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2018 RIDGE Conference on Economics and Federal Nutrition Assistance Programs

Boston/Hartford, Conn. – The 2018 RIDGE Conference, October 11, in Washington, DC will feature new economic research aimed at enhancing food security and dietary quality for low-income Americans.

The Research Innovation and Development Grants in Economics (RIDGE) program supports university-based studies relevant to the 15 domestic food and nutrition assistance programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The program is a collaboration between USDA, the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University, and the Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity at the University of Connecticut.

The October conference offers presentations by both new and established investigators who were [2017 RIDGE grantees](#), on topics ranging from the role of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for disabled persons to the impact of universal free school meals on childhood obesity. Other research papers describe nutrition assistance program participation, food insecurity among vulnerable populations, and community influence on food assistance and dietary choices. All sessions, participants, and presentation topics are available in the [preliminary agenda](#).

“This conference is a great way for practitioners and program leaders to learn about new research in an accessible setting, with opportunity for discussion with the investigators,” says Parke Wilde, professor at Tufts and RIDGE director. “It also gives new researchers a chance to hear about policy priorities of USDA staff and other DC policy audiences,” adds Tatiana Andreyeva, associate director and associate professor at the University of Connecticut.

The request for proposals (RFP) for a new 2019 round of RIDGE grants is scheduled for release in late November 2018, on the [RIDGE website](#).

The RIDGE Conference will be held on October 11, 2018 at the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU) in Washington, DC. The conference will provide a forum for 2017 RIDGE grantees and attendees to discuss grant results. Conference attendance is free, but advanced registration is required. For more details and conference registration, please visit the [USDA ERS webpage](#).

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