



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS®

Empowering Indian Country through economic development and greater food access

Food Security in Indian Country During the COVID-19 Crisis

NOPREN Food Security Working Group Bi-Monthly Call
July 27, 2020

Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative

University of Arkansas School of Law



Putting Tribal Sovereignty in Food Sovereignty

- Founded at the Univ. of Arkansas School of Law in 2013 by:
 - Dean Stacy Leeds; and
 - Founding Director Janie Simms Hipp
- **Mission**
 - Enhance health and wellness in tribal communities by advancing healthy food systems, diversified economic development, and cultural food traditions in Indian Country.
- **Our Work**
 - We provide strategic legal analysis, policy research, and educational resources to empower Indian Country through food sovereignty, agriculture, and economic development.



Native Farm Bill Coalition

Membership



Over **170 Tribes** represented

- **79 Native Nations** passed resolutions/sent letters of support
- **15 Intertribal/Native Orgs** and **Tribal Authorities/Businesses:**
 - **Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians**
 - **All Pueblo Council of Governors**
 - **American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA)**
 - **First Nations Development Institute**
 - **Four Bands Community Fund CDFI**
 - **Ho-Chunk, Inc.**
 - **Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative (research partner)**
- **Ally Organizations**
 - **MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger**
 - **National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition**
 - **Intertribal Agriculture Council**
 - **National Association of Food Distribution Programs on Indian Reservations**
 - **National Congress of American Indians**
 - **National Indian Education Association**
 - **National Indian Health Board**
 - **Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission**
 - **Salish and Kootenai Housing Authority**
 - **United South and Eastern Tribes SPF**

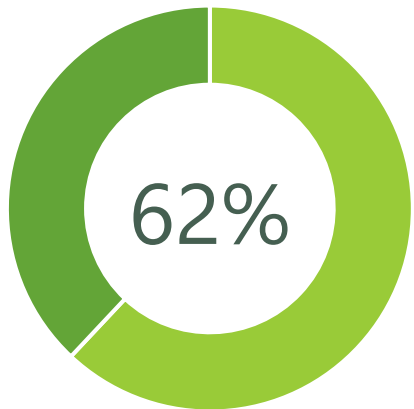
Native Farm Bill Coalition

63 Tribal-Specific Provisions



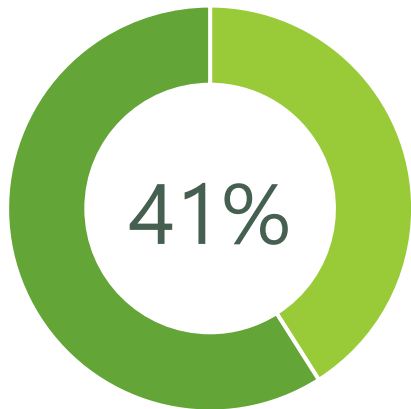
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Tribal Parity
Provisions



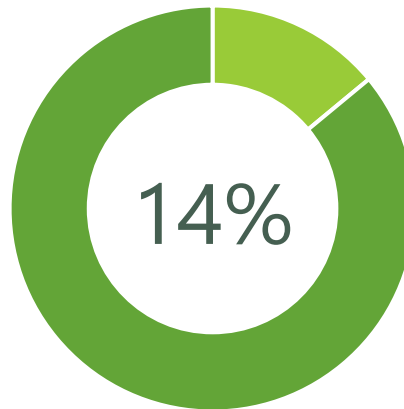
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Access to Funding
Provisions



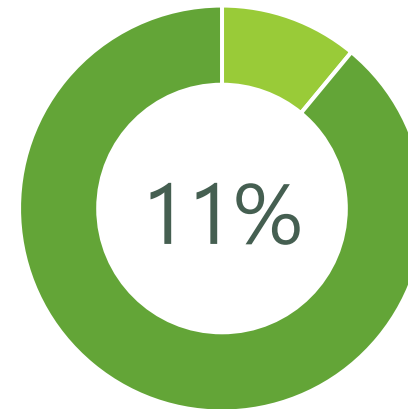
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Training &
Infrastructure
Provisions



