Program Highlight: Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

What is FDPIR?

FDPIR is a Federal nutrition assistance program that provides food packages to low income families living on Indian reservations. This program is an important alternative to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), in rural and remote reservation communities that may lack meaningful access to SNAP offices or grocery stores. Households may not participate in both programs at the same time.

FDPIR is currently administered to 276 tribes via 102 ITOs and 3 state agencies.

Who is eligible?

Income-eligible American Indian and non-Indian households that reside on a reservation, and households living in approved areas near a reservation or in Oklahoma that contain at least one person who is a member of a Federally-recognized tribe, are eligible to participate in FDPIR.

New FDPIR 638 Demonstration

The new Farm Bill has authorized $5 million for demonstration projects for Tribal organizations to enter into 638 self-determination and oversee FDPIR programs themselves. If this demonstration is funded, more Tribes may have the opportunity to have more control over how their Tribal members are served by this critical program through food purchasing.

FDPIR participants experience very low food security at rates four times higher than the national average.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FDPIR Participants</th>
<th>22%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Average</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

30% of respondents to a FDPIR household survey in 2014 reported that they cut the size of meals or skipped meals during the month.

25% reported that the food they had did not last the month.

FDPIR serves 90,000 people on average each month.

A map of FDPIR sites and participation rates in the United States.

[Image of FDPIR sites and participation rates map]
Who uses FDPIR?

42% of FDPIR households have elders over the age of 60

81% of elders using the program rely on Social Security as well

About 1/3 of all FDPIR participant households have children under the age of 18

74% of FDPIR 2 parent households and 60% of single parent households are in the labor force

Wages and Social Security are the main sources of income, with over 1/2 of all participants reporting earnings

but-- 1 in 10 FDPIR households has no source of income, and 9% of zero income households have multiple members

59% of FDPIR households lack access to internet service

1/3 of FDPIR households do not have a vehicle

What foods are provided? 1

- Frozen & canned meats, poultry and fish
- Canned fruits, vegetables, beans, soups, and pasta sauce
- Cheese, egg mix, and various milk options
- Flour, cornmeal, bakery mix, and crackers
- Pastas, cereals, rice, and other grains
- Dried beans and dehydrated potatoes
- Juices and dried fruit
- Peanuts and peanut butter
- Traditional foods: bison, blue corn meal, salmon, and wild rice

Sources:
1: USDA FNS FDPIR Fact Sheet
2: H.R.2: Sec. 4003(b)
4: National Data Bank, Food and Nutrition Service 2017
Traditional Foods in FDPIR

Current traditional foods offered to FDPIR participants are bison, salmon, catfish, wild rice*, and blue cornmeal.¹

Nutrient-rich, traditional foods grown locally and sourced to FDPIR would generate revenue and employment benefits to Tribes and local businesses, improve the quality of the food, and reduce the costs of delivery.²

Supporting and Protecting Traditional and Native Produced Foods in FDPIR through the Farm Bill

Public Law 93-638 The Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act

In the 2018 Farm Bill, the new “638” Tribal self-determination contracts demonstration project allows Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) to purchase food for FDPIR food packages instead of the USDA.³

Allowing ITOs to do their own food purchasing for FDPIR gives opportunity for:
• traditional foods to be more readily available to Native citizens,
• Tribally produced food procurement,
• and regional coordination among Tribes and vendors.⁴

¹subject to availability

1. USDA FDPIR Website; 2. USDA Study of the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR); 3. Native Farm Bill Coalition Tribal Provisions in the 2018 Farm Bill; 4. A Primer on 638 Authority: Extending Tribal Self-Determination to Food and Agriculture

For more information, please contact: Colby D. Duren, JD, Director, at cduren@uark.edu, or Erin Parker, JD, LLM, Research Director, at eshirl@uark.edu.

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**Fresh Fruit and Vegetables in FDPIR**

**Program Overview**

Participants in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) receive a selection of fresh produce through the USDA's partnership with DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (DoD Fresh). **FDPIR participants receive both year round and seasonal produce through this program.**

### Current Participation in Indian Country

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>112</strong> ITOs</td>
<td>(Indian Tribal Organizations and 3 states administer FDPIR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>276</strong> Tribes</td>
<td>participate in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program through the administration of ITOs and 3 states</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>90,200</strong> people</td>
<td>per month on average are served through the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Fruits and Vegetables List: Year Round and Seasonal

#### Year Round Fruits
- Apples
- Grapefruit
- Oranges
- Pears
- Mixed Fruit
- Lemons

#### Year Round Vegetables
- Carrots
- Baby Carrots
- Broccoli
- Yellow Onions
- Red Onions
- Russet Potatoes
- Red Potatoes
- Cabbage
- Celery
- Mixed Vegetables
- Cauliflower
- Romaine Lettuce
- Radishes

#### Seasonal Fruits*
- Avocado
- Peaches
- Cherries
- Seedless Grapes
- Honey Dew Melon
- Kiwi
- Nectarines
- Plums
- Clementine/
  - Mandarin/Tangerine
- Cranberries

#### Seasonal Vegetables*
- Corn
- Asparagus
- Tomatoes
- Cherry Tomatoes
- Grape Tomatoes
- Cucumbers
- Green Pepper
- Brussel Sprouts
- Winter Squash
- Summer Squash
- Sweet Potatoes
- Turnips

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*Learn more about when seasonal items are typically available on page 22: [https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/fdpir/nafdpir-dod-fresh.pdf](https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/fdpir/nafdpir-dod-fresh.pdf)

1. NAFDPIR 2. 2019 President’s Budget Food and Nutrition Service; 3. FDPIR MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION GUIDE RATES BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE, FNS Handbook 501 Exhibit 0

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Program Highlight: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

What is SNAP? ¹

SNAP, formerly known as food stamps, is currently the most utilized anti-hunger program in the US, serving over 43,000,000 people in 2016. ²

SNAP provides families with benefits to purchase food items every month. Benefits are distributed through EBT cards, which work similarly to debit cards. Benefits amounts are dependent on household size, income, resources and expenses.

SNAP is accepted at a majority of supermarkets, wholesale stores and even value and dollar stores.

Eligibility ¹

Households may be eligible to receive SNAP if they meet certain requirements. There are limits to the amount of resources and income a household can have in order to be eligible. Certain deductions are allowed for specific exemptions.

The USDA provides a pre-screening tool to determine eligibility:

https://www.snap-step1.usda.gov/fns/

In 2016, there were approximately 571,000 American Indian/Alaska Native SNAP participants. ²

A map comparing SNAP participation rates between states and Tribal entities. Tribal land areas often show higher rates of SNAP participation compared to each state as a whole.
How to Apply

SNAP benefits are administered by state agencies. Local SNAP offices can be determined here:


Applicants can submit an application by visiting the local office, visiting the website or by calling the office directly. After an application is submitted, the office will process it and notify the applicant of the status within 30 days. After notification, the applicant will need to complete an interview and verify all information provided.

Households receiving benefits may need to periodically recertify their eligibility. The recertification period varies by state. Ask your local office for more information.

Sources:
1: USDA FNS 2018
2: Characteristics of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Households: Fiscal Year 2016

For more information on this program visit: https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/