



Secretary Brooke L. Rollins

Washington, D.C. 20250

March 13, 2026

THE HONORABLE JOHN BOOZMAN
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
United States Senate
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Boozman,

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is directed to provide a report detailing its annual activities carried out under the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) demonstration project authorized under Section 4003(b) of the *Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018* (P.L. 115-334, the 2018 Farm Bill).

This report provides an overview of the FDPIR and the demonstration project, a summary of the self-determination contracts awarded, data on Tribally procured foods distributed to participants under the demonstration project and other related activities.

Thank you for your interest in the USDA Food and Nutrition Service's nutrition assistance programs. If you need further assistance, please have your staff contact Office of Congressional Relations at (202) 720-7095. A copy of the report has been sent to your colleagues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Brooke L. Rollins".

Brooke L. Rollins
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture

CC:

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
United States Senate
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Glenn "GT" Thompson
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture
United States House of Representatives
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Angie Craig
Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture
United States House of Representatives
1010 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Enclosure



**Report on the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR):
Demonstration Project for Tribal Organizations
Congressional Directive
September 2025**

Directive

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is directed to provide a report detailing its annual activities carried out under the FDPIR demonstration project authorized under Section 4003(b) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-334, the 2018 Farm Bill). This report provides an overview of the program and the demonstration project, a summary of the self-determination contracts awarded through Federal fiscal year (FY) 2025, data on Tribally procured foods issued under the demonstration project, and any other related activities.

Program Background

FDPIR is administered by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) and provides USDA Foods to income-eligible households living on Indian reservations, and to American Indian households residing in approved areas near reservations or in Oklahoma. FDPIR was authorized under the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (P.L. 95-113), which was later renamed the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (FNA). The FNA, as amended, authorizes FDPIR as an alternative to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and authorizes food and administrative funds for the program. Many households participate in FDPIR because they do not have sufficient access to SNAP offices or authorized food stores.

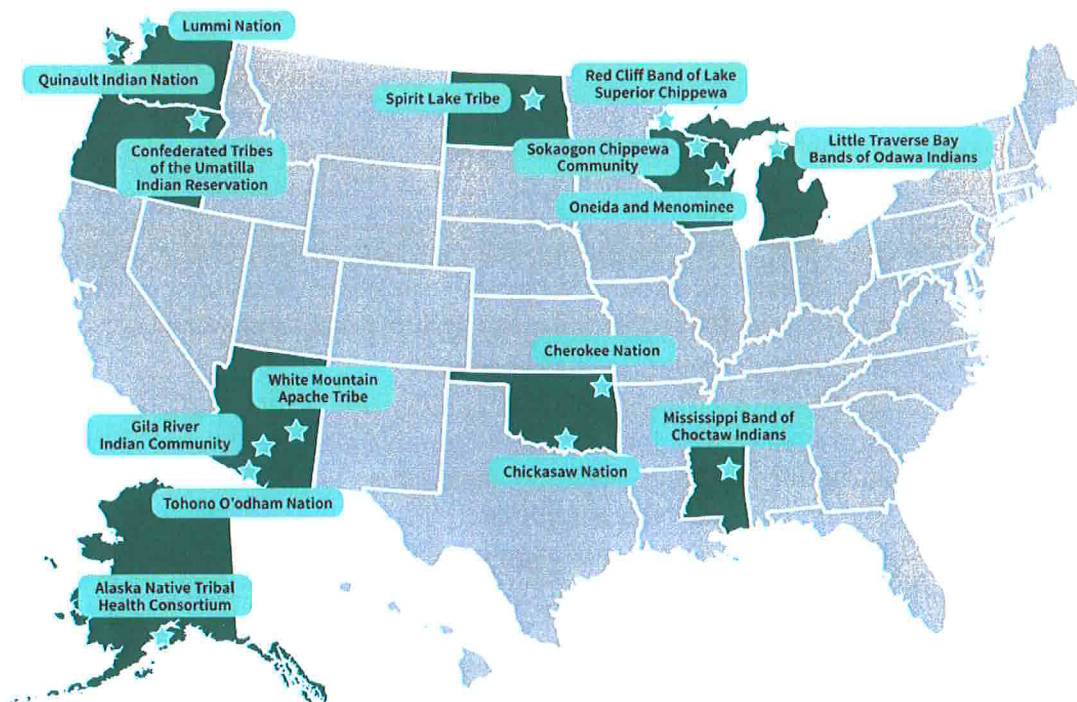
FDPIR is currently administered by 107 Indian Tribal Organizations and three State agencies and provides benefits and nutrition education services to approximately 280 Federally recognized Tribes across the U.S. The program served approximately 53,500 individuals on an average monthly basis in FY 2024, with preliminary participation data for FY 2025 showing an increase to 56,480 as of May 2025. Each month, participating FDPIR households receive a food package to help maintain a nutritionally balanced diet. Participants may select from more than 100 domestically grown and produced foods, referred to as USDA Foods, including fresh fruits and vegetables, a variety of frozen and nonperishable items, and a selection of traditional foods.

