

**USDA Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
Tribal Leaders Consultation Work Group (TLCWG) on FDPIR**

Date: Monday, April 7, 2025

Time: 9:00 a.m. Pacific Time – 4:00 p.m. Local Time

**Location: Chandler, Arizona
In-Person and Virtual Meeting**

- I. Opening Prayer**
- II. Welcome and Opening Remarks**
 - **Governor James Mountain:** San Ildefonso Pueblo, Tribal Leaders Consultation Work Group Acting Co-Chair
 - **Vice Chair ReNa Lohnes:** Spirit Lake Tribe, Tribal Leaders Consultation Work Group Acting Co-Chair
 - **John Walk:** Acting Deputy Under Secretary, USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS)
- III. Introductions—Welcome and Recognize Tribal Leaders and USDA Leadership**
 - TLCWG Acting Co-Chairs
 - Acting Deputy Under Secretary John Walk
- IV. Previous Business & Agenda-Setting**
 - Acceptance of [December 2024 Consultation Minutes](#)
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Presentation of the History of the TLCWG on FDPIR
- V. Presidential Administration & New USDA Leadership**
 - USDA provided an overview of USDA leadership and the administration's priorities.
 - Tribal leaders discussed levels of SNAP funding and its impact on FDPIR funding and participation. Reductions in SNAP may lead to higher participation levels in FDPIR, impacting staffing and budgets.
 - Tribal leaders requested continued in-person consultations with USDA.
 - Tribal leaders requested information for new tribal government offices combining the USDA authorities with the 105(l)-lease program. USDA will follow up separately on this request. Tribal leaders requested that FDPIR serve urban Tribal members living in larger cities. FNS advised they speak with their Regional Office to proceed with this request as it relates to FDPIR, however, the definition of rural is set by Congress.
 - Tribal leaders discussed the rescission of Executive Order (EO) 14112 and revoking the E.O. without consultation. Tribal leaders requested assurances again that consultation will continue.

- Tribal leaders expressed concern about matching fund requirements in federal financial assistance programs. USDA shared there is a waiver for the administrative match for FDPIR, but if there are other specific instances where the Department has established matching requirements that aren't mandated by Congress, USDA welcomes input.

VI. SNAP and FDPIR Related Studies

- USDA confirmed two contracted studies were cancelled: FDPIR Characteristics and Program Operations Study and Developing Models for Tribal Administration of SNAP Study. USDA will work on the studies in-house and work closely with Tribal Nations.
- Tribal leaders recommended the new administration review the proposal for the FDPIR Self-Determination Demonstration evaluation that was terminated. Tribal leaders noted the proposal was made thoughtfully to evaluate the FDPIR self-determination projects.

VII. Warehouse Response

- USDA confirmed the Paris Brothers Warehouse recently experienced an information security incident. USDA is receiving updates as the situation changes and will continue to monitor it.
 - USDA committed to clear communication about the situation with Tribal leaders.
- USDA will continue to have inspectors from USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) on site at the warehouse and is assessing capacity across the three contracted warehouses to ensure timely, accurate and high-quality deliveries.
- USDA's solicitation for warehouse proposals recently closed, and USDA is currently reviewing the proposals. USDA intends to award contracts for warehousing services later this year.
 - USDA built in a six-month, performance-based transition period for the new contracts.
- USDA requested that program operators notify Regional Offices if there are delivery issues with the warehouse contractors.
- USDA confirmed that FDPIR received funding through the most recent continuing resolution, and any additional funding needs should be addressed with Regional Offices.
- Tribal leaders appreciated the transparency and communication on warehouse challenges and requested for communication to continue.

VIII. Status of FDPIR Management Evaluation Reviews

- USDA shared that management evaluations (MEs) have resumed. Nine FDPIR programs will have management evaluations this year, but FDPIR MEs will not assess findings related to certain inventory and warehousing evaluation sections impacted by the supply chain disruption from last year.

IX. FDPIR Self-Determination Demonstration Project

- Tribal leaders expressed support for expansion and permanence for the FDPIR Self-Determination Demonstration Project.
- USDA agreed to provide a list of the Self-Determination Demonstration Project Tribes (particularly those purchasing beef) to Navajo Nation.
- USDA shared that the Self-Determination Demonstration Project contracts for the Round 1 Tribes were extended through June 2026, and Round 2 Tribes will be meeting with USDA soon to hear about their budgets. All Tribes will meet with USDA on April 15, 2025, to discuss budgeting shortfalls.
- Tribal leaders expressed support for Congress making the demonstration project permanent. Tribes have seen the success of self-governance in health care and see the potential in food programs like FDPIR.

X. Food Package Updates

- USDA provided an update on the Nutrition Symposium and will follow-up with the FDPIR community.
- Tribal leaders provided an update on a cooperative agreement between FNS and the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative (IFAI) to develop and deliver produce safety training. IFAI will host a training pilot on April 21st at Cherokee Nation.
- Tribal leaders requested adding Tribally sourced wild salmon to the food package. USDA explained that the FDPIR Food Package Review Work Group reviews additions and changes to the food package.
- Tribal leaders emphasized the importance of food sovereignty and food grown by Native producers.

XI. Integrated Food Management System (IFMS) and Alternative Computer Systems

- USDA provided an update on recent changes to IFMS. Tribal leaders asked for a follow-up on how much USDA spends on IFMS.

XII. State SNAP-Ed Consultations

- USDA provided a summary of consultation activities identified in FY 2025 SNAP-Ed State plans. USDA shared actions being taken in response to the information reported to ensure compliance with requirements.

XIII. Supporting Increased State SNAP Agency Coordination with ITOs

- USDA provided updates that a memo to SNAP and FDPIR administrators, clarifying dual participation and comparable disqualification requirements and encouraging coordination to comply with requirements, is forthcoming.

XIV. Other Business

- Tribal leaders invited Acting Deputy Under Secretary Walk and Secretary of Agriculture Rollins to visit FDPIR warehouse sites.

XV. Schedule Next Consultation

- Tribal leaders will send a follow-up signed letter to USDA with options for the next consultation date and location.

XVI. Closing Remarks and Prayer