



Montana Team Nutrition

Annual Report: July 1 2020 – June 30 2021

Annual Report for FY2021

The COVID19 pandemic shifted the way that schools served meals all across the country. In Montana, school nutrition professionals rose to the occasion and continued to provide healthy, delicious meals to students despite challenges in staffing, supplies, and school closures. Montana Team Nutrition, with support from the Montana Office of Public Instruction School Nutrition Programs and Montana State University, is proud to have leveraged technology, creativity, and timely trainings to continue to support school nutrition professionals during this time.

MONTANA TEAM NUTRITION OUTREACH OUTCOMES

97

Hours of training offered to school nutrition professionals

259

Number of unique participants reached

86

Number of training opportunities offered

51%

Percent of School Food Authorities in Montana reached

Adapting to the New Normal

As part of the 2019 USDA Team Nutrition Training Grant for Innovative State Training Programs, Montana Team Nutrition virtually offered a two-week Montana Cook Fresh Leadership Institute focused on culinary skills and school nutrition program management. Team Nutrition also conducted all staff trainings on whole grain baking and meal pattern and portion sizes, developed culinary instructional videos on demand and lead five OPI School Nutrition Program (SNP) Webinar Wednesdays and 16 SNP monthly chats. This was in addition to many hours of technical assistance offered directly to schools via phone call or video conferencing on topics such as emergency preparedness, bulk meal planning, school meal quality, school wellness, farm to school, and more.



PHOTO 1: SHARON SCHNACKENBERG AND ELLEN MILLS FROM LIBBY DURING THE 2020 COOK FRESH LEADERSHIP



Learn More

WEB

www.montana.edu/team_nutrition

FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/MontanaTeamNutrition

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The Montana Team Nutrition Program works in close collaboration with the Office of Public Instruction School Nutrition Programs and is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Team Nutrition Training Grant Program. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Montana Team Nutrition also received a No Kid Hungry/Share Our Strength grant that allowed for the distribution of 9 mini-grants of approximately \$1000 each for nine school districts to support equipment purchases for scratch cooking and professional development for staff. Read more about the mini grants [here](#).

Harvesting Montana Recipes Contest

As part of the 2021 USDA Team Nutrition Grant, Montana Team Nutrition hosted a statewide recipe contest, Harvesting Montana Recipes, to collect recipes featuring local and indigenous Montana ingredients. These ingredients included barley, beets, bison, sweet cherries, and lentils. Six winning recipes were selected. Students and school staff are actively engaged in the recipe development and testing through a subgrant program to support nutrition education, student taste-testing, and meal service. Once the winning recipes have been fully standardized, these Montana Recipes will be featured at the state and national level for other schools to serve and enjoy. Read more about this project on our [website](#).



PHOTO 2: A STUDENT FROM BELGRADE SHOWS HER BISON HARVEST OF THE MONTH MATERIALS AFTER A TASTE TEST OF BISON BARLEY SOUP

Montana Farm to School

Montana Team Nutrition and the Office of Public Instruction have collaborated to provide farm to school leadership in Montana since 2008. Farm to school is a growing component of school nutrition and nutrition education programming. Office of Public Instruction sponsors the Montana Farm to School Leadership Team, which is facilitated by the Montana Farm to School Coordinator at Montana Team Nutrition. The team works through partnerships across the state to build farm to school initiatives that help kids eat healthy, connect with agriculture and nutrition through education, support Montana farms and food producers, enhance local economies and strengthen communities. To learn more about Montana Farm to School, check out the [2021-2021 Montana Farm to School Annual Report](#).

Stronger Together

We want thank all of the partners and community members that we worked with this year and especially thank each and every school nutrition professional in Montana for their hard work and dedication over the last year. Montana Team Nutrition is proud to be part of this incredible community.



Pictured from left to right: Robin Vogler from Somers, Anna Blackburn from Belgrade, Tura Gruel and Olinda Jones from Belfry, and Cheryl Gertge from Choteau