

USDA
Study of the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
Oklahoma City, OK
December 6, 2012

Good morning, everyone. I want to welcome you here today for this important conversation around the national study of the food distribution program on Indian reservations. My name is Darlene Barnes, and I'm the Regional Administrator for USDA's Food and Nutrition Service for the region Mountain Plains Region.

Bill couldn't be here today because his daughter is graduating, so a long-time colleague, I was asked to come and sit in for him to participate and serve as your consulting official today. I know he wishes he could be here, but I know he's very proud about his daughter graduating from college, so – but I am happy to be here. I actually know several of you around the table, having met you through the years, and so I am just as excited to be here and really am looking forward to this dialogue.

Before we get started, I'm going to ask Perry Martinez if you could give a blessing, please.

(Inaudible – in Native language.) Good morning to everybody. I just wanted (inaudible) opening a blessing we asked our Superior that's our Creator to help us in our deliberations today and don't ever forget that we are here for our people and want to provide for our people and work with the (inaudible) so this will be possible. I also ask that the spirits of the people that are out here today that our spirits guide (inaudible) and give them safe trips as they travel. So thank you everybody.

Thank you.

Today's session is being recorded, and so it's going to be critical that when we begin our dialogue that we use the microphones that are around the table. I know it's sometimes hard to remember to do that, so you'll probably be asked several times throughout the discussion to grab the mic please.

What I'm going to do next so that we can get started with the dialogue is I'd like to go around the table and have (inaudible) their introductions. And (inaudible) or the research team – this is going in and out – so much for the – I'll try this way – to talk about who you are and what your role is or if you're with an Indian tribal organization to say who you are and what your role is and then we can get started from there, so I have said who I am, so I will pass it to my left.

I'm Nancy Pindus. I'm the principal investigator at the Urban Institute for this study, and we are happy to be here today and looking forward to getting on further with the study.

Good morning. I'm Carol Hafford with NORC at the University of Chicago. NORC is a social science research organization that's been around since the early 1940s, and I'm leading the effort for the participant survey and the case record review. And I've done a lot of work with tribal human services, which I'm sitting here thinking is rather interesting considering I'm a New Yorker, so -. I've been doing work on tribal family preservation and work force development, housing needs, tribal TANF and child welfare. So I'm looking forward to working with all of you on this project. Thank you.

My name is Walter Hillabrant, Citizen Potawatomi. I work for Support Services International, which is a research firm in the Washington, D.C. area. It's an honor to be back in this part of the country, and I look forward to the rest of this meeting. I'm not going to pass this down because I see there is one.

Good morning. I'm Bud Squirrel. I'm Manager of Family Assistance programs for the Cherokee Nation. That includes the food distribution program.

I'm Jenny Kendall. I'm Assistant Manager of Family Assistance with the food distribution program.

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Good morning. I'm Anna Cruce, Program Manager with Muscogee Creek Nation.

Anita Lowe, Certificate Supervisor, Muscogee Creek Nation.

Morning. I'm Cherrah Giles, Secretary of Department of Community and Human Services at Muscogee Creek Nation.

Good morning. Billy Stevens with the Choctaw Nation, the Senior Director of Management.

Good morning. Trista Winnett, Assistant Director, Food Distribution, for Choctaw Nation food distribution.

Ponce Leon (sp) for the Apache Tribe, Tribal Administrator.

Jennifer Wineson (sp), Administrative Assistant for the Apache.

Silvia Asepermy, Director for Apache Tribe.

Jaime Prouty, Director of Comanche Nation.

Good morning. Perry Martinez with the Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council in New Mexico, Program Director of the Food Distribution Program.

Good morning. Roxanna Newsom, Manager of the Chickasaw Nation Food Distribution Program.

Good morning. Lou Hankins, USDA Food and Nutrition Service, and I work with food distribution programs.

Hi. Dana Rasmussen, USDA Food and Nutrition Service. I'm the Chief of Policy Branch over at FNS headquarters.

Good morning. My name is Karen Twitty. I'm the Deputy Regional Administrator in the Southwest Region based in Dallas.

Good morning. Rosa Coronado, Special Nutrition Programs in Dallas.

Great. And again I'm Darlene Barnes and very happy to be here and be part of this consultation session. Did we catch everybody? Okay, great.

Again, I really appreciate you taking the time to be here in Oklahoma City, and this study is really a key study. FNS gets appropriated money every year by Congress to do various evaluations and research for all of the nutrition assistance programs, and this year they looked at FDPIR because it had been almost 22 years since there had been any national evaluation of the program. So it's key to take time to consult with you to talk about, get your input in the early stages, get ideas from you as to how it's going to work after we hear from the research team.

It's also going to be key to talk to you about how to be involved with the tribes and be able to come on to either your reservation or in your area to be able to conduct the study, and so a lot is going to be needed from you all in this discussion today. I participated in a consultation last week in Rapid City. We have this one today. There will be one in San Francisco next week. And then a webinar that will be coming up I think early –

(Inaudible.)

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That's correct.

So, again, this is, like I said, critical. The program is a great program. I know that you know that, and a lot of wonderful changes have been made in the program over the 22 years, especially with the input of people like you around the table that have provided some great information and some changes have been made through the years. So this (audio break) not work (audio break) I don't want to scare you to death, but are we awake now? So far, so good. Maybe I'm doing something. It's all this oxygen after being here from Denver. Too much air. There we go.

