



Food and Nutrition Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

April 28, 2026

Dear Tribal Leader:

On behalf of Secretary Brooke Rollins, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) cordially invites you to participate in a Tribal consultation on the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) with the FDPIR Tribal Leaders Consultation Work Group.

This consultation will take place on **June 23, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time** and will be held in-person, with an option for virtual attendance, during the National Association of FDPIR annual conference in Niagara Falls, NY. Deputy Under Secretary of Agriculture for the Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS), Mr. Patrick A. Penn, will be the USDA consulting official.

Registration: All participants must register. Please use the registration link below to kindly register by June 22, 2026.

Registration Link: https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_HObOWqzuRq-qkdJbpLmIIA.

Date: Tuesday, June 23, 2026

Location: NAFDPIR Annual Conference
Sheraton Niagara Falls
300 3rd Street
Niagara Falls, New York, USA, 14303
Room TBD

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)

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

Proxies: In the event you cannot attend and wish to send a proxy, please copy the attached proxy designation form to Tribal letterhead, complete, and email to sm.fn.tribalaffairs@usda.gov by June 22, 2026. This will authorize your designee, in writing, to attend in your place during the estimated time of your absence. The delegation cannot be in perpetuity. You are also encouraged to bring program leadership and staff from your Nation to the Tribal consultation as observers.

Written Comments: USDA encourages Tribal leaders to submit written consultation remarks by email no later than July 23, 2026, to sm.fn.tribalaffairs@usda.gov.

Background. The following topics will be covered during the consultation meeting:

- Program administration and policy updates impacting FDPIR operations
- Food package availability, procurement challenges, and vendor stability
- Funding levels, administrative cost considerations, and program sustainability
- Integration of local and Indigenous food systems, including support for Tribal producers
- Technology systems, reporting requirements, and operational efficiencies
- Any proposed changes or restructuring within FNS that may impact FDPIR delivery
- Veterans' disability payment exclusion

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to engaging in Nation-to-Nation dialogue with you.

Sincerely,



Patrick A. Penn
Deputy Under Secretary
Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Attachments (1): FDPIR Consultation Proxy Template-June-2026