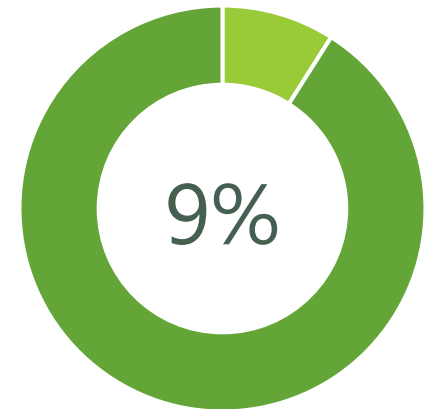
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Technical
Assistance &
Outreach Provisions



6

Traditional &
Native Produced
Food Provisions



**Some tribal provisions may fall under multiple categories*

SNAP



VS

FDPIR



BENEFITS

SNAP participants receive funds on an EBT card each month that they can use to purchase food items at an authorized SNAP retailer. Funds vary by income level, household size, and expenses.

food

BENEFITS

FDPIR participants receive a food package monthly with both fresh and frozen fruits & vegetables, meat, grains, and other items, including some traditional foods. Package size varies by household size.

diet

NUTRITION

The average SNAP diet has been estimated to have a nutritional value of 52% on the Healthy Eating Index, as determined by the USDA.

The USDA Healthy Eating Index has placed the nutritional value of the FDPIR food package at 85%.

PARTICIPANTS

25% of AI/AN people in the United States participate in SNAP. Tribal lands often have a higher rate of participation compared to the state as a whole.

people

PARTICIPANTS

FDPIR serves around 90,200 people monthly. Most FDPIR households (62%) are headed by women, over 40% of households have elders in the home, and a third have children under 18.

FDPIR



Fresh fruits and vegetables have been a regular part of the FDPIR food package since **2010**.

The 2018 Farm Bill created a **"638"** self-determination project for FDPIR, enabling Tribes to source food for the package.

On average, FDPIR has approximately **90,200** participants each month.

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

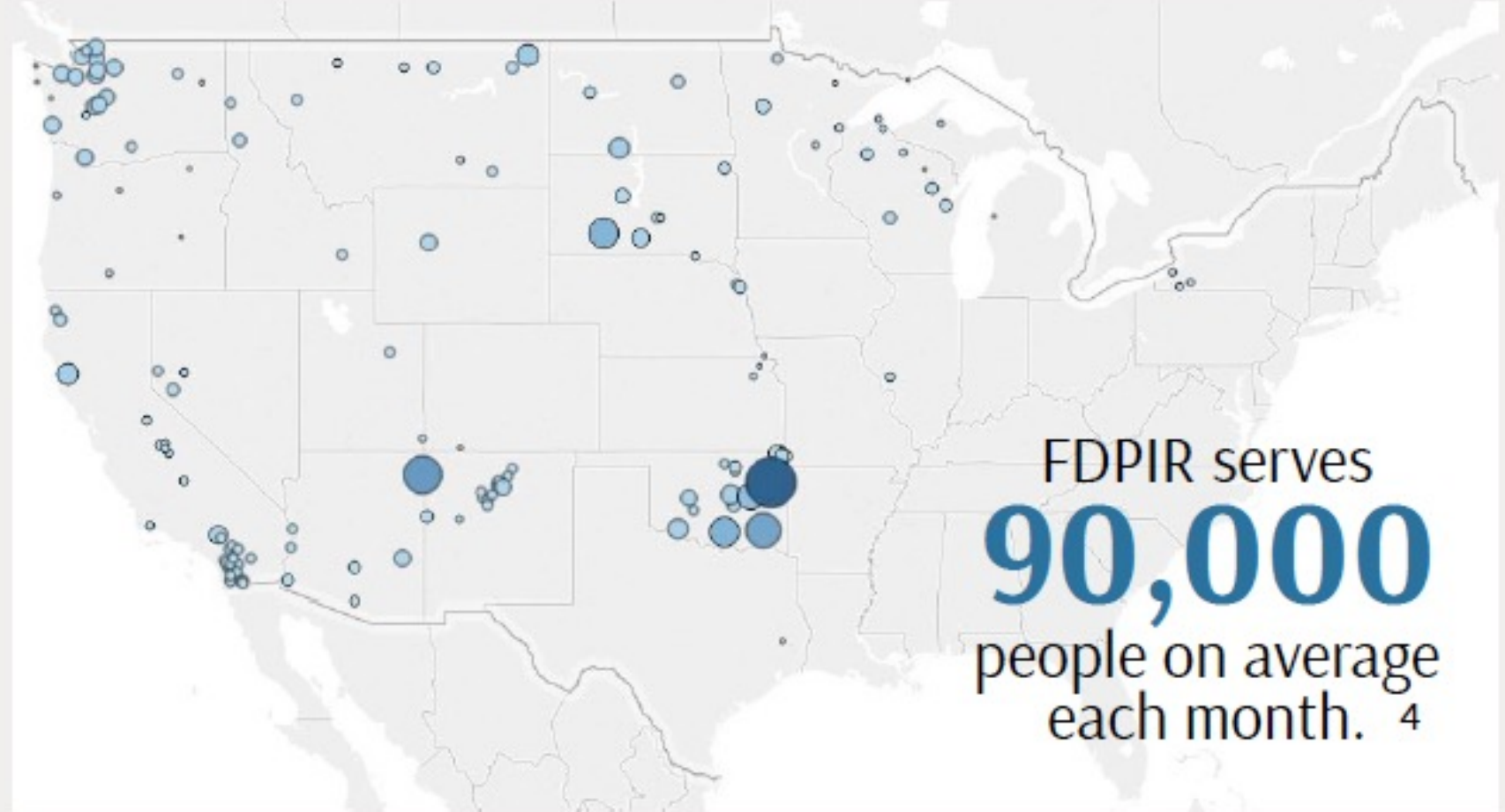
59% of FDPIR households lack access to internet service



