



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)
TRIBAL CONSULTATION ON FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM ON INDIAN
RESERVATIONS
JUNE 23, 2026

Hybrid: Virtual and In-Person Consultation

AGENDA & FRAMING PAPER

Time and Place.

Tuesday, June 23, 2026
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Local Time (Eastern)
NAFDPIR Conference
Sheraton Niagara Falls
Niagara Falls, NY 14303

Please register using the link **HERE:** [INSERT](#). Select virtual (Zoom) or in-person attendance.

Consulting Officials.

USDA: Willie Taylor, Associate Administrator, Food and Nutrition Administration, FNA (USDA)
Tribal Leaders: Council Representative ReNa Lohnes, Spirit Lake Tribe; Governor James Mountain, Tribal Leaders Consultation Work Group (TLCWG)

Prior FDPIR Consultations.

[Tribal Consultations | USDA](#)

Agenda.

- I. Program Administration and Policy Updates Impacting FDPIR Operations
- II. Food Package Availability, Procurement Challenges, and Vendor Stability
- III. Funding Levels, Administrative Cost Considerations, and Program Sustainability
- IV. Integration of Local and Indigenous Food Systems, including Support for Tribal Producers
- V. Technology Systems, Reporting Requirements, and Operational Efficiencies
- VI. Restructuring Changes that may Impact FDPIR Delivery
- VII. Veterans' Disability Payment Exclusion

Background.

The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, or [FDPIR](#), provides food to nearly 69,000 income-eligible participants on tribal reservations and Native American households in approved areas near reservations. FDPIR provides American-grown and produced foods and nutrition education to help reduce food insecurity and support nutritious diets.

FDPIR is administered by 107 Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) and three State agencies serving approximately 280 federally recognized tribes nationwide. The monthly FDPIR food package provides an important source of nutrition and supports healthy choices and healthy families. Participants receiving the food package may have limited alternatives due to their remote location and/or mobility challenges. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is available as an alternative to FDPIR participants, who may elect to opt in or out of each program on a monthly basis. While SNAP may be a viable alternative for some FDPIR participants, access to a SNAP vendor remains challenging for extremely rural and remote participants, especially those without reliable access to a working vehicle. The emergency feeding network is also available to FDPIR participants.

Topics for Consultation.

I. Program Administration and Policy Updates Impacting FDPIR Operations

FDPIR Participation Levels

- USDA proactively monitors program participation, USDA Foods inventories, and ordering trends to ensure full food packages are provided to participants.
- In FY 2025, FDPIR served approximately 58,404 participants on an average monthly basis, a 9.2 percent increase from FY 2024 (approximately 53,509 individuals per month).
- As of January 2026, FDPIR continues to see increases in participation and is serving an average of 68,577 individuals on an average monthly basis, representing a 17% increase from FY 2025.
- NAFDPIR requested a discussion on program participation increases citing recent policy changes in SNAP Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) requirements set forth by the One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025 (P.L. 119-21).
- The Department welcomes Tribal Leaders' and program community discussion on the impact of SNAP requirements changes on FDPIR participation.
- USDA continues to encourage FDPIR program operators to monitor participation and program needs and order USDA Foods at a level that maintains one to three months inventory on-hand to ensure complete food packages can be distributed to all participating households.

FDPIR Participation Levels*

Region	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Northeast Region	215	256	343
Southeast Region	1,692	1,727	1,938
Midwest Region	3,915	4,208	4,813
Southwest Region	24,791	27,517	33,514
Mountain Plains	16,224	17,572	20,010
Western Region	6,672	7,125	7,960
U.S. Summary	53,509	58,404	68,577

*Official data as of January 2026. U.S. Summary totals are rounded estimates and may not equal the sum of each column.

