



August 16, 2024

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Office of the
Secretary

Office of Tribal
Relations

1400 Independence
Avenue, SW
Room 501-A
Whitten Bldg.
Washington, DC
20250

Phone # 202-205-2249
Fax # 202-720-1058

FDPIR Warehouse Issues – Tribal Consultation and Listening Session

Dear Tribal Leaders:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) invites your participation in a Tribal Consultation on the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) supply chain disruptions.

USDA is working urgently to address significant delays in the delivery of USDA Foods from the contracted national multi-food warehouse to the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) and the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), impacting inventory levels at CSFP and FDPIR sites and the availability of a sufficient variety and quantity of food resources for program participants. USDA recognizes this disruption in the FDPIR program has left locations without sufficient inventories of food items, which is unacceptable. We are actively addressing the delays in the short term and developing a longer term and permanent plan to ensure a steady and reliable supply.

The USDA is applying an all-hands approach to address the significant delays in the delivery of USDA Foods from the contracted national multi-food warehouse to FDPIR and CSFP sites. While we work with the contractor to resume regular, on-time deliveries, USDA is offering four near-term options to help participating communities access the supplemental food as quickly as possible, which we have shared with FDPIR-administering agencies and Tribal leaders. These options include:

- **Providing Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) funds to FDPIR agencies:** USDA is [offering](#) at least \$11 million to help FDPIR agencies buy food. The funds distributed to each agency will be based on the number of participants the agency serves, and additional funding will be available to the agencies with the most urgent food needs. The funding may only be used to purchase domestically grown and produced foods.

- **Temporarily expanding the USDA Department of Defense Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program (USDA DoD Fresh):** Through a partnership with the DoD Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), USDA is working to expand [USDA DoD Fresh](#) to include food items such as meats, grains, and dairy for distribution to a limited number of FDPIR sites experiencing severe inventory shortages.

- **Activating the Emergency Feeding Network with Situations of Distress:** USDA is encouraging state agencies that operate [The Emergency Food Assistance Program](#), or TEFAP to work with local partners such as food banks to distribute food to FDPIR and CSFP sites.

- **Leveraging the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (LFPA):** [Local Food Purchase Assistance](#), or LFPA, agreements allow state and Tribal governments to procure and distribute regional foods that are unique to their geographic areas and dietary needs and preferences. Some Tribes served by FDPIR agencies, plus some states that administer CSFP, have cooperative agreements with USDA under the LFPA, and they can use LFPA funds to purchase food to address immediate needs while USDA works to resolve the delays.

Tribal Leader Invitation, USDA FDPIR Supply Chain Disruption 2024 Consultation

For more information on the current situation, as well as interim solutions, please visit www.fns.usda.gov/usda-foods/supply-chain-disruptions. This site is regularly updated with information to help FDPIR-administering agencies and Tribes navigate this challenge, and we are also communicating information and helping to address questions in regularly scheduled meetings. In addition to providing the solutions listed above, we are continually assessing the situation and working to provide assistance to program participants so that getting food items they need is as streamlined as possible.

The consultation will take place in person on ,Thursday September 12, 2024, in Washington, D.C. Virtual participation options are available through [Zoom](#). USDA is not providing the normal 30 days' notice for this consultation due to Tribal requests for urgent consultation.

Tribal Consultation Details

What: FDPIR Supply Chain Disruptions Consultation
Where: USDA South Building
Cafeteria Conference Room
Floor 1, Wing 3
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C.
When: Thursday, September 12, 2024
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time
RSVP: Whether attending in person or remotely, please register [HERE](#)

USDA security requires a government-issued photo identification for all visitors. Parking near USDA is extremely limited. For visitor information, including metro rail and bus options, please see [Visiting USDA Headquarters Complex](#).

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

Proxies: In the event you cannot attend and wish to send a proxy, please send the attached proxy form addressed to Betsy Rakola, Acting Director for USDA OTR, via Tribal.Relations@usda.gov by Monday, September 9, 2024. To designate a proxy for this meeting, please copy the attached delegation form to Tribal letterhead. This designation will authorize your designee to attend in your place for the estimated time of your absence. The delegation cannot be in perpetuity. You are also encouraged to invite program leadership and staff from your Nation to the Tribal consultation as observers.

Written Responses. If you would like your comments included in the official record, please submit to the USDA Office of Tribal Relations email at Tribal.relations@usda.gov by October 10, 2024. While later comments will not be submitted into the published consultation record, USDA welcomes comments on this database at any time.

Additional opportunities for dialogue. In addition to this Nation-to-Nation consultation on September 12, USDA invites Tribal leaders, Tribal staff, partners, and the FDPIR community to join ongoing weekly update calls each Thursday at 1:00 p.m. Eastern time. No registration is needed to join these weekly calls.

Tribal Leader Invitation, USDA FDPIR Supply Chain Disruption 2024 Consultation

Please contact tribal.relations@usda.gov for Zoom connection information. USDA officials will also attend the FDPIR Association annual meeting in October.

Questions and Updated Information. Updated information will be posted on the [USDA Tribal Consultations website](#). Any questions on logistics for this consultation, listening session, or weekly update calls, listening session, or weekly update can be directed to Tribal.Relations@usda.gov.

Thank you for your time and engagement on this issue.

Betsy Rakola
Acting Director, Office of Tribal Relations
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Attachments (1):
Proxy Letter Template