Demonstration Project for Tribal Organizations

Currently, the USDA Foods provided in the FDPIR food package are procured by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) in collaboration with FNS. USDA purchases and ships the USDA Foods to Tribal Organizations and State agencies that administer FDPIR. Tribal Organizations and State agencies store and distribute the foods, determine applicant eligibility, and provide nutrition education to recipients. Section 4003(b) of the 2018 Farm Bill established a demonstration project for one or more Tribal Organization(s) within FDPIR to enter into self-determination contracts to purchase foods for their Indian Tribe, instead of USDA, for inclusion in the FDPIR food package.

The 2018 Farm Bill provision under Section 4003(b) supports Tribal Organization self-governance by specifically allowing Tribal Organizations selected for the demonstration project to procure local, regional, and/or Tribal foods instead of USDA doing the procurement. This provision provides FNS with an opportunity to test how Tribal procurement may work under a food distribution program model. The 2018 Farm Bill also authorized USDA and the Department of the Interior (DOI) to collaborate on the demonstration project to give Tribes more control over food procurement in FDPIR. To date, FNS has received a total of \$18.0 million in appropriated funds to support the demonstration project, with \$3 million provided in each FY 2020 through FY 2025. FNS has allocated a total of approximately \$15.0 million through new and modified contracts to 16 Tribal Organizations participating in the demonstration project. The awards were completed across two solicitations, Round 1 and Round 2, each with an initial three-year period of performance.

The geographic location of the 16 Tribal Organizations participating in the demonstration project is mapped below:



Round 1: Self-Determination Contract Awards

In October 2021, through a [Federal Register](#) solicitation process and with assistance from the DOI, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), FNS awarded \$3.5 million to eight Tribal Organizations to participate in Round 1 of the demonstration project. As a group, the Round 1 projects represent diversity in geography, program size, and food selection as contracts were awarded to small, medium, and large size Tribal Organizations from Alaska, Washington, Oklahoma, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Mississippi. Tribal food procurement ranges from traditional foods such as bison, walleye, and wild rice to the full variety of fresh produce that is currently offered by USDA. The eight Tribal Organizations have at least one vendor contract, if not all their vendor contracts, with a Native producer. This is not a Farm Bill requirement, but of great interest to the FDPIR community.

In April 2022, FNS provided the eight participating Tribal Organizations with an opportunity to extend the number of months they were to distribute foods under their existing award and/or to add distribution of new foods to the contract. Of the eight Tribal Organizations, six submitted extension and/or modification requests for a total of \$2.2 million in additionally requested funds. FNS finalized these requests, reaching a total of approximately \$5.7 million allocated to support existing grantees with their project activities through September 2024.

In June 2024, FNS provided the eight participating Tribal Organizations with another opportunity to modify their demonstration activities and extend their contract an additional two years through June 2026 with additional funds, if needed. Seven of the eight Tribal Organizations accepted this extension. One Tribal Organization, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, declined the extension.

A list of the Tribal procurements for each Round 1 demonstration project is provided below. Items in italics indicate traditional foods as identified by each Tribal Organization.

Western Region:

- **Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium** from Alaska: *Alaskan halibut, cod, and Alaskan-grown potatoes.*
- **Lummi Nation** from Washington: *salmon, halibut, prawn/shrimp, and crab.*

Southwest Region:

- **Chickasaw Nation** from Oklahoma: ground beef, roast beef, *dry hominy, and pecans.*

Midwest Region:

- **Oneida Nation and Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin** (joint contract) from Wisconsin: *bison, ground beef, beef roast, fish, wild rice, and apples.*
- **Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa** from Wisconsin: *frozen white fish, apples, carrots, potatoes of various colors, cucumbers, lettuces, frozen squash, fresh and frozen blueberries, and wild rice.*
- **Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians** from Michigan: selection of fresh fruits and vegetables currently offered by USDA, fresh eggs, and *walleye.*

Southeast Region:

- **Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians:** turnip greens, collard greens, yellow squash, tomatoes (red/green), tomato berries, bell peppers, variety hot/sweet peppers, and cucumbers.

Round 2: Self-Determination Contract Awards

In September 2023, FNS successfully completed Round 2 of contract awards and added eight additional Tribal Organizations to participate in the demonstration project following the same [Federal Register](#) solicitation process as in Round 1. In Round 2, awarded contracts continue to represent variety in geography, program size, and food selection. Contracts totaling approximately \$4.4 million were awarded to Tribal Organizations from Oregon, Washington, Oklahoma, Arizona, Wisconsin, and North Dakota. FNS saw an increase in traditional food selection among the Round 2 contracts with continued strong support from Tribal vendors.

