



Food Distribution National Policy Memorandum

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

3101 Park
Center Drive

Alexandria, VA
22302-1500

DATE: August 26, 2015

POLICY NO. FD-046: Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) (Revised)

SUBJECT: FDPIR - Student Financial Assistance

In accordance with 20 U.S.C. 1087uu, student financial assistance received under Title IV of the Higher Education Act (Title IV) is excluded as income for the purposes of determining eligibility under FDPIR.

Programs that provide student assistance authorized under Title IV include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Federal Perkins Loan Program
- William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program
 - Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized (Stafford) Loans
 - Direct PLUS Loans
 - Direct Consolidation Loans
- Federal Work-Study Program
- Federal Pell Grants
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG)
- Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grants
- Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants

The U.S. Department of Education's program website (<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/landing.jhtml>) provides useful information in reference to student assistance authorized under Title IV. Should there be questions with regard to whether reported student assistance is authorized under Title IV, and therefore excluded from income for FDPIR eligibility purposes, FDPIR Indian Tribal Organizations and State agencies may contact the appropriate FNS Regional Office staff, who may in turn contact the FNS National Office.

Section 1087uu also excludes, as income, funds received under Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) student assistance programs. BIA provides student assistance through several education and training programs including:

- Higher Education Grant Program
- Indian Graduate Student Scholarship Program
- Adult Education Program
- Job Placement and Training Program

Guidance documents lack the force and effect of law, unless expressly authorized by statute or incorporated into a contract. USDA may not cite, use, or rely on any guidance that is not available through their guidance portal, except to establish historical facts.

Indian Tribal Organizations and State agencies should contact their local BIA agency (<http://www.indianaffairs.gov/WhoWeAre/RegionalOffices/>) to determine whether all or part of the funding provided under a BIA education or training program is considered “student assistance” under BIA criteria. If so, the amount of funds considered student assistance by BIA is excluded as income for FDPIR eligibility purposes.

Original Signed

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