

Project Update for USDA Grant #433AEM480116
1/1/2005 – 3/31/2005
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The Baltimore Healthy Stores (BHS) program has made many significant accomplishments in the period of 1/1/2005 to 3/31/2005.

In terms of the program evaluation, with the assistance of Dr. Sangita Sharma, we completed development of the BHS food frequency questionnaire (FFQ), one of the primary consumer-level evaluation tools for the study. This included the selection of food models and utensils to be used with the instrument to estimate portion size. Dr. Sharma then trained project data collectors in the administration of the FFQ. Student team members completed food weights for individual food portions for the FFQ, which will be used to calculate total grams consumed of each food, as well as nutrient composition of the diet. In addition, we completed the BHS Consumer Impact Questionnaire (CIQ), and conducted that training for data collectors. Input into the development of this instrument was provided by the USDA/FANRP program. Progress has been made on the development of the Store Impact Questionnaire (SIQ), which will be implemented beginning in late May. Data collection for the baseline evaluation began in April 2005, and to date a total of 26 consumers from East and West Baltimore have been interviewed using the CIQ and FFQ.

During this period we also continued to develop and refine our intervention approach and materials for the BHS program. We had two meetings with the East Baltimore based Environmental Justice group, who provided feedback on our approach. We initiated recruitment of Korean corner stores through KAGRO (to date 11 have been recruited). In addition, we developed cultural guidelines and corner store guidelines for use with small store owners and staff. The development of the intervention components for Korean store owners has been developed primarily by Hee Jung Song, a doctoral student in the Center for Human Nutrition. Our collaboration with Stop Shop and Save leadership and store managers has continued. We are currently scheduled to begin implementation of the BHS program in August 2005.

Additional reports and project materials for the Baltimore Healthy Stores program and other healthy stores projects can be found at the www.healthystores.org website.