1/3 of FDPIR households do not have a vehicle



Number of Participants



A map of FDPIR sites and participation rates in the United States. ⁴



Traditional Foods in FDPIR

Current traditional foods offered to FDPIR participants are bison, salmon, catfish, wild rice*, and blue cornmeal.¹

Nutrient-rich, traditional foods grown locally and sourced to FDPIR would generate revenue and employment benefits to Tribes and local businesses, improve the quality of the food, and reduce the costs of delivery.²



Ground bison



Wild salmon



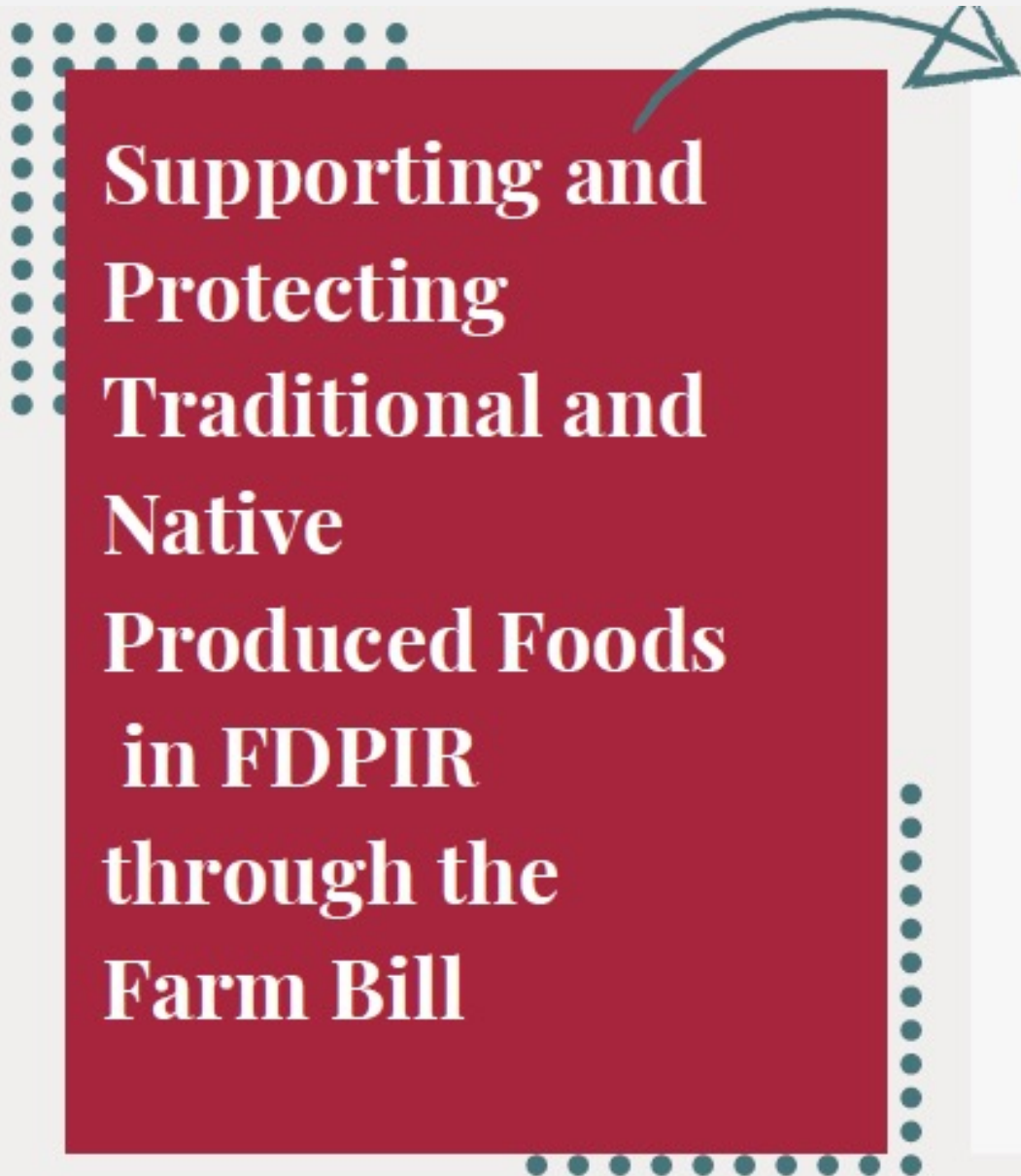
Wild rice*



Blue cornmeal



Catfish



Supporting and Protecting Traditional and Native Produced Foods in FDPIR through the Farm Bill

Public Law 93-638 The Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act

The 2018 Farm Bill authorized the 638 Tribal Self-Determination Project for FDPIR Food Procurement which allows Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) to enter into 638 agreements in order to decide what food goes into the FDPIR food packages instead of the USDA. Congress has appropriated \$3 million to this project.³

Allowing ITOs to do their own food purchasing for FDPIR gives opportunity for:

- traditional foods to be more readily available to Native citizens,
- Tribally produced food procurement,
- and regional coordination among Tribes and vendors⁴



638 Authority

The Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA), **also known as 638 authority**, authorizes Tribes to administer certain federal government programs through government contracts and compacts.¹



Quick Statistics on Tribal 638 Administration

approximately

67%

of 574 Federally
Recognized Tribes have
a 638 agreement with
the federal government

60%

of the Indian Health
Services' budget is
Tribally administered

50%

of the Department of
the Interior's budget is
Tribally administered



Why 638 Authority?



It has been the most successful and supportive mechanism for enhancing Tribal self-determination and self-governance.



