



**Food and Nutrition Service**  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**FRAMING PAPER**

## CONSULTATION ON FNS PROGRAM RULE CHANGES

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is considering changes to five FNS program rules that may have direct effects on Tribes, and therefore seeks consultation with the leaders of all Federally recognized Tribes to ensure that the perspectives, priorities, and goals of Tribal Nations are heard and fully considered as the draft rules are further developed.

This Framing Paper is a starting point to help guide the conversation in the upcoming consultation being held virtually on **December 13, 2022, from 1:00-4:00pm EDT**. The Framing Paper provides details of the rule changes and includes discussion questions to help guide feedback response.

Your input is critical to helping us ensure we are capturing the impact these rules will have in Indian Country, and to learn what the overall concerns are and how we can work together to meet the nutritional needs of Tribal citizens that participate in these FNS programs.

While this paper includes a framework for our discussion, we look forward to receiving feedback from you to help inform the rules. Below you will find a brief description of each of the FNS nutrition programs and the rule changes that are the focus of the consultation.

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC)

WIC provides federal grants to State agencies and participating Tribes or Tribal organizations for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age 5 who are found to be at nutritional risk.

#### RULE: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACCESS TO BABY FORMULA ACT OF 2022 (ABFA, P.L. 117 129) AND RELATED PROVISIONS

##### Summary

On May 21, 2022, President Biden signed the Access to Baby Formula Act of 2022 (ABFA, P.L. 117-129) into law. ABFA amends Section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786) to (1) add requirements to State agency infant formula cost containment contracts; and (2) establish waiver authority to the Secretary of Agriculture to address certain emergencies, disasters, and supply chain disruptions impacting the WIC Program.

This rule would amend the WIC regulations at 7 CFR Part 246 to incorporate new elements from the ABFA. Through this rule, USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) would codify requirements for State and Tribal agencies to include language in their WIC infant formula rebate contracts that describes remedies in the event of an infant formula recall, including how an infant formula

manufacturer would protect against disruption to program participants (i.e., ensure that WIC participants can purchase formula using WIC benefits).

The rule would also codify permanent expanded waiver authority to aid participants in obtaining and redeeming WIC benefits during certain emergencies, disasters, and supply chain disruptions impacting the WIC Program. FNS would make other related technical corrections and updates as necessary to modernize applicable WIC Program regulations.

FNS anticipates publication as early as May 2023.

## Background

- WIC State agencies, and Tribal agencies or Tribal organizations with 1,001 or greater participants in April of any fiscal year, competitively procure infant formula rebate contracts with infant formula manufacturers, as required by law and in order to keep Program costs down<sup>1</sup>. Tribal agencies or Tribal organizations with less than 1,000 WIC participants - currently 19 that participate in the WIC Program - are exempt from competitive procurement requirements. USDA is not a party to infant formula rebate contracts.
- The [WIC Program](#) addresses the supplemental nutritional needs of at-risk, low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women, infants, and children up to five years of age. It provides participants monthly supplemental food packages targeted to their dietary needs, breastfeeding support to nursing mothers, nutrition education, and referrals to a range of health and social services – benefits that promote a healthy pregnancy for mothers and a healthy start for their children.
- Currently, 89 State agencies administer the WIC Program, including 33 Tribes and Tribal organizations, the District of Columbia, and five U.S. Territories.
- In Fiscal Year 2022 (*latest data available are through June 2022*), the number of participants receiving WIC benefits each month was 6.22 million. Children represent the largest category of WIC participants. About 3.41 million children receive WIC benefits, along with 1.43 million infants and 1.39 million pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding participants.
- WIC infant formula rebate contracts saved the Program about \$1.6 billion in FY 2021, which covered the cost of providing benefits to an average of 1.59 million WIC participants each month, or more than 25 percent of the average number of WIC participants.
- ABFA strengthens the WIC Program’s ability to address disruptions in the supply chain caused by recalls and other emergencies. USDA FNS outlined parameters for implementation of the infant formula cost containment contracts and waiver authority legislative provisions in ABFA via [policy memorandum](#)<sup>2</sup> in June 2022.
- Prior to the passage of ABFA, WIC had limited waiver authority under Section 301 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (the “Stafford Act”, P.L. 93-288). The Stafford Act provides any Federal agency charged with the administration of a federal assistance program with the authority to modify or waive administrative conditions for assistance that would otherwise prevent the provision of assistance under such programs, if the inability to meet such conditions is a result of a Presidentially declared major disaster.

## References

<sup>1</sup> 7 CFR. 246.16(a)(2)

<sup>2</sup> WIC Policy Memorandum #2022-6, dated June 6, 2022

**Discussion Questions**

1. Are there any barriers to implementation that FNS should be aware of?
2. Are there any technical assistance needs that FNS can provide?

