistance programs

Previous: SNAP outreach expansion, cross-Cabinet initiative, referral networks, kynect resource expansion. The WIC Program developed and distributed outreach materials marketed to foster families and grandparents raising grandchildren

Current: Due to the vacancy of the SNAP workgroup leader and federal changes to SNAP, there has not been capacity to work on this goal. The WIC Program promotes WIC services regularly through local health departments

Barriers: Changes to SNAP and additional funding cuts to the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program have posed challenges in achieving this goal

Supplemental **N**utrition
Assistance **P**rogram

Image source: USDA SNAP; Lake Cumberland, KY WIC Program

Nutrition Goal 3: Healthy Food Access

Progress: 7/1/2025 – 6/30/2026

Goal 3: Increase healthy food access through programming in communities

Previous: SPAN partnered with Kentuckiana Health Collaborative (KHC) to host a Food Is Medicine (FIM) Symposium

Current work:

- SPAN and KHC hosted their second annual FIM Symposium in June 2026
- Through the WIC Modernization Program, the WIC food list has been updated to include more culturally relevant foods and more flexibility in food package sizes available to program participants. The program has also updated the WIC Shopper App for participant convenience
- SPAN has worked to implement fruit and vegetable programs increasing healthy food access statewide

Nutrition Goal 4: Increase Awareness

Progress: 7/1/2025 – 6/30/2026

Goal 4: Increase knowledge of fruit and vegetable voucher incentive and produce prescription programs

Current: Allen County and Barren River District Health Departments along with Need More Acres Farm are creating a “best practices” document based on their experience to help others who want to create and implement fruit and vegetable programs

Next steps: Assess what resources are available for promotion of fruit and vegetable programs and create a resource directory with access to available materials to promote fruit and vegetable programs by 2027

Thank you.

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