

Durham County Department of Public Health

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DINE- Durham's Innovative Nutrition Education Program

Durham Board of County Commissioners
August 4, 2025



What will our community lose?



- DINE helps Durham by providing nutrition education that **meets families where they are**- in schools, clinics, food banks, and beyond
- DINE is more than just education; DINE **builds long-term self-efficacy**
- DINE **adds significant capacity to DPS**
- DINE **addresses food insecurity**



DINE: 25 Years of Community, Connection and Impact

“My students love the DINE programs. They get so excited when they know it is going to be coming to class. Many times, it's the first time my students are trying a food. Several families have reached out that it encouraged their child to try cooking at home using the recipes provided. This program is critical for my title one students to get exposed to nutrition early on in their lives.”

-Teacher, Durham Public Schools



DINE: 25 Years of Community, Connection and Impact



"I've seen firsthand how much the DINE program means to our older adult members... When DINE educators come to our center, they bring more than just nutrition information—they bring practical, relevant tools our members can use... the education is delivered with warmth, patience, + deep cultural respect. Members often tell us they feel more empowered to make healthy choices, + they leave classes with skills that directly impact their well-being."

-Director of Programs, Durham Center for Senior Living (DCSL)



Current State of Funding

- H.R.1 eliminated SNAP-Ed funding effective October 1, 2025
- Loss: \$1M in FY26 funding for DINE Program

Impact

- 13 positions eliminated
 - 12 Registered Dietitians
 - 1 Processing Assistant
- Only 4 county-funded staff will remain to continue essential nutrition education & maintain community partnerships



Unless alternative funding is secured, the DINE program in its current form will not continue after September 30, 2025.



What will our community lose?

- **DINE in Early Childhood Education (ECE)**
 - Nutrition education in **19** preschools
 - Policy, system + environmental changes (PSE)
 - Farm to ECE, gardens, playground improvements
- **DINE in Community**
 - Programming at **19** community sites
 - Technical support + promotion for Triangle Double Bucks
 - \$277,370 in locally grown/produced food to residents
- **DINE in Elementary & Middle Schools**
 - Most of the nutrition education programming, which meets NC Healthful Living Standards, in **26** Schools
 - Policy, system and environmental changes (PSE)
 - School food pantries, gardens, playground improvements, Youth Food Policy Councils, menu improvements



Nutrition Education Programming includes:

- Cooking classes
- Exposure to new foods
- Gardening
- Making balanced meals
- Food safety
- Grocery shopping on a budget
- Reading nutrition labels
- Recipes





The Future of DINE



DINE hopes to continue programming + partnerships

- Four county-funded positions
 - Less than 25% of current team's reach
- DCoDPH funding
 - Internal budget reallocation: ~\$200,000
 - Expected lapsed salary within Nutrition Division: ~\$29,384
- Requesting County funding
 - Requesting DCo funding - at least through FY26
- Outside funding
 - Seeking grants and/or partnerships





Thank you for your support of the DINE Team



Durham County Department of Public Health

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Thank You!



@durhamhealthnc

Live. Grow. *Thrive.*

Proposed Programming Reach

100% Funded (11.97 FTE)	55% Funded (saving 6.48 FTE)	40% Funded (saving 4.48 FTE)
17 Elementary Schools	13	10
7 Middle Schools	4	✗
14 Preschools	✓	✓
Adult Nutrition Education	40% of current	40% of current
Durham Double Bucks support	✓	✓
Durham Food Resource Map	✓	✓
12 interns/year - NCCU, UNC, Meredith	6 interns	4 interns
	\$385,020	\$199,813



DINE Reimagined at 55%

- Retain seven Registered Dietitian positions (6.48 FTE)
- Salary/Fringe = \$552,620
- Operational budget = \$32,400
- Total FY26 Cost: **\$585,020**
 - DCoDPH budget reallocation: \$200,000
 - County budget request: **\$385,020**



DINE Reimagined at 40%



- Retain five Registered Dietitian positions (4.48 FTE)
- Salary/Fringe = \$377,413
- Operational budget = \$22,400
- Total FY26 Cost: **\$399,813**
 - DCoDPH budget reallocation: \$200,000
 - County budget request: **\$199,813**