**USDA FOOD PROGRAMS**

USDA Food programs including The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) and the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) provide domestically produced, high-quality foods purchased by USDA and distributed to individuals and households eligible for each program.

**PROPOSED RULE: FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS IMPROVING ACCESS AND PARITY ([0584-AE92](#))****Summary**

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is proposing regulatory changes to increase access, modernize operations, and incorporate lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic in several USDA Foods programs, including CSFP, TEFAP, and FDPIR. The rule also proposes changes to the use of USDA Foods in disaster response. Following are the proposed rule changes:

- Revisions to **CSFP** regulations (7 CFR Part 247) will focus on increasing access to seniors in need. Proposed changes will include but are not limited to the addition of a medical deduction option for income eligibility calculations.
- Revisions to **TEFAP** (7 CFR Part 251) will focus on improving access by simplifying participation requirements for program operators. TEFAP State agencies and eligible recipient agencies, including Tribes, have provided emergency food assistance to record numbers of individuals in recent years and proposed changes will reflect lessons learned from meeting this increase in need.
- Revisions to **FDPIR** (7 CFR Part 253) will focus on aligning eligibility requirements and improving parity with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Many households participate in FDPIR as an alternative to SNAP (*current law does not allow dual enrollment*), and the proposed changes are intended to better align the programs with regard to eligibility and benefits provided.
- Revisions to **USDA Foods in Disaster Response** (7 CFR Part 250) will clarify requirements for the use of USDA Foods in disaster situations, to reflect lessons learned during the pandemic.
- FNS anticipates proposed rule publication as early as summer 2023 with an opportunity for public comment. We welcome feedback received from Tribal leaders on how to improve program access and parity within the affected programs and welcome your comments through the notice-and-comment rulemaking process as well.

**Background**

- **CSFP** works to improve the health of low-income persons at least 60 years of age by providing them with nutritious, monthly food packages to supplement their diets. USDA distributes both USDA Foods and administrative funds to State agencies and Tribes or Tribal organizations to operate CSFP. The program is currently operated by all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and eight Tribes.
- **TEFAP** helps to supplement the diets of low-income individuals by providing them with emergency food assistance. Through TEFAP, both USDA Foods and administrative funds are made available to State agencies, which provide the food and funding to a network of local agencies made up of food banks, food pantries, soup kitchens, and other like organizations. These local organizations distribute the foods to eligible recipients for household consumption or use them to prepare and serve meals. All 50 States, the

	<p>District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands receive TEFAP resources. Tribes or Tribal organizations may participate in TEFAP as eligible recipient agencies under states,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>FDPIR</b> provides a package of nutritious USDA Foods to income-eligible households living on Indian reservations and to Tribal households residing in designated areas near reservations or in Oklahoma. USDA provides USDA Foods and administrative funds to Tribes, Tribal organizations, and State agencies to administer the program. 105 Tribes and Tribal organizations and three State agencies currently administer FDPIR, providing program benefits to approximately 279 Federally recognized Tribes.</li> <li>• <b>USDA Foods in Disaster Response</b> – During disasters, emergencies, and situations of distress, State agencies and Tribes or Tribal organizations operating FDPIR may utilize existing inventories of USDA Foods to serve people in need, either by using the foods to prepare congregate meals or distributing the foods to households for home consumption (<i>known as a Disaster Household Distribution</i>).</li> </ul>
<b>References</b>	
<b>Discussion Questions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What barriers do Tribe's face in accessing the USDA foods programs referenced above?</li> <li>2. What opportunities exist in making these programs more accessible in Indian Country?</li> <li>3. What feedback can be offered on the rule's intent to increase parity between SNAP and FDPIR?</li> </ol>

## CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS (CNP) - THE NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (NSLP)

NSLP is a federally assisted meal program operating in nearly 100,000 public and nonprofit private schools, including Tribe operated schools, schools operated by the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), and residential child care institutions. It provides nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free lunches to children each school day. The BIE<sup>1</sup> indicates that there are 183 schools serving Native American children located on 64 reservations in 23 states. Of these schools, 57% of are managed directly by the BIE (*Bureau Operated Schools*) and 126 are operated by Tribes with Bureau funding (*Tribally Controlled Schools*).

