

USDA Food and Nutrition Service  
Tribal Consultation Quarterly Session  
February 13, 2013

Welcome and thank you for standing by. At this time all participants are in a listen only mode until the question and answer session of today's conference. At that time, to ask a question please press star one on your touch tone phone and record your name at the prompt. I would now like to inform all parties that this call is being recorded, if you have any objects you may disconnect at this time. I would now like to turn the call over to Miss Darlene Barnes, you may begin.

Thank you, good afternoon everyone and I want to welcome you and thank you for joining us today for our quarterly Tribal Consultation meeting. My name is Darlene Barnes and I am the Regional Administrator for the US Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service, and I will be your consulting official today. I would like to welcome tribal leaders, members and representatives to today's important discussion. Prior to today's meeting we reached out to you with information about various program areas and regulations we would like to consult on. We proposed an agenda for today's call and would like to consult with you on a draft regulation on donated foods, a proposed regulation on nutrition standards for all foods sold in schools, plans for program expansion for our summer food service program in 2013, several research studies on the child and adult care food program and our summer food service program, and then this will be followed by open dialogue. We have scheduled specifically some open dialogue time today to consult with you on items that you would like to bring forward. I look forward to hearing from you on all of these topics today.

First I would like to start by sharing with you some recent news that you may already know. On January 11<sup>th</sup> Secretary Vilsack sent a letter to tribal leaders in regards to a change with his senior advisor to tribal relations at the department level. Miss Jamie Hipp, who many of you know, had served in this role since 2009. Jamie recently decided to leave USDA to be closer to her family in Arkansas. As you know, Jamie did an exceptional job in her role as Senior Advisor and to ensure continuity in our work with the tribes, the Secretary has appointed Mr. Max Finberg to serve on an interim basis as Acting Director and Senior Advisor to Tribal Relations for USDA. So now I would like to introduce my long time and friend Max Finberg to share a few words with us. Max, welcome to our discussion and I'll turn it over to you.

Thank you very much Darlene. I appreciate that and thank you to all of you who are giving up either your afternoons or mornings for those of you in Alaska who are joining us we appreciate it very much. And thank you as well Barbara for helping make all of this come together. I appreciate the introduction and as you mentioned Darlene, Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack asked me to step into the role as Acting Director of the Office of Tribal Relations and as his Senior Advisor for our government to government relations with tribes and have been honored to do for the past four weeks. I've come to understand that I don't even know what I don't know but am learning considerable. I'm originally from the Catskill Mountains of upstate New York, the land of the Lenni-Lenape at the headwaters of the Delaware. While I don't have native roots, was exposed to some of the tribal culture and heritage as a boy through our Boyscout troop and very keen to deepen my understanding and learn more ever since and recognizing some of the history of my ancestors in pushing folks out tribes to where they are I always want to start by saying I am sorry, in recognizing the sorry history that our country has. Part of the mandate that President Obama has give to the Secretary and the Secretary has given to me and all of us is to try and do what we can to repair that relationship and restore the trust that has been violated. That's part of why we do these consultations in a very real way.

Just a quick story before starting, years ago was involved with a program that had a couple of folks serving on the Cherokee Nation in Oklahoma and they were working with their food distribution program on Indian reservations and connected with the fact that their weren't fresh fruits and vegetables as part of the package of commodities back then. The woman, Heidi Hattenbach comes back to the Department of Agriculture works with our commodity division and shares some of her first hand experience and stories of the impact of the food distribution program. She was hired on board and as part of her time here at USDA she worked on the very first pilot project of what is the now the Department of Defense Fresh Produce Program that provides fresh fruits and vegetables to tribes as part of the food package that didn't exist when she started working here in 1995. She relayed to me a story when she was first out on one of the pilots an 82 year old woman on the reservation who got the food package and told her that she had never

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seen this fruit before, only for Christmas when the tribe would buy oranges for everyone had she been able to have fresh fruit before. So, that was just stands in my mind now, years later where that program is up and running and was just on the Pine Ridge Reservation a couple years ago and saw their program that included tons of fresh produce, fruits and vegetables and just recognized the importance of consulting, of being able to get feedback to improve our programs to make sure that we have the input from tribal governments as well as those members who administer the programs and benefit from the programs that we run and not simply the food distribution program on Indian Reservations.

