



# Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

## Food Package Review Work Group

September 19, 2024

### Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 FDPIR Food Package Review Workgroup Meeting Minutes

Voting Members		Voting Members	
Mary Greene-Trottier (NAFDPIR President)	X	Joe Van Alstine (MWR VP)	
Rex Hailey (NAFDPIR Parliamentarian)		Gloria Goodwin (MWR)	X
Jaime Prouty (NAFDPIR Treasurer)		Tonya Laurent (MWR Nutritionist)	X
Marisa Fuller (NAFDPIR Secretary)		Perry Martinez (SW VP)	X
Debbie Reyes – Gardipee (WR VP)		Vacant (SWR)	
AC Sanchez (WRR)		Connie Black (SWR Nutritionist)	X
Carla Patterson (WR Nutritionist)/ Alisha Vallee on behalf	X	Janell Conway (NO FNS Branch Chief & Nutritionist)	
Blake Garrison (MP VP)		Reena Oza-Frank (CDC Nutritionist)	X
Vacant (MPR)			
Mara Wack (MPR Nutritionist)			

Non-Voting Attendees	Non-Voting Attendees
FNS HQ Support Staff	Additional FNS/AMS Support Staff
<b>Food Safety and Nutrition Division:</b> Kristin Garcia, Tina Hanes, Katie O’Donnell, and Kati Burton	<b>FNS Regional Offices:</b> Ashton Tongco (MPRO), Devin Wilcox-Mccombs (WRO), and Holly Williams (SWRO)
<b>Operations Division:</b> Danielle Lyons, Justin Lew, and Jaimie Griffin	<b>FNS Tribal Affairs:</b> Joseph Geary and Monika Lacka
<b>Policy Division:</b> Samantha Prins and Liam Comer-Weaver	<b>AMS Support Staff:</b> Denise Glover
<b>Funding and Technology Division:</b> John Enggren and Katie Clifford	
<b>Program Integrity and Monitoring Division:</b> Shenique Bridges, Kathy Staley, and Barbara Lopez	

#### I. Welcome and Attendance

- a. FNS confirmed attendees and provided an overview of the agenda.

#### II. Introduction – Dr. Reena Oza-Frank

- a. FNS introduced Dr. Reena Oza-Frank as a new voting member, representing CDC as one of two Federal nutritionists on the workgroup.

#### III. NAFDPIR Conference

- a. An in-person food package review workgroup will not be held during the NAFDPIR conference in October.
- b. A discussion on opportunities to hold the in-person meeting in 2025 will be added to the November 2024 meeting agenda.



## Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

Food Package Review Work Group

September 19, 2024

### IV. USDA DoD Fresh Produce Guide Rate Update

- a. FNS shared the recent guide rate update, effective October 1, 2024, to include:
  - i. **Addition of seedless cucumbers** (also referred to as English or greenhouse cucumbers) to the fruit and vegetable list.
  - ii. **Fruit and vegetable options will now be distributed by weight.**
    - 1 LB. = 1 Unit versus by size (“medium” and “small”).
    - The last page of the FDPIR Guide Rate has been removed. Fresh produce options are now listed in each category.
    - FDPIR administrative funds or nutrition education funds can be used to purchase scales.
    - There is no deadline to start using scales, but programs are encouraged to purchase scales this year.
  - iii. **Add additional produce package sizes in FFAVORS.** As part of an in-depth review and evaluation of produce availability through the USDA DoD Fresh Program, additional package sizes were identified and subsequently have been made available for ordering through FFAVORS.
- b. Resources were sent to Program Directors to support the new guide rate, including informational handouts on new pack sizes and distribution guidance using weight or loose item methods.
- c. The Workgroup requested a fill rate report noting that not all products or pack sizes are available to all ITOs. The most recent fill rate report is provided with these meeting notes as Attachment A. FNS will also provide fill rate information for fresh produce in advance of future Food Package Review Work Group and USDA DoD Fresh Partner meetings.
- d. Workgroup members asked clarifying questions about distributing by weight vs by size. Clarification was provided during the meeting and in the follow-up resource documents shared with Workgroup members.

### V. Extra Virgin Olive Oil Update

- a. FNS confirmed that extra virgin olive oil has arrived at the Paris Brothers warehouse and will soon be delivered to the Americold warehouse. Ordering will begin monthly when all product has been delivered to warehouses so that it can be fair shared.
- b. FNS will continue to purchase additional trucks to ensure equitable availability of extra virgin olive oil.

### VI. FDPIR Nutrition Paraprofessional Training

- a. FNS shared the FY 25 Community Nutrition Champion Training (CNCT) schedule that had been previously reviewed by NAFDPIR board members.
- b. Past and planned CNCT locations can be seen here: [CNCT Locations FY 22 - 25](#)
- c. FNS shared that a total of 120 Champions have participated since a pilot program was held in June 2022.



## Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

Food Package Review Work Group

September 19, 2024

### VII. Further Questions

- a. Workgroup members requested information about limitations set on pumpkin and sweet potatoes in the guide rate.
- b. FNS confirmed that pumpkin and sweet potatoes are offered as bonus items and are above the guide rate, meaning they are not included in the 20 units for vegetables. FNS indicated that more information will be shared after the meeting.

**Post Meeting Addendum:** For further clarity, pumpkin and sweet potatoes have always been made available as bonus items. During the June 2024 guide rate update, they were moved from the left to the right side of the table to be consistent with the cranberry and ham, which are also seasonal items that are purchased and distributed in the same manner. Pumpkin and sweet potatoes are subject to availability and can be ordered throughout the year if it is available in the warehouse. Bonus items are limited to 1 item per person per month.

- c. The Workgroup asked about the status of the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative (IFAI) Produce Training and if this and CNCT can be tied to future Regional Office trainings.
- d. FNS provided an update that IFAI is currently developing the produce training curriculum and is collaborating with Cherokee Nation to host a pilot in 2025. FNS and the NAFDPIR Board will need to discuss the feasibility of offering training opportunities during annual Regional Office meetings.

### VIII. Next Workgroup Meeting

- a. The next regular virtual call will be held in November. FNS will provide dates and times to the Workgroup in October to schedule.

### IX. Meeting Adjourned