

# Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

## 1. What is FDPIR?

The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) provides USDA Foods to income-eligible households living on Indian reservations, and to American Indian households residing in approved areas near reservations and in Oklahoma. Many households participate in FDPIR as an alternative to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) because they do not have easy access to SNAP offices or authorized food stores.

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, administers FDPIR at the Federal level. The program is administered locally by either Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) or an agency of a State government. As of FY 2020, there are approximately 276 tribes receiving benefits under FDPIR through 102 ITOs and 3 State agencies.

USDA purchases and ships USDA Foods, selected from a list of available foods, to the ITOs and State agencies. These administering agencies store and distribute the foods, determine applicant eligibility, and provide nutrition education to recipients. USDA provides the administering agencies with funds for program administrative costs.

FDPIR is authorized under Section 4(b) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (codified in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018) and Section 4(a) of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973. FDPIR is authorized through 2023. Federal

regulations governing the program can be found at 7 CFR Parts 250, 253, and 254.

## 2. What are the eligibility requirements of FDPIR?

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.

Households are certified based on income standards set by the Federal government and must be recertified at least every 12 months. Households in which all adult members are elderly and/or disabled may be certified for up to 24 months. Households **may not** participate in FDPIR and SNAP in the same month.

## 3. What foods are available through FDPIR?

Each month, participating households receive a food package to help them maintain a nutritionally balanced diet. Participants may select from over 100 products including:

- frozen ground beef, beef roast, chicken, pork chops, canned meats, poultry, and fish
- canned and frozen fruits & vegetables, beans, soups, and spaghetti sauce
- pastas, cereals, rice, and other grains
- cheese, egg mix, low-fat ultra high temperature milk, nonfat dry milk, and evaporated milk
- flour, cornmeal, bakery mix, and crackers
- dried beans and dehydrated potatoes
- juices and dried fruit
- peanuts and peanut butter

Participants on most reservations can choose fresh produce instead of canned or frozen fruits and vegetables. Fresh shell eggs are also an option on many reservations under a pilot. In addition, participants are offered a selection of traditional

food choices such as bison, blue cornmeal, wild salmon, catfish, and traditionally-harvested wild rice. For a complete list of Foods Available for FDPIR, visit the [USDA Foods Available List for FDPIR](#).

#### 4. Does the program provide information about health and nutrition?

Yes, USDA provides information about nutrition, and suggestions for making the most nutritious use of USDA Foods, including:

- [USDA foods product information sheets](#) that provide storage, preparation tips, nutrition information, and recipes.
- [FDPIR Sharing Gallery](#) – a compilation of nutrition education materials, recipes, photos, news, and other resources for ITOs participating in FDPIR.

Administering agencies are responsible for providing nutrition education to participants. Federal administrative funding is available for these activities, which can include individual nutrition counseling, cooking demonstrations, nutrition classes, and the dissemination of information on how USDA Foods may be used to contribute to a nutritious diet and on the proper storage of USDA Foods.

#### 5. How many people participate in the program, and what does it cost?

Average monthly participation for FY 2019 was 83,800 individuals. In FY 2019, \$153.0 million was appropriated for FDPIR – approximately \$49.762 million for the Federal share of local level administrative costs, and the remainder for food purchases.

#### 6. Where can I go for more information?

Please contact your [State agency or ITO](#) or your [FNS Regional Office](#). You may also email USDA at: [USDAFoods@usda.gov](mailto:USDAFoods@usda.gov).

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- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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