Fast forward now to 2013 the first act of the second term of the Obama Administration for Secretary Vilsack was signing a departmental regulation, sort of embedding the practice that the food and nutrition service has come to do a great job with but making sure that consultation is woven into the fabric of the Department of Agriculture. We deal with a lot of different programs, a lot of priorities in a variety of ways but our work in Indian country is pretty substantial. I was with the tribal housing impact summit this morning that we hosted here at USDA, last week we were talking with the American Indian Higher Education Consortium here at the Department and so our work touches Indian country in a variety of ways. The President has made a substantial commitment by hosting the Tribal Nation Summit every year of his administration and the Secretary has been a part of that and we are very committed here at USDA to make sure that there are ways to incorporate the input and feedback of tribal nations in the programs that we administer. I just want to thank you again for participating in this and making sure that we are doing the best job we can in serving Indian country with the programs we have that serve now one in four Americans across the country.

Last story, Darlene and then I'll turn it back to you, a couple months ago I was serving on a temporary assignment at the White House and we hosted an awards ceremony for Champions of Change, dealing with hunger. One of those champions of change was Terrol Dew Johnson, a young man from the Tohono O'odham nation in southern Arizona, and I had met Terrol years before when he helped to host a couple of hunger fellows, similar to the same program that was also in the Cherokee nation. His quest to work with his tribe, with his relatives and neighbors who were suffering from the highest rate of adult onset diabetes in the world at the time, that might have been eclipsed, but the Tohono O'odham had one in every two of their members with diabetes. One of the things that he embarked on was reclaiming some of the native foods and seeds that would be a pathway to return to health. So it was a treat and an honor to have him recognized by the White House for his good work and was a privilege for me to be able to see the relationship come full circle and recognize him while I was there. I appreciate the work that each of you do and am grateful for the time we have this afternoon to again improve our programs and those we serve collectively. Darlene, thank you.

Thank you Max and it is a treat and an honor for us to have you in the position that you're in now to work with us. I just want to reiterate that USDA and the administration we do take consultation very seriously and we are here to strengthen our nation to nation relationship on a continuous basis. I look forward to our dialogue this afternoon. Let's start with introductions both with FNS staff joining me as well as participant introductions over the phone and I'll start with Barbara Lopez.

Great, thank you so much Darlene and welcome everyone to today's session. As Darlene mentioned my name is Barbara Lopez and I work with Food and Nutrition Service. I am one of the Tribal Coordinators for our agency. I help coordinate our consultation schedule and our consultation meetings whether they're in person or on our yearly quarterly schedule. I also work in the Food Distribution Division in the policy branch. As Darlene mentioned, we did reach out with several emails that included today's agenda as well as various handouts for today's session. You can also find all of that information on our tribal affairs web page. I'll go ahead and share that with you, it's an important web page where we post a lot of important information. That web address is [www.FNS.USDA.gov/FNS/Tribal](http://www.FNS.USDA.gov/FNS/Tribal) and that web address is included in all of our communication and that particular web page has our consultation schedule, it has all the handouts, we also include our transcripts from all of our sessions there, so all of the information is there as a reference and a resource for you. As Darlene mentioned, we're going to do introductions we'll start with our FNS staff that's joining us from the National Office and Dana Rasmussen we'll start with you and go around the room please.

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I'm Dana Rasmussen I'm with the Chief of the Policy Branch Food Distribution Division here at the Food and Nutrition Service.

Stacey Brayboy, Chief of Staff for the Administrator here at FNS.

This is Bill Wagoner; I'm with the School Sections of the Child Nutrition Division here at FNS.

Carol Lewis Acting Director for the Office of Strategic Initiatives, Partnerships and Outreach.

Melissa Albalev the Branch Chief for the Special Nutrition Evaluation Branch in the Office of Research and Analysis at FNS.

I'm Tina Namian; I'm with the Child and Adult Care Food Program and the Summer Food Service Program Section in the Child Nutrition Division here at FNS.

Catrina Watkins, Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff.

Great, wonderful, now we will do introductions with all our participants on the phone line. We invite all of our Tribal leaders, our Tribal members and representatives please join us for introductions we want to make sure we capture your name and your tribe for our official consultation records. We invite everyone to please participate, you can press star one on your phone and the operator will help connect your phone line with us. So once again, we invite you to please join us in introductions by pressing star one on your phone. Operator, I appreciate your help and if I can get your assistance, we're ready for the first introduction please.

No problem, it'll be just one moment for them to come in. again as a reminder to press star one for introductions, please stand by. First up we have Anna, go ahead your line is open.

