



IMPACT 2025

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

Promoting healthier living spaces and environmental sustainability remains a priority across multiple states. Over the past year, **eight states** have delivered **109 educational programs**, reaching **7,079 participants in person** and **940 virtually**. These efforts have led to significant improvements in home maintenance, environmental awareness, and healthier living practices.

One major success has been empowering individuals to create safer home environments by reducing harmful chemicals and improving organization. A participant shared,



After attending the make-your-own cleaning supplies session, I now use homemade cleaners to avoid allergy triggers.



The program also fosters community learning, with another attendee stating,



Gathering in person and working as a group was invaluable. The training and resources were incredibly useful in my field.



The combination of **in-person and virtual sessions** has expanded accessibility, ensuring diverse communities benefit from these initiatives.

State-Specific Impact

North Dakota & South Dakota

These states have prioritized home modification resources for those struggling with disabilities, leveraging the program to enhance existing resources, engage stakeholders, and promote home safety, organization, and accessibility improvements.

Mississippi – Healthy Homes Initiative

Mississippi faces significant housing challenges affecting residents' health and safety. Mississippi State University (MSU) Extension's Healthy Homes Initiative (HHI) has addressed these issues through eight lessons, educating 584 participants on home maintenance, hazard reduction, and sustainability. Participants reported substantial knowledge gains, leading to improved indoor environments. A participant shared,



After participating in the make your own cleaning supplies, I have started making my own at home and I use them when cleaning to avoid setting off my allergies.



Georgia – Rightsizing Program

The **Georgia Rightsizing Program** focuses on helping individuals, particularly older adults, manage sentimental clutter and create safer, healthier home environments. With **seven sessions reaching 130 in-person and 200 virtual participants**, the program addresses common barriers such as time management and decision-making while emphasizing benefits like reduced stress, increased safety, and overall peace of mind. Participants have expressed appreciation for the practical resources provided.



Thank you for the helpful resources that I can use to help my mother get rid of stuff in her house.



It's good to know that I am a cluttery person and not a hoarder.



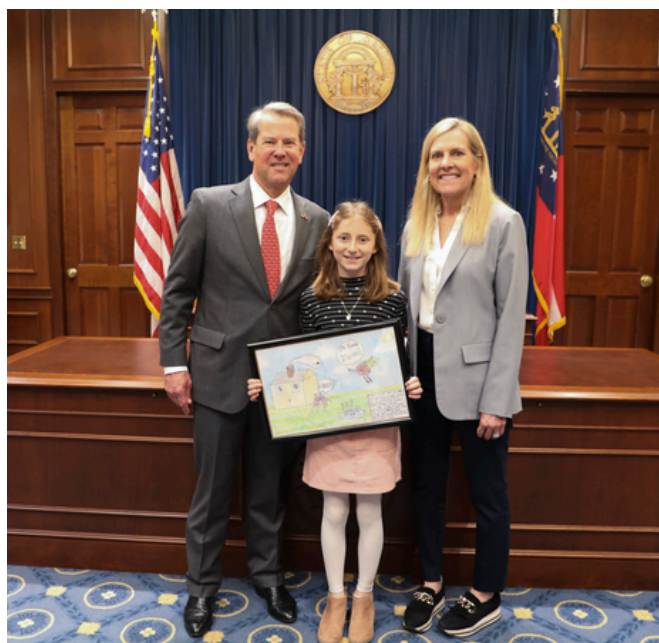
This highlighted the program's impact on self-awareness and proactive home organization. Through education and

guidance, the program equips individuals with strategies to declutter effectively and maintain a healthier living space.

Georgia – Radon Education Program

Radon, the leading cause of lung cancer for non-smokers, is a major health risk in Georgia. The **Georgia Radon Education Program** provided **30 sessions**, reaching **600 in-person and 740 virtual participants**, with support from four community partners. A key component involved distributing **1,760 radon air test kits**, with a **65% usage rate**, and lending **250 radon monitors** through local libraries, reinforcing the importance of continuous monitoring.

Participants successfully conducted radon testing, identified hazards, and implemented mitigation strategies. Increased awareness led to proactive testing and prevention efforts, reducing radon exposure risks in communities. Engagement with local organizations helped expand the program's reach, ensuring more residents have access to testing kits and educational materials.



GA 2024 Radon Poster Contest Winner

Program Impact & Future Growth

The success of these initiatives is reflected in overwhelmingly positive feedback. Participants gained practical tools to improve home safety, sustainability, and organization. Many reported increased awareness of hazards, better home maintenance practices, and the ability to help family members create healthier environments.

Moving forward, program facilitators aim to **expand outreach, refine educational materials, and enhance digital learning resources**. Additional efforts will focus on integrating technology into educational programming, such as offering virtual home assessments and interactive webinars. By fostering **safer, more sustainable homes**, these initiatives will continue improving public health, environmental responsibility, and overall quality of life for individuals and families nationwide.

This report was compiled by Megan Gullett, University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension, Public Affairs Committee members, Dylan Gentry, University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension and Christine Zellers, NEAFCS Vice President Public Affairs. For more information, email zellers@njaes.rutgers.edu.

Raising kids, Eating right, Spending smart



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