



USDA FNS Tribal Consultation on SNAP Policies
October 22, 2025, 1:00 PM EDT to 3:00 PM EDT
Virtual Meeting
Consultation Report Out

- I. Welcome – Patrick Penn, Deputy Under Secretary (Consulting Official), USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS)
- II. Opening Prayer
- III. Opening Remarks and Introductions
 - i. Patrick Penn, Deputy Under Secretary, FNCS
 - ii. Tribal Leaders and Proxies
- IV. SNAP Tribal Work Exception Authorized in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025
 - USDA provided an overview of the Tribal work exception policy introduced in Section 10102 of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025.
 - Tribal Leaders indicated a desire to self-certify Tribal unemployment data when States submit waivers of the time limit. Tribal Leaders indicated there can be discrepancies between the unemployment data reported by the Bureau of Labor and Statistics and the data maintained by the Tribes themselves. USDA responded that future rulemaking would formalize the types of data to be considered for waivers of the time limit, and USDA will consider comments submitted during this consultation and written comments submitted during the proposed rule public comment period.
 - Tribal Leaders discussed the need for proactive guidance on this new exception to ensure State agencies and Tribal populations are educated on the changes. Outreach funding for providing culturally appropriate information to Tribal members was requested.
 - Tribal Leaders expressed concern that the One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025 removes exceptions for older adults, veterans, and those aging out of foster care from meeting work requirements, which may lead to the ineligibility of some Tribal members currently participating in SNAP.
 - Tribal Leaders expressed continued interest in Tribal administration of SNAP and voiced their support of SNAP being added to the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to allow Tribes to self-administer the program.
- V. Proposed Rule: Updated Staple Food Stocking Standards for Retailers in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
 - USDA provided an overview of the proposed rule, “Updated Staple Food Stocking Standards for Retailers in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program,” which



published in the Federal Register on September 25, 2025. The public comment period for this rule ends on November 24, 2025.

- Tribal Leaders discussed the shutdown of the Federal government and expressed concern that November SNAP benefits may not be disbursed. Tribal Leaders discussed the potential impacts of the benefits not being disbursed, which included the need for SNAP participants to apply for FDPIR and the increased pressure on other resources, such as food banks.
- Tribal Leaders discussed the increase in food prices and the resulting strain on Tribal members.

VI. Proposed Rule: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Administrative Cost Sharing

- USDA provided an overview of the proposed rule on SNAP administrative cost sharing. This rule proposes to codify changes in administrative cost sharing required by Section 10106 of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025.
- Tribal Leaders discussed the success of local food purchasing agreement grants and expressed a desire to see these continue.
- Tribal Leaders discussed a concern that the reduction in the Federal share of SNAP administrative funding will result in a deficit in State funding. Tribal Leaders are concerned that States will in turn reduce SNAP benefits, which would negatively impact Tribal communities.

VII. Proposed Rule: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Matching Funds Requirements

- USDA provided an overview of the proposed rule on SNAP matching funds. This rule proposes to codify the changes in SNAP matching funds required by Section 10105 of the One Big Beautiful Bill act of 2025.
- Tribal Leaders discussed the concern that many States with large Native populations have error rates above the 6% threshold. Tribes are concerned that if a State is unable to reduce its error rate below the threshold, the requirement to pay a portion of SNAP benefits may result in States reducing benefits and State administrative functions which would negatively impact Tribal communities.

VIII. Next Steps – Patrick Penn, Deputy Under Secretary, FNCS

- USDA committed to ongoing consultation with Tribes.
- USDA committed to considering the feedback received during this consultation as future policy changes are evaluated.

IX. Closing Prayer