Anna Cruce, Muskogee Creek Nation.

Georgia Barros I'm with the Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho and I am the Food Distribution Program Director.

Jackie McArthur, Nez Perce Tribe Social Services.

Peggy Bazant, Red Cliff Food Distribution Program.

Jerry Taulbee with Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Food Distribution Program.

Melinda Newport, Chickasaw Nation.

Ruth Rifle.

Anita Fernandez, Manager Colorado River Indian Tribes.

Gloria Goodwin.

[Long Pause]

All right well let's go ahead and continue on. I'll hand it back to Darlene Barnes and operator we'll check with you a little later to see if we had any other ones on the phone line, thank you.

Okay, sounds good.

Thank you again everyone and I appreciate the introductions and we'll go ahead and get started. The first item we'd like to consult with you on falls under food distribution. We are currently drafting a proposed rule on requirements for the distribution and control of donated foods. I will ask Dana Rasmussen to provide a summary of this draft rule, Dana?

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Thank you Darlene, we have a rule, a draft of a proposed rule that we're getting ready to enter into clearance over here. It's entitled Revisions and Clarifications and the Requirements for the Distribution and Control of Donated Foods. This is essentially a rewrite of 7CFR part 250 and again we're looking into place it into clearance into the coming weeks. It would apply to our food distribution programs and that would include the USDA foods side of the National School Lunch Program, the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations and the Emergency Food Assistance Program. Generally this rule will propose to revise and clarify requirements to ensure that USDA foods are distributed, stored, and managed in the safest, most efficient and cost effective manner possible. It would reduce administrative and reporting requirements for state agencies distributing USDA foods. And we're looking to rewrite much of the 7CFR part 250 in plain language. Keep it in a more – put it into a more user friendly format. We're hoping to obtain the necessary clearances and published this proposed rule in the Federal Register in the spring or summer of this year. We're looking optimistically in April but it could take a bit longer for publication. The rule will have a 90 day public comment period. We will keep program representatives and directors apprised of the rule when it's published and let you know when that public comment period begins. Thank you.

Thank you Dana, next I'm glad to open up for consultation or any questions on --.

Operator please we're ready to open up the phone lines for any questions that we may have. Just as a reminder for folks that are on the line you can press star one on your phone if you have a question about the proposed rule that we just described.

Again as a reminder please press star one, un-mute for phone and record your name clearly. I will require your name to introduce your question. If you need to withdraw your question at any time please press star two. Again to ask a question please press star one and record your name, one moment please while the questions come in. And I'm showing no questions at this time.

Okay, thank you we'll move on to our next topic. Our next two agenda items are under our Child Nutrition Division. On February 8, 2013 we published a proposed rule to the Federal Register the rule is titled The National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program, Nutrition Standards for All Foods Sold in School as Required by the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010. I will now ask Bill Wagoner to please provide a summary of the provisions in this proposed rule. Bill?

Thanks Darlene, the proposed standards were required by the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 which allows schools to offer healthier snack foods for children while limiting the junk food. Proposed standards will support the work already taking place across the country whether by school foods service, school administrators or parents. The school community works hard to instill healthy habits in the students. The snacks sold to the school should reinforce that hard work. Proposed standards coupled with the improvements to school lunches that was implemented last fall will ensure the children are offered nutritious food options at school. Under the proposal all foods sold in schools must be either a fruit, a vegetable, a dairy product, a protein food, a whole grain rich product or a combination food that contains at least one quarter cup of fruit or vegetable. If it doesn't meet any of those it could contain ten percent of the daily value of a nutrient sited as public health concern in the dietary guidelines for Americans. Currently those would be calcium, potassium, vitamin D and dietary fiber. Additionally foods sold must meet a range of nutrient requirements for calories, sodium, fat and sugar. Other standards are proposed as well for example all schools may sell at any time during the school day plain water, plain low fat milk, plain or flavored fat free milk and milk alternatives that are permitted by the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Program. And 100% fruit or vegetable juice would also be allowed. Beyond this the proposal offers additional beverage options that vary by grade level for all foods sold outside the meal programs in the schools. Those proposed requirements include fund raisers and accompaniments, the sale of food items that meet proposed nutrition standards as fund raisers would not be limited in any way under the proposed rule.

