

February 23, 2012



Dear NLN Participants,

The time is drawing near for our meeting in Marina del Rey; we will see you in about a month. At this point we have some requests to ask of you in preparation for the meeting.

1) Abstracts

We are excited to hear about all that you have accomplished during the past year. In an effort to organize our "sharing session" and maximize information exchange, we would like to ask each of you, as we did last year, to please write a brief abstract so that your NLN colleagues can get a sneak preview of what you have been up to during the past year.

As we did last year, we will compile these abstracts and post them to the Western MCH Nutrition Partners website (<http://www.mchnutritionpartners.ucla.edu>, click on "NLN Annual Meetings," and then click on "NLN Meeting 2012") so that you can review them prior to the meeting. We will be sure we post them in an easy-to-download format should you want to bring a copy with you to the meeting. In an effort to be greener, we will not be providing copies at the meeting.

If you have more than one project that you would like to share, you may submit additional abstracts. However, because our sharing time is limited and we want everyone to have a chance to speak, please select just one project that you would like to focus on for the purposes of our discussion. As you know, the theme of this year's meeting is *"Building Partnerships to Address Food Insecurity in the Western States"*. If any of the projects you are working on involves this topic and you would like to share it, that would be an added bonus. If there is more than one person/project from your state, please prioritize among yourselves about which to present in case time is short.

Once the abstracts are posted we would like to ask you to look them over and think about the types of questions you would like to ask of your fellow NLN members. The deadline for abstract submission is **Friday, March 9th**. Please submit your abstracts to Susie Silah at: uclapartners@ph.ucla.edu in Microsoft Word format (.doc), 1" margins, and 12 pt Times New Roman font. The abstracts from last year can also be viewed at:

<http://www.mchnutritionpartners.ucla.edu/events/nln-sharing-session-abstracts-march-2011>

Please include the following in your abstract:

- 300 words or fewer
- Title
- People involved in project and organization they belong to

The parts of the abstract should include:

- Background/Introduction
- Project Goals
- Methods
- Results
- Summary/Discussion

2) Thursday's Session on Food Insecurity

Attached to this email and posted to our website we provide you with a publication entitled "Hunger in America" by Donald S. Shepard, Elizabeth Setren, and Donna Cooper, published by the Center for American Progress last October. We would like you to use this reading to prepare for the session on Thursday morning. As you will recall, we are asking you to come with information about the situation in your states so that you can respond to the following discussion questions:

1. What types of costs are associated with food insecurity in your state?
2. Are factors that drive these costs currently being addressed?
3. Which aspects are most challenging to address? What are the barriers?

3) Preparation for Friday's Leadership Session "Mindful Leadership"

Our facilitator is finalizing the materials for her session and those will come under separate cover.

You will also find all pertinent meeting information posted at our website:

<http://www.mchnutritionpartners.ucla.edu>, click on "NLN Annual Meetings" and then click on "NLN Meeting 2012". We will also be posting additional information regarding the meeting site, ground transportation, as well as other details along with the final agenda in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,



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