## PROPOSED RULE: REVISIONS TO MEAL PATTERNS CONSISTENT WITH THE 2020 DIETARY GUIDELINES FOR AMERICANS

### Summary

On February 7, 2022, USDA published *Child Nutrition Programs: Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium*<sup>2</sup> to support schools after more than two years of serving meals under pandemic conditions. Instead of making permanent changes, this rule began a multi-stage approach to strengthen the school meal nutrition standards. USDA intended for the transitional standards rule to apply for two school years, during which it would provide immediate relief as schools return to traditional school meal service following extended use of COVID-19 meal pattern flexibilities.

This proposed rule would strengthen the school meal nutrition standards in the long-term based on a comprehensive review of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025, and input from a wide range of stakeholders. FNS will consider comments submitted in response to the February 2022 final rule, *Child Nutrition Programs: Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium* (0584-AE81), when developing this proposed rule. It would also address the Buy American provision in the school meal programs and make a variety of other changes to school meal requirements.

#### Current Statutory Requirements:

- The National School Lunch Act (NSLA) requires the USDA to develop school meal nutrition standards that are consistent with the goals of the most recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans (Dietary Guidelines) and that consider the nutrient needs of children who may be at risk for inadequate food intake and food insecurity (42 U.S.C. 1758(f)(1)).
- The NSLA and Child Nutrition Act (CNA) require fluid milk to be offered with every school breakfast and lunch but otherwise provide USDA discretion to establish school meal nutrition standards within the general statutory framework (NSLA 42 U.S.C. 1758(a)(2)(i) and (ii)); CNA, 42 U.S.C. 1773(e)(1)(A)).
- Using the latest Dietary Guidelines as a guide, USDA establishes the requirements for school meals at the Federal level; these standards allow schools to develop menus that include a variety of foods that meet the unique needs of the populations they serve.

#### Background

##### Improving the Nutrition Quality of School Meals:

- In 2012, USDA issued a final rule that increased the availability of nutritious foods like fruits, vegetables, and whole grains and established limits for sodium in school meals, among other key changes. Since then, school nutrition professionals, industry partners, and other stakeholders have made tremendous strides in improving the nutrition quality of school meals.
- USDA's School Nutrition and Meal Cost Study found that the Healthy Eating Index<sup>3</sup> scores for both school lunch and breakfast significantly improved after implementation of the 2012 final rule. More recently, new research<sup>4</sup> found that school meals are the healthiest meals children eat during the day.
- Earlier this year, USDA published a final rule, *Child Nutrition Programs: Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium*, effective during school years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024, to provide much-needed support for schools after more than two years of serving meals under pandemic conditions.
- On February 7, 2022, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) published *Child Nutrition Programs: Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium* to support schools after more than two years of serving meals under pandemic conditions. Instead of making permanent changes, this rule began a multi-stage approach to strengthen the school meal nutrition standards. USDA intended for the transitional standards rule to apply for two school years, during which it would provide immediate relief as schools return to traditional school meal service following extended use of COVID-19 meal pattern flexibilities.

##### Developing Long-term Standards in an Upcoming Proposed Rule:

- Updates to school meal nutrition standards have created specific and equitable changes in the dietary quality of foods served at school<sup>4</sup> and upcoming rulemaking will continue to build on these successes. FNS intends to propose long-term school nutrition standards in this forthcoming rule based on the latest nutrition science and stakeholder input; FNS expects these standards to be practical, durable, and to result in school meals that children will enjoy.
- FNS will consider comments submitted in response to the February 2022 final rule, *Child Nutrition Programs: Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium* (0584-AE81), when developing this proposed rule.
- FNS will also consider comments submitted in response to the August 2021 "Request for Information: Buy American in the National School Lunch Program and School

Breakfast Program," including feedback on how FNS can better support local schools as they strive to purchase domestic foods and food products.

- To inform the proposed rule, USDA conducted robust stakeholder engagement through listening sessions, including with Tribal stakeholders who shared valuable feedback about how nutrition standards for school meals can better align with students' food traditions. For example, Tribal stakeholders, including indigenous nutritionists, expressed concern about the grains requirements as a poor nutritional match for indigenous children and a contributory factor to the high diabetes rates in indigenous communities. Stakeholders also shared that cow's milk is not a traditional food item, and Tribal communities are looking to serve more traditional foods in the school meal programs.
- Updated standards and revisions are expected to expand access to and increase consumption of healthy and nutritious food for all school children, including to better serve American Indian and Alaska Native children as part of FNS's effort to prioritize equity in the school meal programs.
- FNS anticipates publication of the proposed rule in Winter 2023, with a public comment period. FNS welcomes feedback during this consultation and encourages Tribal stakeholders to comment during the public comment period of the proposed rule. FNS is especially interested in input on steps FNS can take to improve school meals for American Indian and Alaska Native children.

