



# IMPACT 2019

Through Extension programs across the nation, Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Educators provide a multitude of Educational opportunities to meet the needs of diverse audiences.

## Healthy Homes and the Environment

### Healthy Homes Practices

The **Mississippi Healthy Homes Initiative's** goal is to equip Mississippians with knowledge to keep indoor environments safe and healthy. Educators reached 3,006 children through 73 workshops.

My child came home telling me that we needed to move some hazardous products to safer and higher places.  
– **Mississippi's Healthy Homes** participating parent



Seven *Youth Safety Days* were presented across **Oklahoma** reaching 1,592 students. The most common household chemical exposures in children under age 6 are cosmetics, personal care products, and analgesic drugs. Evaluation data show that 62% of youth know how to properly store chemicals in the home.

By 2040, our community senior population will triple and 90% want to age in their homes. The **New Mexico Aging in Place** program provides the knowledge and tools for seniors to do so. The average knowledge gained concerning *Aging in Place* is 90%.

### Indoor Air Quality and Pollutants

**Alaskans** strive for energy efficiency during long winters. However, tight homes may have less clean air circulation and, rarely, higher concentrations of radioactive gases. Participants in 10 Alaska communities learned about indoor air quality and radon testing. The Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys is working with Extension on a radon database mapping project in Alaska, because elevated levels are seen more frequently than average. Public workshops helped increase radon testing and tracking in Alaska; 429 residents in 5 communities were reached through 22 workshops.

"I realized how unprepared I am, I didn't know all the technology available when you didn't have cell phone service. I need to tell my kids what we should do."  
– **New Mexico's Aging in Place** participant

### Conserving Resources and Money

**Minnesota's RentWise** is a train-the-trainer rental education program offered to assist frontline workers teaching families crucial skills to successfully obtain and sustain safe, affordable housing. The program reached 99 participants representing 37 communities. Participants reacted to the statement, "I feel prepared to teach tenant education," with 80% saying this described them very well and 20%, moderately well.

"I learned strategies to build consciousness within potential renters of the attitudes and behaviors that will make them successful."  
– **Minnesota Rentwise** participant

Raising kids, Eating right, Spending smart



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## Response

**Florida** focused on energy efficiency with 2 programs for homeowners. The *Energy Efficiency in a Backpack* program, which reached 506 homeowners through 42 workshops, teaches ways to evaluate home energy and water usage. The typical usage of 1,000 kWh results in an electric charge of \$108.50. By raising the thermostat 1 degree in the summer, the cost savings is \$8.68 per account. Several participants indicated a reduction in their electric bills due to proper thermostat settings.

“We saved over \$100 on the electricity bill during the summer months by utilizing the thermostat and humidistat recommendations given during the program.”  
– **Florida** participant

*Closing Your Seasonal Home* was offered 4 times, reaching 99 seasonal home owners in Florida. This program is intended for those who leave their homes for an extended period. As indicated on post program surveys, all participants gained knowledge and adopted 1 or more behaviors to improve the health and maintenance of their home.



**Michigan** taught *Pre-purchase Homebuyer Education*, a series of 4 workshops 561 times across 30 communities, reaching 1,466 potential homebuyers. Michigan residents are educated around the advantages of homeownership and the home buying process. Because of the program, 90% of participants have made changes to improve their credit score and 88% are saving money to purchase a home.

“Thank you from the bottom of my heart. This is a foundation to me building or rebuilding my lifelong dream of family home and family business.”  
– **Michigan** participant in *Pre-purchase Homebuyer Education*



## Recycling Programs

During the past 5 years, the Meade County Extension homemaker’s organization in **Kentucky** has been paid by the county recycling center through an educational grant to teach recycling education in the local schools. The focus this past year was recycling and repurposing to impact the environment; 11 workshops were presented to 2,208 students. Participants learned about conflicts between the built and natural aspects of our environment, and activities included reading a book and hands-on creativity with a recycled product. The book outlined a story of conflict between humans and animals as well as a resolution that resulted in a new product from recycled waste, which stimulated economic growth in an underdeveloped area and removed a threat to humans and animals. Their educational efforts have been recognized by the recycling center, with increased materials coming to the center.

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**National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (NEAFCS)** provides professional development for Extension professionals who improve the quality of life for individuals, families, and communities and provide education in the areas of: Childhood Obesity Prevention; Community Health and Wellness; Diabetes Prevention and Management; Financial Management; Food and Nutrition; Food Safety; Healthy Homes and the Environment; Improving Children’s Lives; and Protecting our Resources – Family Life. NEAFCS is an equal opportunity/affirmative action association. NEAFCS values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of race, color, gender, age, religion, national origin, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation. Membership is not by invitation. (Strategic Plan 1993-97)