In addition, the law permits USDA to allow for a limited number of fundraisers to sell food and beverage items that do not meet the proposed nutritional standards. The proposal includes two alternative approaches for you to comment on that provide discretion to state agencies in determining this frequency

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with which fundraising activities take place and request other suggestions. Proposed standards would not apply to nonschool hours, to weekends and off campus fund raising events. The accompaniments are items commonly served with food such as cream cheese or salad dressing or butter and can add significant amounts of calories, fat and sugar and sodium to a diet. To reduce the added calories, fat, sugar and sodium in foods served to students during the school day we propose that the use of accompaniments be limited when food is sold to students in school. Essentially that means the proposal is including the accompaniments as part of the nutrient profile of the food that is served. Rather than offer a single approach the proposal offers alternatives in several areas, USDA is seeking comments on how to best preserve flexibility for schools in an updated healthy environment. Before the rule goes into effect this is a proposed, the public has an opportunity to comment on proposed standards. Public comment is a very important step in a regulatory process that helps USDA further refine our proposal and the final requirements that will become effective. And in this case it will be effective no earlier than one full school year after the implementing rule is published. That's it for me.

Thank you Bill, so let's stop here and see if there are any comments.

Again as a reminder please press star one on your phone and record your name if you have a question or a comment. One moment please. And I'm showing no questions at this time.

Thank you then next we'll move on to our next agenda item under child nutrition as well --.

Excuse me, I had one come in late here. One moment while I get there name.

Great, thank you.

Georgia Barros, go ahead your line is open.

Okay, I just had a question regarding that. What about when there's food banks or mainly food banks. They do those backpack programs or even just pantries and there's a lot of the snacks and all that, that aren't nutritious. So, what is going to happen with that since it is donated foods to the backpack program and all are they going to allow that?

First of all let me just say that this is for food sold in school. If this is food being donated and given away for different programs that would be outside of this rule. If you feel -- if there's any question when you look through the rule as to whether a particular situation would fall under this rule or not, certainly comment on that and put it specifically why you think it would be an issue and we'll of course read all those comments and make sure we try to address that in the final one and make sure it doesn't cause a problem.

Okay, because I know they have the school pantries that are opening up or being available to local schools and here in Idaho they just received a call from the -- through the state of Idaho to participate in their school pantry and we do receive foods through the Idaho food bank and there's a lot -- some foods that are, you know like the cookies and the potato chips and all that, but it's donated items from local stores or the -- what is going to happen, that's what was my question.

Right and certainly any food that fits within the standards, which will be a lot of them, those won't be of any question, but some of the cookies possibly would -- may not be an issue under the standard and we would have to look at those.

All right thank you.

Thank you Georgia. Any other questions or comments?

I show no further questions at this time.

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Okay, as I was saying, the message and an item under child nutrition is our summer food service program, I will ask Tina Namian to please provide us with a summary of our plans to expand the summer food service program access.

Thanks Darlene. Increasing the meals served to low income children during the summer months continues to be an important priority for us at FNS. The summer food service program is a key part of that strategy and many of you may be familiar with SFSP, the Summer Food Service Program, but just to provide some background, the program is a federally funded program administered by the state that helps fill the summer meal gap for low income children by reimbursing organizations that serve children meals at feeding sites during summer months. Schools, tribal organizations, churches, recreation centers, playgrounds, parks, and camps can all provide summer meals in areas with high percentages of low income families, making a positive impact on the lives of hungry children.

Historically summer meals served by the national school lunch program and the summer food service program reach only about 15% of the 22 million children receiving free or reduced price lunches during the school year. For more than a decade, we at FNS have made extensive efforts to increase participation in the SFSP through policy, research and outreach efforts. This year we wanted to try something new. Our plan for summer 2013 includes target technical assistance to five states. Those states are Arkansas, California, Colorado, Rhode Island and Virginia. FNS, national and regional office staff will work closely with the state agencies and partners in the targeted states with the goal of increasing the number of eligible children who receive these important summer meals, identifying successful strategies that can be shared throughout the country in determining what more at USDA can do to support increased participation.

As part of this targeted technical assistance, we will cultivate strong partnerships and working relationships around specific goals related to access and ensure that the grassroots efforts of communities are supported at all levels. Participation of tribal organizations in summer feeding and providing access to summer meals for children on tribal lands will be important considerations in this process. In addition to the targeted technical assistance we will continue outreach and communication efforts at the national, regional and local levels. As part of our national outreach effort we're offering six free webinars on the summer food service program. The webinars will review program participation requirements, cover resources and tools available to help get started, highlight successful programs and outreach practices from around the country and provides an opportunity to have questions answered by FNS program experts.

