

# Program Highlight: Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

## What is FDPIR?

FDPIR is a Federal nutrition assistance program that provides food packages to low income families living on Indian reservations. This program is an important alternative to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), in rural and remote reservation communities that may lack meaningful access to SNAP offices or grocery stores. Households may not participate in both programs at the same time.

FDPIR is currently administered to 276 tribes via 102 ITOs and 3 state agencies.<sup>1</sup>

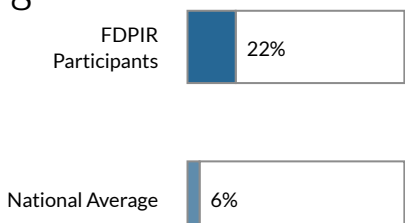
## Who is eligible?<sup>1</sup>

Income-eligible American Indian and non-Indian households that reside on a reservation, and households living in approved areas near a reservation or in Oklahoma that contain at least one person who is a member of a Federally-recognized tribe, are eligible to participate in FDPIR.

## Tribal Self-Determination Project for FDPIR<sup>2</sup>

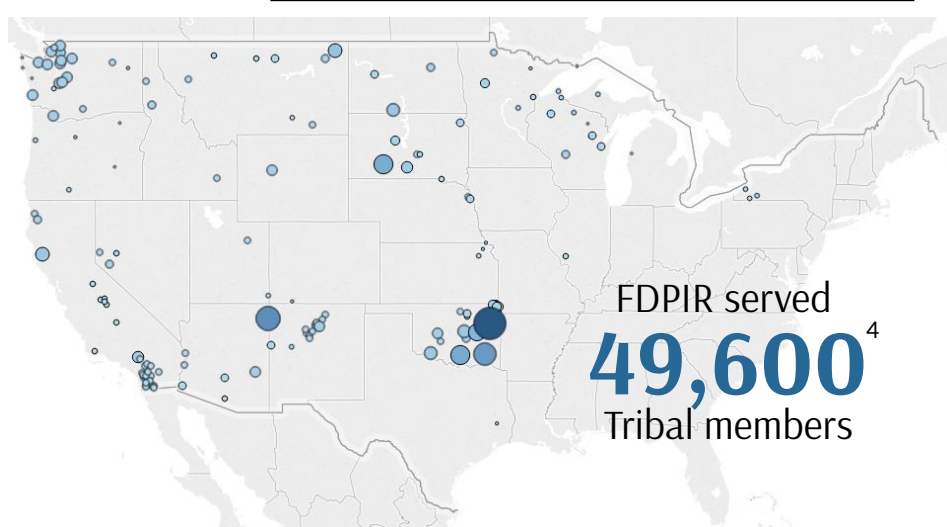
The 2018 Farm Bill authorized \$5 million for demonstration projects for Tribal organizations to enter into 638 self-determination and oversee FDPIR programs themselves. USDA awarded \$5.7 million to the following Tribal nations participating in round 1 of the projects: Oneida Nation and Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin (joint project); Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians; Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior of Chippewa; Chickasaw Nation; Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium; Lummi Nation; and Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. USDA awarded \$4.4 million to the following Tribal nations accepted for Round 23: Cherokee Nation; Confederate Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; Gila River Indian Community; Quinault Indian Nation; Sokaogon Chippewa Community; Spirit Lake Tribe; Tohono O'odham Nation; and White Mountain Apache Tribe.

FDPIR participants experience very low food security at rates **four times** higher than the national average



Top 5 States with most FDPIR participation in 2023:

1. Oklahoma: 16,449
2. South Dakota: 6,958
3. Arizona: 4,765
4. North Dakota: 4,063
5. Montana: 2,666



A map of FDPIR sites and participation rates in the United States.

## Who uses FDPIR?

**42%** of FDPIR households have elders over the age of 60



**81%** of elders using the program rely on Social Security as well

Wages and Social Security are the main sources of income, with over **1/2** of all participants reporting earnings



but-- **1 in 10** FDPIR households has no source of income, and **9%** of zero income households have multiple members

About **1/3** of all FDPIR participant households have children under the age of 18



**74%** of FDPIR 2 parent households and **60%** of single parent households are in the labor force

**59%** of FDPIR households lack access to internet service



**1/3** of FDPIR households do not have a vehicle

## What foods are provided?<sup>1</sup>

- Frozen & canned meats, poultry and fish
- Canned fruits, vegetables, beans, soups, and pasta sauce
- Cheese, egg mix, and various milk options
- Flour, cornmeal, bakery mix, and crackers
- Pastas, cereals, rice, and other grains
- Dried beans and dehydrated potatoes
- Juices and dried fruit
- Peanuts and peanut butter
- **Traditional foods: bison, blue corn meal, salmon, and wild rice**

FDPIR households may select up to 20 units of fruit and 18 units of vegetables per person per month. Each pound of fresh fruit or vegetables equals one unit.

Sources:

1: USDA FNS FDPIR Fact Sheet  
2: H.R.2: Sec. 4003(b)

3: Pindus et al. 2016. "Study of the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) Final Report."

4: National Data Bank, Food and Nutrition Service 2017



For more information, please contact IFAI's Policy Team: [agpolicy@uark.edu](mailto:agpolicy@uark.edu)



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