National Warehouse Updates

- In September of last year, the Food and Nutrition Administration (formerly Food and Nutrition Service, or FNS) concluded contracting efforts and awarded two new contracts for warehousing services to FDPIR and CSFP. These multiple contract awards were part of USDA’s strategy to build a food delivery system with redundancy, as we took lessons learned from the prior supply chain disruption.
 - The contract for USDA’s service zone 01 is held by Americold Logistics, servicing sites in the eastern and central United States from a warehouse location in Syracuse, New York.
 - The contract for USDA’s zone 02 is held by McLane Group International, serving sites in the central and western United States from a warehouse location in Henderson, Colorado.
- Following the award of these contracts, FNA executed a phased transition of services. This effort involved stocking the new warehouse locations with the appropriate quantity and variety of USDA Foods; establishing the schedule of deliveries; and working with the warehouse contractors to begin service to FDPIR under the new contracts.
- For zone 01, deliveries to FDPIR from the Americold-Syracuse warehouse began in February of this year and we completed the transition of all sites in April.
- For zone 02, deliveries to FDPIR from the McLane-Henderson warehouse began in March of this year and as of early May, all FDPIR sites located in zone 02 are being serviced by this new warehouse vendor.
- In the final phase of the national warehouse transition, FNA will be focused on the management of the USDA Foods inventory that remains at the former warehouse locations. This effort is intended to ensure the continued availability of the wide variety of products we offer in FDPIR, and that are distributed to FDPIR participants through monthly food packages.

II. Food Package Availability, Procurement Challenges, and Vendor Stability

USDA remains committed to offering nutritious and domestic USDA Foods to provide through the monthly food packages and to ensuring – to the maximum extent possible – regular availability of these products. Currently, USDA is unable to purchase walleye and canned tuna due to limits on suppliers. USDA is committed to continuing to monitor changes in availability of these products and to exploring possible alternatives that are also operationally feasible.

Walleye

- FNA notified FDPIR program operators in January 2026, that USDA is no longer able to procure frozen walleye fillets due to lack of vendors able to consistently meet USDA Foods requirements.
- During the February 2026 FDPIR Food Package Review Workgroup Meeting in DC, the Workgroup expressed interest in replacing walleye in the food package.
- FNA confirmed walleye may still be procured through 638 Self-Determination Project contracts.
- FNA is committed to exploring other fish options and encourages the Workgroup to identify alternatives to walleye that may be of interest to the FDPIR community and available in the commercial market.

Canned Tuna

- FNA notified FDPIR program operators in April 2026 of the current inability to purchase canned tuna, due to having no suppliers of domestic tuna that meet necessary standards for quality and safety.
- The notification reassured program operators USDA's commitment to offering nutritious, high-quality, safe USDA Foods and that we would be unable to purchase additional canned tuna due to limits on suppliers of domestic tuna that meet necessary standards for quality and safety.
- FNA acknowledges the disruption this may cause; a variety of other protein food options remain available in FDPIR, including traditional foods such as salmon and catfish.
- During the FDPIR Food Package Review Workgroup Meeting on April 22, FNA encouraged the Workgroup to connect with FDPIR program operators and participants to identify other potential fish options that could potentially replace the canned tuna USDA is no longer able to purchase.
- FNA is committed to discussing new potential fish options for the FDPIR food package at the next Workgroup meeting scheduled for July 2026.

III. Funding Levels, Administrative Cost Considerations, and Program Sustainability

- In FY 2026, FDPIR received \$235 million in appropriated funding through the Continuing Appropriations, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Extensions Act, 2026. The table below provides the FY 2026 breakdown.

FY 2026 FDPIR Funding Totals

FY 2026 Total	\$235 Million (M)
USDA Foods Total	\$156.33 M
Administrative Total	\$78.67 M
• Administrative	\$74.67 M
• Nutrition Education	\$4.00 M

- In addition to the FY 2026 amounts above, the FY 2026 appropriations included \$3 million for the FDPIR Self-Determination Demonstration Project (638).
- The FY 2027 President’s Budget includes \$271 million for FDPIR. This is a \$36 million increase from the FY 2026 enacted level. The table below provides a breakdown of the FY 2027 President’s Budget request.

FY 2027 President’s Budget

FY 2027 Presidents Budget	\$271 Million (M)
USDA Foods Total	\$190.6 M
Administrative Total	\$80.4 M
• Administrative	\$76.4 M
• Nutrition Education	\$4.00 M

- Additionally, the FY 2027 President’s Budget includes \$3 million for the FDPIR Self-Determination Demonstration Project (638).