All the webinars will take place from 2:00 EST – 3:00 pm EST and are scheduled between February 20<sup>th</sup> and April 3<sup>rd</sup>. In follow up to this call we will provide the specific dates and times of the webinars to everyone. We also plan to create summer food service program related materials, tools, content and resources that we will disseminate through our partners and make available on our website. Additionally, summer food service program sponsor recruitment this year will include a new focus on encouraging participation in the child and adult care food program at risk after school meals during the school year. As you may know, USDA provides reimbursement for meals and snacks served in after school programs that are located at sites where at least half of the children in the school attendance area are eligible for free and reduced priced school meals and which offer educational enrichment activities after the regular school day ends or on weekends and holidays during the regular school year.

Many of the sites that participate in the summer food service program also may qualify for at risk meals during the school year. We will be working to ensure that these organizations understand the options they may have for providing a year round meal service for children in their community. Finally FNS will work with the USDA Office of Travel Relations, Office of Rural Development, Office of Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnerships and other USDA missionaries to leverage available assets and services in support of expanding the number of eligible children who have access to summer meals this summer. If you want more information on the summer food service program and also information about registering for the webinars that's available on our website at [www.summerfood.usda.gov](http://www.summerfood.usda.gov) thanks.

Thank you Tina. I'll open it up again for any comments or questions.

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Again for any questions or comments please press star one and record your name, please stand by. Our first question comes from Peggy Bazant. Go ahead your line is open.

Yes, I don't only do the food distribution program we actually do the lunch program during the summer and I had heard you say that you are going to try to let us do it all year long, I'm not quite sure what that meant. And after school snack (inaudible) or what? Doesn't the school pick that up during the school year?

What I was talking about is programs that participate in the Summer Food Service Program during the summer often times those programs are just community organizations that only operate in the summer. And so those organizations also may be eligible to participate in the child and adult care food program at risk after school meals. So those programs might be able to offer meals in an after school program for kids during the school year. Those programs might be able to operate year round. If you're already participating in the national school lunch program during the school year and you're offering after school snacks you still might be able to participate in the CACFP at risk after school meals program and offer suppers during the school year as well. So that's what I was referring to, those two programs in combination really could allow organizations to serve meals year round for that group of children. Does that help?

Yes it does.

Thank you, any other comments or questions.

I have no further questions at this time.

Okay, well now we will move on to our research part of the consultation where we're going to talk to you about several research studies and I would like to introduce Melissa Albalev from our Office of Research and Analysis which is the research arm of the Food and Nutrition Service. Melissa?

Hi, good afternoon everyone, thank you for letting me contribute today. The Office of Research and Analysis at FNS looks at program and participation evaluation activities for all of FNS programs. We have a couple of new studies starting this year that I would like to describe to you. One is called the Characteristics of Summer Food Service Participants and Programs. As Tina mentioned the SFSP serves only a small percentage of the children who receive free and reduced priced meals through the National School Lunch Program during the school year and this study would provide greater insight into who offers and uses SFSP meals. It would update data last collected in the summers of 2003 and 2004 and it will explore families SFSP participation decisions, help identify gaps in service and ultimately shed more light on potential reasons for the low participation rate. With this understanding we would anticipate FNS would be able to refine the program to reach more children more effectively. We're also looking at the characteristics of child and adult care food program providers. This study too would deepen FNS's understanding of CACFP provider characteristics, it'll examine the type and size of providing institutions and homes, characteristics of participants served, type, amount and range of reimbursements and other key characteristics.

The study would inform policy about CACFP ensuring it's able to reach its goals most efficiently and provide a base for future research. Finally a third study is called the study on Nutrition and Wellness Quality in Childcare Settings. The healthy hunger free kids act of 2010 in section 223 directed USDA to conduct a nationally represented study of childcare providers to assess the nutritional quality of foods provided in childcare settings and opportunities for physical activity and facilitators and barriers to providing healthy foods and physical activity and participation in CACFP. We will be conducting this study and complementing it with a dietary assessment study as an adjunct and this project would examine the dietary intakes of a nationally represented sample of children in child care centers and include head start and again these studies are meant to help inform FNS programs so that we can serve all of our participants most effectively. Thank you.

Thanks Melissa. I'm going to ask if there are any comments or question on the three research studies that Melissa mentioned.

