



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

September 22, 2025

Dear Tribal Leader:

On behalf of Secretary Brooke Rollins, you are cordially invited by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to participate in a Tribal consultation to receive information and provide feedback on one policy and three proposed rules for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), administered at the Federal level by the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). **This consultation will be held October 22, 2025, 1:00pm-3:00pm EDT.** The consultation will be held virtually. Patrick Penn, Deputy Under Secretary of Agriculture for the Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS), will be the USDA consulting official.

Registration: All participants must register. Please use the registration link below to kindly register by October 21, 2025.

Registration Link: https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/IDNkWkVeRyW-i_dVfod9gQ

Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025

Time: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM (EDT)

Agenda: Updated information, including a final agenda, handouts, and proxy letter information will be posted on USDA's Office of Tribal Relations (OTR) website as it becomes available. Please visit: <https://www.usda.gov/tribalrelations/tribal-consultations>.

Proxies: In the event you cannot attend and wish to send a proxy, please copy the attached proxy designation form to Tribal letterhead, complete, and email to SM.FN.SNAPRules@usda.gov by October 21, 2025. This will authorize your designee, in writing, to attend in your place during the estimated time of your absence. The delegation cannot be in perpetuity. You are also encouraged to bring program leadership and staff from your Nation to the Tribal consultation as observers.

Written Comments: USDA encourages Tribal leaders to submit written consultation remarks by email no later than November 22, 2025, to SM.FN.SNAPRules@usda.gov.

Background. The following policies in need of consultation are:

1. *SNAP Tribal Work Exception Authorized in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025:* The One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025 (OBBA) changes which individuals are subject to the able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD) time limit. The changes include adding new exceptions for individuals who are an "Indian," "Urban Indian," or "California Indian," as defined by the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) and used by the Indian Health Service. These individuals no longer need to meet the ABAWD work requirements to receive benefits for more than three months in a 36-month period.

The OBBB also increases the age of those required to meet the time limit to 64, limits the exception for adults responsible for a dependent child to those with children under 14, and removes the three exceptions for individuals experiencing homelessness, veterans, and individuals aging out of foster care.

2. *Proposed Rule: Updated Staple Food Stocking Standards for Retailers in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program:* The proposed rule would change what foods a retail food store must stock to be authorized to accept SNAP benefits. The proposed rule seeks to make stocking standards easier to understand for retailers and streamline review of inventory for FNS. The rule will also allow FNS to require retailers to comply with 7 CFR 278.1(b)(1)(ii), which will increase the number of varieties needed for authorization from three in each staple foods category to seven and require a perishable variety in three of the four staple foods categories instead of two. The rule proposes redefining some foods that are currently counted as staple foods as accessory foods, which do not count toward authorization. It proposes to move several plant-based protein sources from the vegetables and fruits staple foods category to the protein staple foods category, separate several varieties of staple foods in the dairy and protein staple foods categories, and group together some foods that are currently separated.
3. *Interim Final Rule: SNAP Changes to Federal-State Administrative Cost-Sharing:* Currently, State governments and Federal government share the States' costs for administering SNAP 50/50. In accordance with provisions in OBBB, starting in Fiscal Year 2027, SNAP State administering agencies will pay 75 percent of their administrative costs for operating the program, and the Federal government will pay 25 percent. USDA is drafting an interim final rule to codify these statutory changes in SNAP regulations.
4. *Proposed Rule: SNAP Changes to Federal-State Benefit Cost Sharing:* Section 10105 of the OBBB amends Section 4(a) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act) to establish a SNAP quality control incentive that consists of State matching funds requirements for the cost of SNAP benefit allotments. These requirements generally begin in Fiscal Year 2028. USDA is drafting a proposed rule to codify these statutory changes in SNAP regulations.

USDA seeks feedback specifically on how these policies may affect Tribal populations. Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to engaging in Nation-to-Nation dialogue with you.

Sincerely,



Patrick A. Penn
Deputy Under Secretary
Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Attachments (1):
Consultation Proxy Designation Form / Letter Template