



May 27, 2022

Dear Tribal Leader,

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), in partnership with the White House, invite you to participate in a virtual Tribal Consultation Session on June 28, 2022 (1:30-3:30pm EDT) to seek your input on strategies to successfully develop and implement a national strategy on hunger, nutrition, and health.

Purpose. The Biden-Harris Administration has launched an effort to end hunger by 2030 and to increase healthy eating and physical activity so that fewer Americans get chronic diseases — like heart disease and diabetes. This effort will include a White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health to find solutions to these challenges. **At the conference, scheduled for September, the Biden-Harris Administration will announce a Plan** encouraging the public and private sectors to work together to transform the food and physical activity environments in the United States. The goal is to help end hunger, improve nutrition and physical activity, and eliminate disparities.

Framing Paper. Thank you for your active participation this past year on USDA, DOI, and HHS's consultations on food, foodways, and nutrition. In advance of the Tribal Consultation, we will share a **Framing Paper** that incorporates the concerns, challenges, and recommendations we have already heard from Indian Country to date related to indigenous nutrition, foodways, and food insecurity and discuss how we can build off your previous comments to do the following:

1. **Improve food access and affordability:** End hunger by making it easier for everyone — including urban, suburban, rural, and tribal communities — to access and afford food. For example, expand eligibility for and increase participation in food assistance programs and improve transportation to places where food is available.
2. **Integrate nutrition and health:** Prioritize the role of nutrition and food security in overall health, including disease prevention and management, and ensure our health care system addresses the nutrition-related needs of all people.
3. **Empower all consumers to make and have access to healthy choices:** Foster environments that enable all people to easily make informed healthy choices — increase access to healthy food, encourage healthy workplace and school policies, and invest in public messaging and education campaigns that are culturally appropriate and resonate with specific communities.
4. **Support physical activity for all:** Make it easier for people to be more physically active — in part by ensuring everyone has access to safe places to get active — increase awareness of the benefits of physical activity, and conduct research on and measure physical activity.

5. **Enhance nutrition and food security research:** Improve nutrition metrics, data collection, and research to inform nutrition and food security policy, particularly on issues of equity, access, and disparities.

We look forward to your feedback on the important next steps that we can take achieve the five pillars listed above. The Tribal Consultation date, time, and virtual platform are included below.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION (VIRTUAL)

June 28, 2022 at 1:30-3:30 PM EDT

Zoom Registration:

<https://roseliassociates.zoomgov.com/j/1612811428?pwd=UIMrV3dRQWZvWlhEbEJGMzI2MUk4UT09>

We also invite tribes to share written feedback and recommendations to us at consultation@hhs.gov by July 15, 2022. Thank you for your support and partnership as we work to develop a national strategy on hunger, nutrition, and health. I look forward to our discussion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RLV MD".

Rachel L. Levine, M.D.
ADM, USPHS
Assistant Secretary for Health