Healthy Workplace Initiatives Program

Healthy Eating Program

Total Funding Awarded: as per your award notification email
Your Role
By implementing healthy eating programs, you are demonstrating a commitment to wellbeing in your workplace. You are taking an active role in creating healthy and sustainable communities at UBC.

The Benefits of Healthy Eating Practices

- Healthy food consumption including diets rich in fruits, vegetables and fish, are beneficial to brain health. ¹
- The consumption of fruits and vegetables has been linked to overall increases in wellbeing and mental health ²
- Using workplace initiatives to influence eating behaviours can help with chronic disease prevention. ³

Approved Uses of HWIP Health Challenge Funding

- Prizes, incentives or trophies (to not exceed $500)
- Food, catering, cooking classes (not to exceed $500)
- Promotional material (to not exceed $100)
- Room rental fees
- Guest instructor or facilitator fees
- Educational workshop costs
- Kick off/wrap up event
  - Maximum expense/person permitted for hospitality & entertainment: Daytime (up to 6:00pm) $40/person; Evening $80/person

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Non-approved uses of this funding

- Operational expenses
  - The hiring of faculty/staff as instructors, to coordinate or support the program
  - Items that fall within the responsibility of the department to provide
  - Renovations, furniture, kitchen appliances or special equipment purchases
- Charitable donations in either an employee’s name or the department’s name
- The purchase of:
  - Gift cards or certificates of any denomination (these are considered taxable benefits by the CRA and are not permitted under UBC’s purchasing guidelines for gifts/prizes)

Implementation Instructions

- Survey potential participants to determine preferences for activities to maximize participation
- Possible activities:
  - Educational sessions
  - Food preparation and cooking skill classes (e.g. UBC’s Vij’s Kitchen)
  - Farm or garden visits
  - Food accessibility activities
  - Community meals or potluck events (encourage those with connections to traditional foods or food traditions to share them/stories behind them)
  - Grocery store tours
  - Salad/food clubs
  - Get creative! Start a recipe club, develop healthy catering guidelines for your unit etc.
- Options for implementation:
  - Consider how your activities can be embedded into your workplace
  - Think beyond one-off activities and events
  - Implement evidence-based ideas and resources to create environments that support healthy eating (i.e. avoid promoting fad diets/dieting in general)
- Prizing and Awards:
  - Provide awards and incentives for participation and compliance, in addition to performance
Consider including spirit awards, awards for sticking with a challenge or taking part in a leadership role etc.

Resources to Support Implementation

- Healthy Activity Ideas
- Healthy Eating at Work
- Save on Foods Nutrition Tours

Vancouver

- UBC Botanical Gardens - Team Building Opportunities
- UBC Farm Tours
- UBC Farm Events
- Vij's Kitchen: Faculty of Land and Food Systems (UBCV)
- UBC Food Services Nutrition Blog
- Ronald McDonald House Family Meals Program