A list of the Tribal procurements for each Round 2 demonstration project is provided below. Items in italics indicate traditional foods as identified by each Tribal Organization.

Western Region:

- **Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla** from Oregon: ground beef, beef chuck roast, celery, lettuce, cabbage, carrot, squash, cucumber, honey dew melon, peaches, oranges, apples, cherries, apricots, and eggs.
- **Quinault Indian Nation** from Washington: *canned albacore tuna, canned coho salmon, canned king salmon, king salmon fillet, razor clams, ling cod, and rock fish.*

Southwest Region:

- **Cherokee Nation** from Oklahoma: beef chuck roast and ground beef chub.
- **Gila River Indian Community** from Arizona: Tribal procurement includes *tepany beans.*
- **Tohono O'odham Nation** from Arizona: *soft wheat berries (various), hard wheat berries, wheat flour (various), white tepary beans, brown tepary beans, and garbanzo beans.*
- **White Mountain Apache Tribe** from Arizona: *barbecue corn, corn, summer squash, patty pan squash, green chilies, blue corn meal, ground beef, tongue, intestines (beef), steak, liver, sweet bread, walnuts, acorns, and pine nuts.*

Midwest Region:

- **Sokaogon Chippewa Community** from Wisconsin: *wild rice, carrots, cauliflower, pickling and slicing cucumbers, sweet corn, Roma and slicing tomatoes, zucchini, bison burger, ground beef, pork chops, and chicken breast.*

Mountain Plains Region:

- **Spirit Lake Tribe** from North Dakota: various bison cuts, such as *bison dogs, bison ribeye, bison sirloin steak tips, and bison burgers.*

Annual Data and Tribal Organization Feedback

During FY 2024, participating Tribal Organizations distributed more than 400,000 pounds in Tribally procured food valued at more than \$2.60 million through the demonstration project.

Please see the chart below for a breakdown of food distributed by food category:

FY 2024: Summary of Tribally Procured Foods

Tribally Procured Food by Category	Pounds Issued	Value of Food
Fruits	178	\$388
Vegetable	4,619	\$26,470
Dry Beans	1,651	\$14,859
Egg Mix	228	\$1,488
Meat and Fish	379,010	\$2,441,918
Nuts	11,451	\$103,316
Rice	6,554	\$43,487
Cornmeal	15	\$150
Total	403,706	\$2,632,076

Tribal Organizations also submit an annual report detailing their experience with the demonstration project. Below are noteworthy comments submitted by Tribes in both Round 1 and Round 2.

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (Round 1)

We have maintained positive partnerships with our vendors and have expanded our offerings to include Alaska grown carrots. Program participants report that they enjoy knowing where their food is coming from and that they appreciate that we purchase from Tribally owned vendors. Overall, participants were very satisfied with the addition of the halibut, cod and potatoes. They like the versatility of the fish, the health benefits, and the fact that it is Alaska harvested and traditional to Alaska Native people.

Chickasaw Nation (Round 1)

The Chickasaw Nation FDPIR 638 Self-Determination Demonstration Project has been a tremendous success in the third and fourth years of the project. The Chickasaw Nation FDPIR 638 Self-Determination Demonstration Project's items have been consistently and continuously available throughout the project with minimal or no issues with procurement and distribution. The Chickasaw Nation provided consistent availability of high-quality proteins to the participants, even during the ongoing United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) inventory crisis, which affected the availability of other products in the FDPIR Food Package.

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla (CTUIR) (Round 2)

All the active CTUIR/FDPIR clients are and have been highly satisfied with the quality of the food purchased through the [demonstration project], especially in the recovery for the monthly USDA food deliveries not being received. Clients informed they are appreciative to be able to receive their monthly food orders that they depend on to survive. The clients have also stated how amazing it is to be able to cook and eat local and tribal business owned foods and to see the clients look over their [Tribally procured] foods and to see how excited they get to look at all the different colored Rez Chick eggs is well worth the experience.

Spirit Lake Tribe (Round 2)

We exceeded our anticipated take rates for the products [various cuts of Bison], the vendor had to increase production on their end to make sure we had enough product.

Web Resources and Looking Ahead in FY 2025

The [FDPIR Self-Determination Demonstration Project](#) webpage includes links to professional photo galleries highlighting the demonstration projects of two Round 1 Tribes: [Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa](#) and [Lummi Nation](#). The galleries feature vendors, warehouses, and food distribution sites.

During FY 2025, FNS used the remaining \$3.0 million in funding to do contract modifications for six Tribes that had funding shortfalls so they could complete their project activities through June 2026. FNS also participated in the FDPIR Nutrition Symposium during the annual FDPIR conference held in August 2025 and hosted a session titled **“638 Vision Board: Envisioning the Future.”** This session explored what an expanded 638 Self-Determination Project could look like, encouraging program operators to share insights and document feedback to inform the ongoing demonstration project.