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Again if you would like to ask a question, please press star one, un-mute your phone and record your name clearly. I will require your name to introduce your question. If you need to withdraw your question at any time please press star two. Again to ask a question please press star one and record your name. Please stand by while we wait for questions. Our first question comes from Jennifer [Oatman]. Go ahead your line is open.

My question is in regard to the CACFP. When you folks are conducting these studies, do you include what would constitute family style dining? I work for a head start program and we're a tribal program of course but I think as a tribe I think I'd like us to define what family style dining means to us as opposed to what USDA, CACFP is telling us what it should be.

Yes, we will be looking at the sponsored institutions, the independent institutions and the family daycare homes and so I would assume the family daycare homes is where the groups that you're referencing would fall into? We'll be doing a survey looking at all of the feeding patterns of within those institutions and so certainly the way that meals are served will be examined. It's a descriptive study it's not an evaluative study and so we're just looking at what providers are doing in this particular study.

So this study would influence any type of policy coming back down?

All of our studies seek to provide more information to FNS so that they can use that in developing and improving the programs.

And Jennifer I think we would or I know we would take on your comment here into consideration.

Okay, I want to make sure – like I said family style dining may mean something differently to a tribe and it's probably unique to each tribe but when we're being told you have to do it this certain way and I'm thinking well this reminds me of 1950 a mom and a dad with two point five kids sitting around a dining room table. How can you realistically have a child who is three serve themselves under the auspices of family style dining when I don't even do that at home, probably a lot of people don't. So that's why I'm asking that question and hoping that it can be included somewhere so that when it comes back down, tribes need to be able to define that for themselves.

Right and we will definitely take your comment into consideration.

Thank you.

You're welcome. Any other comments or questions?

I show no more questions at this time.

Well now we come to the part of – I know we've covered a lot of items today for one and now's the time if you have any comments or questions or a dialogue that you'd like to have about what we talked about or if there's any additional items or thoughts that you may have before we move forward from here? I'll open it up to you all.

Again if you have a comment or question, please press star one and record your name so I can introduce you. Again please press star one. Please stand by. I have one question coming in, please stand by. Our first question comes from Jerry; go ahead your line is open.

This is Jerry Taulbee Director of Food Distribution for Choctaw Nation; I just had a quick question as to what precipitated the need to revisit the requirements for the distribution and control of donated foods?

Hi Jerry, Dana Rasmussen here. The rule that we have on the books right now 7CFR part 250 is very old. Several years old so what we're looking to do is get the rule up to speed with current practice and policy and make sure that folks are distributing and storing and managing USDA foods in the safest and most effective manner possible. And we do want to reduce some administrative and reporting requirements at state agencies and Indian tribal organizations currently face. So that's part of what precipitated this

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revision. This revision has been going on for several years but we're now at a point where we're ready to enter into clearance in the coming weeks.

Okay, I appreciate it.

Our next question comes from Deb your line is open.

Hi, can you hear me?

We can hear you.

My name is Deb Echo-Hawk and I'm the Keeper of the Seeds for the Pawnee Nation, I also work with the food programs. I was wondering what kind of USDA initiatives are out there for promoting farmer market kind of projects and providing vouchers for families or elders?

We have the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program, and we have been working with farmers markets to encourage more farmers markets to participate in our – both our SNAP and WIC programs as well.

Is that something that you need to – is it a competitive grant or how does that, how do you find that information?

We can send you some information if you would give us your email, address or whatever you'd like and I can give you some information specifically related to the questions surrounding farmers markets.

Okay so I just need to give you what now?

Either your email address or --.

Oh, okay, all right, I registered as Deb Echo-Hawk and my email address is there.

Great, we will get back to you following this consultation.

Thank you.

You're welcome.

Our next question comes from Jackie McArthur; go ahead your line is open.

Thank you. I'm reviewing the material and I'm curious as to how the USDA and in particular Child and Adult Care Food Program from Child Care Settings and in the school lunch setting but for instance with head start with the serving controls or the serving sizes and no seconds I understand healthy kids, obesity prevention, what about the socio economic and different demographics that we have within head start programs and non-reservation for hungry children who say they are just hungry? How is that addressed or recognized with the new standards they need to hang tight until they get off from school and what would your recommendations be?

Is your question related to the research studies?

The implementation of the serving – so can children have seconds and I know at the elementary there are no seconds and there may be, I think they can get, I'm not sure what they can receive but the servings – the portion control.