IV. Integration of Local and Indigenous Food Systems, Including Support for Tribal Producers

- Section 4003(b) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115-334, the 2018 Farm Bill) authorized FNA (at the time, FNS) to establish a demonstration project for FDPIR Indian Tribal Organizations (ITO) to enter 638 self-determination contracts to purchase USDA Foods for the FDPIR food package for their program.
- Since FY 2020, FNA has received funding to support the implementation of the FDPIR Self Determination Demonstration Project, commonly referred to as the FDPIR 638 project. FNA has funded 16 Tribes under two solicitation rounds to participate in the demonstration project where they purchase a select number of 100% domestic, tribally

purchased foods to issue to their participants in lieu of similar USDA Foods available in the current FDPIR food package

- The demonstration project further supports tribal economies as Tribes may choose to contract with local, regional, and/or tribal vendors for direct delivery to the ITO. Tribal food procurement ranges from traditional foods such as bison, walleye, and wild rice to a variety of fresh produce.
- All Tribes in the demonstration project have at least one if not all vendors that are Native.
- FNA is currently working with Tribes participating in the demonstration project to extend their existing self-determination contracts through September 30, 2028.
- USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) also provides technical assistance to Tribal producers interested in participating in USDA's commodity procurement by providing outreach, trainings, and help becoming approved USDA vendors.

V. Technology Systems, Reporting Requirements, and Operational Efficiencies

- The April 2026 WBSCM release implemented the following new features:
 - Ability to create, modify, and cancel a receipt at a Shipment level rather than a Delivery Item level.
 - Ability to modify and cancel a receipt within 7 calendar days of initial receipt entry.
 - A new email notification for overdue receipts.
- The Fresh Fruits and Vegetable Order Receipt System (FFAVORS) is currently being migrated from the Kansas City Enterprise Data Center to the cloud. We do not anticipate any impact on program users. Additionally, FNA is beginning the FFAVORS recompetes process because the current contract with Western Door Federal, LLC expires on May 31, 2027.
- The Household Portal of the Integrated Food Management System (IFMS) is tentatively scheduled to go live in August 2026. The Household Portal will allow FDPIR households or their authorized representatives to submit an application electronically. FNA is also beginning to work on the household food order request process in the portal and will work with the user group to design.

VI. Restructuring Changes that may Impact FDPIR Delivery

- On April 30, 2026, USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) mission area announced its intention to introduce the Food and Nutrition Administration.

- Following the required 30-day Congressional notification period, as of June 1, 2026, FNCS and FNS officially became the Food and Nutrition Administration.
- With this, the agency moved into a phased implementation of the restructuring. Many of the details and logistics of the restructuring are subject to union negotiations, and we remain committed to upholding our collective bargaining obligations.
- The restructuring will include relocating most of the Washington, D.C based staff to hubs across the country. The structure of the agency's offices and divisions will also be realigned to foster greater cross-collaboration, increase state support, and better reflect the nature of the work.
- Programmatically, Supplemental Nutrition and Safety Programs, which includes FDPIR, will be relocated to Kansas City, MO. Other office locations include:
 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Indianapolis, IN
 - Child Nutrition Programs: Dallas, TX
 - Research Programs: Raleigh, NC
 - Emergency Management and Continuity of Operations: Denver, CO
 - Retailer Operations and Compliance: Atlanta, GA; Los Angeles, CA; Dallas, TX; and New York, NY.
- Geographically, Tribes will be assigned a specific hub, but the new hub structure will enable any program specialist, assigned to any hub, to assist nationwide. This model will enhance customer service, collaboration, and consistency, improving the support we provide our Tribal partners.
- FNA is committed to ensuring all core program operations continue without disruption. Changes will be implemented thoughtfully and transparently to maintain strong relationships, knowledge and expertise, and continuity throughout the transition.

VII. Veterans' Disability and Pension Payment Exclusion

- At the FDPIR Tribal Consultation on December 10, 2025, the FDPIR community, Tribal leaders, and FDPIR program directors requested that FNA exclude payments received from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) – specifically VA disability and VA pension payments – from being counted as income in FDPIR.
- At that Tribal Consultation, FNA committed to analyzing the impact of these VA payments and exploring available options.
- The Department continues to take Tribal Leader input into account as it considers available options and impacts.