



FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

What Is the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations?

The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) provides nutritious, domestically sourced and produced food, known as USDA Foods, to income-eligible households living on Indian reservations and to American Indian households residing in approved areas near reservations or in Oklahoma. Many households participate in FDPIR as an alternative to USDA’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) because they have limited access to SNAP offices or authorized food stores. Individuals cannot receive SNAP and FDPIR benefits in the same month.

Who Administers FDPIR?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) administers FDPIR at the Federal level. FDPIR is administered locally by either an Indian Tribal Organization (ITO) or a State agency. As of May 2020, there were approximately 276 Tribes receiving FDPIR benefits through 102 ITOs and 3 State agencies.

How Does FDPIR Work?

The USDA purchases and ships USDA Foods, selected by States and ITOs from a list of available foods, to ITOs and State agencies. These administering agencies store the foods, determine applicant eligibility, distribute the foods to FDPIR participants, and provide nutrition education to recipients. Foods provided to participants are based on a guide rate that defines the specific types and amounts of food that make up their food package. USDA provides administering agencies with funds for FDPIR administrative costs.

How Can People Participate in FDPIR?

Income-eligible American Indian and non-Indian households that reside on a reservation are eligible to participate in FDPIR. In addition, 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 also eligible to participate.

Households are certified based on income standards set by USDA and must be recertified at least every 12 months.

Where Can I Go To Learn More About FDPIR?

Please contact your State agency at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/contacts> or your FNS regional office.

Whom at FNS Can I Contact To Discuss FDPIR?

Please contact the FNS Division of External and Governmental Affairs at fmsgovaffairs@usda.gov.

Key Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations Data	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019 (estimate)
Participation (in thousands)	88.6	93.0	90.0	87.2	83.8
Cost (in millions)	\$102.2	\$97.6	\$91.2	\$95.2	\$78.1