The objective of this project is to develop a physical activity fotonovela in English and Spanish for use in EFNEP and SNAP-Ed adult classes.

**BACKGROUND**

New Mexico State University Cooperative Extension Service conducts the Ideas for Cooking and Nutrition Program (ICAN) with adults and youth in 18 of the state’s 33 counties. ICAN is the umbrella program for SNAP-Ed and EFNEP.

Both programs employ paraprofessionals who teach the Eating Smart • Being Active adult curriculum (ESBA) to limited-resource adults. EFNEP participants graduate after 8 sessions, while SNAP-Ed participants must attend 4 sessions to graduate.

This project addresses two needs expressed by ICAN paraprofessionals:

- Many are not comfortable teaching physical activity.
- Lesson one for SNAP-Ed is very short because a recall is not administered.

**METHODS**

The genre:

Fotonovelas employ photographs and short dialogue in comic book format to tell engaging stories. They have been utilized around the world since the 1970’s as vehicles for health promotion. Fotonovelas originated in postwar Italy to publicize films. Since the 1950’s, they have been popular in Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking countries in the Americas.

The project team:

- Specialist in nonformal nutrition education
- Professional photographer
- Graphic designer
- Former and current ICAN paraprofessionals

The process:

- Brainstorming of storylines
- Composition of the story
- Translation into Spanish
- Storyboarding
- Photo shoots
- Graphic design and layout
- Piloting in ICAN classes
- Development of training materials (in process)

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

This project was funded in part by SNAP-Ed and EFNEP.

**OBJECTIVE**

The objective of this project is to develop a physical activity fotonovela in English and Spanish for use in EFNEP and SNAP-Ed adult classes.

**DISCUSSION**

Creating an interesting yet respectful storyline that interests a variety of limited-resource audiences is challenging, but critically important. Employing an iterative development process that gathers and incorporates feedback from paraprofessionals and participants at each step has been very beneficial.

For example, the frame showing a man on the last page will be removed from the final version. Some paraprofessionals in urban areas felt the photo depicted a stereotypical Hispanic male, and said it would not be appropriate for use with women who have experienced domestic violence.

**NEXT STEPS**

Once the training materials have been completed, NMSU will train ICAN paraprofessionals how to incorporate the fotonovela into the first lesson of the Eating Smart • Being Active adult curriculum.

Then, a study will be conducted to investigate whether the fotonovela is effective in changing two things:

- Paraprofessional attitudes toward teaching physical activity.
- Participants’ physical activity behaviors.