## References

<sup>1</sup> [Tribally Controlled Schools](https://www.bie.edu). Tribally Controlled Schools | Bureau of Indian Education. (n.d.). Retrieved October 20, 2022, from <https://www.bie.edu>

<sup>2</sup> [Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains and Sodium - Final Rule | Food and Nutrition Service \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov)

<sup>3</sup> The Healthy Eating Index (HEI) is a measure of diet quality used to assess how well a set of foods, such as foods provided through the school meal programs, align with the Dietary Guidelines. Overall, a higher total HEI score indicates a diet that aligns more closely with dietary recommendations.

<sup>4</sup> Lui J, and Micha R, and Li Y. [Trends in Food Sources and Diet Quality Among US Children and Adults, 2003-2018](https://doi.org/10.1093/ajph/2021.4(4):e215262). *JAMA Netw Open*. 2021;4(4):e215262.

## Discussion Questions

1. What are your main priorities around school meals and nutrition security within Tribal communities?
2. What are you hearing from Tribal schools and/or school nutrition professionals about operating school meal programs?
3. What barriers do Tribal schools face in accessing and operating school meal programs?
4. How can FNS better support Tribal schools to serve nutritious meals and traditional foods that meet school meal requirements?

## SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

SNAP is the largest program in the domestic hunger safety net. SNAP offers nutrition assistance to millions of eligible, low-income individuals and families to supplement an individual's or a family's income to help them buy the nutritious food they need for good health. The amount of SNAP benefits one gets is based on the USDA's Thrifty Food Plan, which is an estimate of how much it costs to buy food to prepare nutritious, low-cost meals for a household. State public assistance agencies run the program through their local offices.

*NOTE\* In September and October 2022, FNS issued guidance memos and held two training webinars for SNAP State agencies and Tribal Leaders to reinforce the statutory requirement for SNAP State agencies to engage in timely and meaningful consultation with Tribes. The webinars focused on sharing requirements and best practices for conducting State-Tribal Consultations on SNAP.*

### FINAL RULE: STANDARD UTILITY ALLOWANCES BASED ON THE RECEIPT OF ENERGY ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS

#### Summary:

The Department is finalizing a rule that incorporates provisions originally proposed in two separate Notices of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM): the October 3, 2019, NPRM titled, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Standardization of State Heating and Cooling Standard Utility Allowances (HCSUA) (84 FR 52809)<sup>1</sup>, and the April 20, 2016, NPRM titled, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Standard Utility Allowances (SUA) Based on the Receipt of Energy Assistance Payments Under the Agricultural Act of 2014 (81 FR 23189)<sup>2</sup>.

While originally published as separate NPRMs, the provisions contained in these rules both relate to determining household shelter expenses, and therefore, the Department is combining each rule into a single final rule as follows:

- Under current program rules, States have considerable flexibility to develop their own SUA methodologies. While flexibility to address State-specific needs is critical, after conducting reviews of State methodologies, the Department is concerned that some SUAs are not representative of actual utility costs and need more consistent parameters.
- In the SNAP benefit calculation, SUA amounts comprise a significant share of household shelter costs and can affect a household's eligibility for the excess shelter deduction, and ultimately, the SNAP benefit amount. When SUAs no longer align with household circumstances, it not only creates a disconnect between household utility expenses and the standards, but also causes a disconnect between household needs and benefit amounts.
- With the goal of ensuring fair, consistent, and transparent application of the excess shelter deduction across the country, the Department proposed to standardize the methodology for developing SUAs in each State in the October 2019 NPRM.
- The proposed rule set the largest standard, the Heating and Cooling Standard Utility Allowances (HCSUA), at the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile of low-income households' utility costs in each State. This methodology would use best-available utility cost information from national Federal sources to calculate HCSUAs annually. FNS would calculate and provide States with these figures annually, as opposed to the current process by which States develop their own SUA figures and submit them to FNS for approval annually.
- In the final rule, the Department will finalize the plan to standardize the methodology used to calculate State HCSUAs annually using the best-available utility cost information as proposed, with a few important changes: the Department will adjust the percentile at which the methodology is set and provide States with an opportunity to request a