This is Tina Namian, I work with the Child and Adult Care Food Program and so if you're working with Head Start then you are probably participating in CACFP. The national school lunch program just came out with new meal requirements that we still have our existing meal patterns and they do talk about the serving sizes for kids although we don't have necessarily have upper limits, those are lower limits. We will be doing some new meal patterns, those are in process right now but those are going to be proposed

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rules coming out sometime soon. The current rules don't have any upper limits on the portions that you can feed children. Does that answer your question?

Yes, thank you.

I show no further questions at this time.

Let me go on and share a few things and again thank you for you all being here today on this call and for the dialogue. Before we conclude I would like to remind everyone of the open comment period for the proposed rule we consulted with you today on the nutrition standards for all foods sold in schools. As mentioned, comments for this rule may be received on or before April 9, 2013. If you need any additional information on how to submit a comment between now and April 9<sup>th</sup> please let us know. Also during today's meeting we also mentioned several webinar opportunities that the Food and Nutrition Services scheduled to talk more about this summer expansion project and the proposed rule. I'm going to ask Barbara Lopez to please send a follow up email to everyone joining us today to ensure that you have the information on those webinars. I thought I would just ask one more time if there were any comments or questions before we close out today's session, on the topics that we had or other topics that you may have?

If you do have a question or a comment please press star one and record your name so I can introduce you. Again please press star one and record your name. One moment please. Our first one comes from Peggy; go ahead your line is open.

I was going to ask Dana a question, is he still on the line?

He is.

Is he? Hi, I was just kind of wondering where we were with that new rule that was supposed to take place for our program like the new deductions like the shelter and stuff like that and the medical? I haven't heard anything lately and I was just wondering because I have been passing it on to my customers but I haven't heard if there's any timeframe or whenever it's going to start?

Thank you for asking, you're referring to the FDPIR Income Deductions and Resource Eligibility proposed rule. Unfortunately I don't have any new news for you. It is still in clearance. We're hopeful we can get it passed the clearance process soon and that's really all I have to provide. We're doing the best we can to get it cleared.

Thanks Dana. Any other questions or comments?

Again as a reminder please press star one if you have a question or comment and record your name. Again press star one and record your name. Our next one comes from Georgia; go ahead your line is open.

Okay, I just had a question regarding the First Nation Development Institute, they sent out a notice accepting applications for the First Nation's Training and Technical Assistance for Native American non profits funded by the USDA Community Foods Program and I was just wondering, I have never seen you know about community foods program if Dana could give an answer on that? Is that a new program or is this something that First Nation is brought out?

Hey Georgia how are you doing?

Pretty good.

Good. We haven't heard of that over here but we can look into it for you.

Okay, I was just wondering if it sounds like it would be a good idea or something that FDPIR should do for training and technical services for the ITOs.

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Sure, we'll take a look at it and see what we can find out for you.

Okay, all right. On here they have a due date to get everything in by February 19<sup>th</sup>. If you can give an answer right away?

We'll see what we can find out for you. Thank you.

All right, thank you.

Our next question comes from Tony; go ahead your line is open.

Good afternoon everyone. Two questions for FDPIR and actually for the entire USDA, what's the involvement in the food programs and the question of sequestration and the second one would be where are we at with 2013 farm bill reauthorization?

Hi Tony. Darlene I'll defer to you. Thank you.

Okay, either way. We are certainly watching sequestration very closely. Right now I don't know what to tell you about specific impacts at this point. We are following really closely and once we find out how it moves or not moves forward we will let you know as soon as possible. As far as the farm bill goes we are – that's been extended if you will through 2013 and there will be a lot more dialogue surrounding the farm bill as well. Not much more else I can tell you right now Tony.

And Darlene I can chime in a bit on sequestration. We don't anticipate an impact on FDPIR.

I didn't know if he was asking about all programs.

Particularly FDPIR, I was under the understanding that food programs that serve the needy and definitely the (inaudible) and our reservations have a lot of needy people and are exempt from this.

Thank you Tony.

You're welcome.

And I show no further questions at this time.

Okay, again thank you everyone for joining us today. As I mentioned earlier, today's session is being recorded and transcribed and will be included in the official consultation records. I'd also like to remind you of our next quarterly consultation session which is on May 22, 2013 from 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm EST. So I thank you again and I look forward to our continuing discussion with future consultation sessions. Thanks again everyone.

Thank you again.

That concludes today's conference, thank you for participating, you may disconnect at this time.