Tribes have the knowledge and understanding of the needs of their community



Direct, streamlined funding to Tribes for contracting and compacting programs ensures support to Tribal citizens to meet their specific needs and circumstances.



Reduces administrative burdens both on Federal and Tribal governments



COVID-19 Impacts on FDPIR

- Data and Concerns from the National Association of FDPIR
 - Avg. 15% increase in new participants [over 50% at some sites]
 - Food "Take Rate" rising at ITO sites, leaves less food in stock at sites
 - Supply chain inventory and ordering issues from national warehouses, and produce suppliers in some areas
 - Lack of existing infrastructure to handle new participants and food storage space for additional food needed to serve new participants
 - USDA Foods Disaster Assistance: tribes are eligible, but this requires additional support to increase warehouse inventory



COVID-19 Impacts on FDPIR and Indian Country

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Current Legislative and Policy Response to COVID-19

Implementing the CARES Act – H.R. 748

- \$100 million for FDPIR
 - \$50 million for infrastructure – already starting to be distributed
 - \$50 million for additional – plan just developed
- USDA's Farmers to Families Food Box Program – FDPIR Impacts
 - Increased Tribal inclusion in the next round?
- 638 FDPIR Tribal Consultations
 - Pilot will begin in the Fall
 - Increase the number of potential programs
 - Improve the ability for Tribes to make procurement determinations

Legislative and Policy Response to COVID-19 So Far

Potential Policies in a C4?

- Local procurement for FDPIR Programs
- Waiver dual use prohibition for SNAP/FDPIR
- Increase SNAP
- Tribal inclusion in TEFAP
- Extend time for Tribes and States for the Corona Virus Relief Fund to make food sovereignty investments
- Credit/debt relief for food producers



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