	<p>variant HCSUA if they have more accurate, State-specific information. FNS is reviewing comments on the threshold and will provide the final value in the published rule.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additionally, in recognition of internet access as a necessity for school, work, and job search, the Department will finalize the proposed change to include internet costs as an allowable shelter expense. The final rule will give States flexibility in how they include these costs in their SUAs.</li> <li>• Finally, the Department will finalize changes to how States use nominal LIHEAP payments to confer HCSUAs to households, related to requirements in the Agricultural Act of 2014. The changes were effective with the enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2014, and States were required to begin implementation on March 10, 2014.</li> <li>• The Department anticipates publication as early as February 2023.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Background:</b></p>	<p><b><i>Background on the Excess Shelter Deduction</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The excess shelter deduction is for shelter costs that are more than half a household's income after subtracting other deductions. This deduction from income helps determine a household's SNAP eligibility and benefit levels.</li> <li>• Allowable shelter costs include the costs of rent or mortgage, taxes, interest, and certain utilities described in the regulations, including gas, electricity, and water.</li> <li>• The amount of the shelter deduction is capped at \$624 (FY23 48 States and DC) unless one person in the household is elderly or disabled, in which case there is no cap on the deduction amount.</li> <li>• With FNS approval, State agencies may develop Standard Utility Allowances (SUAs) to be used in place of actual utility costs incurred for the purposes of determining a household's shelter costs. All States have developed an SUA for at least one utility.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Types of Standard Utility Allowances and State Options</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• States develop SUAs to reflect single utility expenses or multiple expenses bundled together. The Heating and Cooling SUA (HCSUA) is the largest and most common standard, as it covers all utilities as well as heating or cooling costs.</li> <li>• Most State agencies make use of SUAs mandatory. In states with optional SUAs, a household can claim actual utility expenses, but must provide documentation for all claimed costs.</li> <li>• Currently States agencies that choose to use SUAs may use their own methodologies to develop SUAs that reflect costs in their State and update these values annually.</li> <li>• Households that receive a payment from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Low Income Heating Assistance Program (LIHEAP) of more than \$20, annually, must automatically have the HCSUA applied to their SNAP case when calculating shelter costs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>References</b></p>	<p><sup>1</sup> <a href="#">Federal Register :: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Standardization of State Heating and Cooling Standard Utility Allowances</a></p> <p><sup>2</sup> <a href="#">Federal Register :: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Standard Utility Allowances Based on the Receipt of Energy Assistance Payments Under the Agricultural Act of 2014</a></p>
<p><b>Discussion Questions</b></p>	<p>1. FNS does not anticipate that incorporating these two rules into one will have a direct impact on Tribes, is this accurate?</p>



## PROPOSED RULE: REFORM PROVISIONS FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM'S (SNAP) QUALITY CONTROL (QC) SYSTEM

### Summary

The Department proposes to revise its regulations for various Quality Control (QC) provisions in subpart C of 7 CFR part 275 to reflect numerous changes to the SNAP QC system. The proposed provisions are based on instruction in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 that gives the Secretary discretion on how to implement Congress' request to improve the integrity and data quality of information collected in the QC process and in part on comments received to a Request for Information (RFI) published on June 1, 2018.

This rule applies to the SNAP QC review process only. Its provisions will impact operations for the QC staff in State SNAP administering agencies because they will be required to modify their sampling requirements and other procedures for conducting QC reviews. There will be minimal impact on individual SNAP households since only 0.2% of SNAP households are selected for QC review each year.

The SNAP QC System measures the accuracy of State agency eligibility and benefit determinations. Data collected by quality control are also used for program improvement and analysis. The goals of the forthcoming QC Reform proposed rule are to:

- Simplify the review process by changing when cases are sampled for QC review from a random point in time during the certification period to only when a certification, recertification, or mandatory report occurs on the case.
- Improve the usefulness and timeliness of QC data. The new sampling methodology will provide data at key case action points, which will be more useful for determining corrective actions.
- Strengthen QC integrity by revising the QC review process to a more simplified approach, eliminating complex procedures that may have created opportunities for biasing the data.
- Better align SNAP's improper payment practices with other Federal benefit programs and The Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019 (PIIA)<sup>1</sup>.
- Provide more flexibility to SNAP households selected for QC review by allowing them to conduct their required interviews by phone instead of in-person.
- Update SNAP regulations to reflect current terminology, including changing Food Stamps to SNAP and Negative Error Rate to Case and Procedural Error Rate.

### Background

FNS attended a tribal consultation meeting on May 1, 2019, in Washington, D.C., where the changes to this rule were explained. No questions or concerns were brought to FNS's attention about this rule by any members of that meeting.

### References

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1. FNS does not see any impact to Tribes with this rule change, is that a correct assumption?

## FOLLOW UP ITEMS

**DIRECTIONS FOR SUBMITTING CONSULTATION COMMENTS:** Written consultation comments may be submitted by December 16, 2022 to: [SM.FN.TribalConsultationFeedback@usda.gov](mailto:SM.FN.TribalConsultationFeedback@usda.gov).

**STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATIONS:** FNS will send written notifications to Tribal leaders once the Rules are published with instructions on public comment periods, as applicable.