Anyway, again, like I said – maybe it's being close to this, you know, because I heard it again. The background.

Anyway, all that said, the program is a key program. And it's a good program. And it works well. This is an opportunity to hear more and learn more from people who participate in the program, those who work the program, to see are there things that we can do to make it even a better program than it already is. In addition it will give us information when we address Congress on ways to possibly get more money for the program, money for pilots or grants, things like that, so we're using this for various ways to reach out to make the program even better, but also to get more money for to maybe try some other things. So that's why this is so critical that you're here to participate and so that we can move on and study the logistics and the agenda, I'm going to turn it over to my colleague, Rosa Coronado.

Thank you, Darlene. Good morning, everyone, again. You should have meeting materials in front of you which includes today's agenda, the list of invited tribes, a copy of the presentation, a document that describes what sampling is, which you will be hearing about today, and a template letter for our research team to receive approval from your tribe to visit your reservation. This template letter is only provided as a resource. We will discuss the approval process further during today's meeting. Please raise your hand if you are missing any of the materials.

We also have been passing around a sign in sheet. Please be sure that you sign in so that we get everyone reported. And as Darlene mentioned earlier, today's meeting is being recorded and will be part of the official USDA consultation record.

You will notice that we have microphones, as we mentioned earlier, around the table which are connected to the recording machine. We encourage everyone to please use the microphones to ensure we capture your comments for the consultation record.

Regarding the agenda, we have divided today's meeting into three general segments. In the first segment we will provide an overview of the research involved, details about participant profiles, and program information that will be used in the study. We will also cover timelines in this first section. We will stop throughout this section to take your questions and receive your feedback.

The second section will cover how the study will be conducted and will include details on sampling and data collection (inaudible) which includes case records (inaudible), the proposed survey, and the site visit.

The last section will cover tribal involvement. Here we will consult with you on the approval process and/or permissions for the research team to come onto your reservations for the site visits and interviews. We will discuss outreach opportunities and scheduling our visits with you.

We will then conclude with next steps, review any action items that have come up during today's meeting, and discuss with you general timelines of events as well.

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Are there any initial questions about the agenda or any other items that you would like to include? So with that, thank you, and I will turn it back to Darlene.

Darlene?

Yes?

You mentioned the meeting already in Rapid City that happened?

Right?

I'd be interested in getting your first impressions of the discussion and what went on over there just as something to refer to. Thank you.

I can do that. In general I think there was a lot of curiosity, a lot of questions, if you will, about why, you know. And also some of the dialogue after we talked about the study, the Mountain Plains tribes that were there talked about some of the challenges that may occur in trying to interview folks, etc. There were a lot of questions about how the different tribes, different ITO organizations were selected because not all of the participants in FDPIR will be involved as far as being interviewed, etc. as part of the actual study. I'll be honest to say there were some comments about, you know, I feel like we're being studied again, and we're sensitive, absolutely sensitive to that, and then there were some concerns that there was something wrong with the program, and there's nothing wrong with the program. It's a great program, like we said, and a lot of improvements have been made through the years with all of your all's involvement. It was just an opportunity since it hadn't been looked at for 22 years to take a look and see if we could take a good program, a great program, and make it even better, and at the same time, you know, like I said, use this as an opportunity with most current data to – I can't say the word lobby Congress because I'm not supposed to say lobby, but you know, to ask for more money, etc. to do other maybe pilots or get some grants for the program.

So anyway, I think that we answered a lot of questions. I think there are still some questions and why we encouraged to continue to provide information to participate even in the webinar, and I even – Roxanne, you probably won't like this – but I said and the national president, you could give her some information, too, that she could carry forward with the various comments. So I think by the end of the session, I think people felt better, but there were certainly some concerns at the beginning. Is that helpful?

Fine.

Okay, thank you.

Good morning.

Good morning.

Good morning. My name is Sam Spang. I'm with the Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma, and I'm the Food Distribution Program Director.

Larry Foley, and I'm with the Sac and Fox Food Distribution Program, and I am the Program Support Specialist.

Thank you and welcome. Just for your information, my name is Darlene Barnes, and I'm the Regional Administrator from the Mountain Plains Region, USDA Food and Nutrition Service. Bill is not here, Bill

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Ludwig, his daughter is graduating from college so he couldn't be here today so I was asked to serve as the consulting official and I'm very pleased to be here. So welcome.

Very good. Now I'm going to turn it over to Dana from our national office to talk a little bit more about the study, and he will have some slides so I may have to move over so you can see them.

Thanks, Darlene. I wanted to talk a little bit about the study purpose, and, you know, sort of let you all know why we're doing the study. Thank you and welcome again. I know some of you had to travel a long way to be here and we do appreciate the time that you've taken to come to this consultation meeting.

As Darlene mentioned, there hasn't been a full scale study done for FDPIR in over two decades, so it's time to do another study just to see where we're at with the program, and a great deal has changed. We've got delivery options that have changed, foods offered, nutrition education, eligibility rules, demographics of who's participating in the program. That's changed as well. With regard to this new FDPIR national study, our goal is to get information necessary to continue to improve the program. We've invested a great deal in this study – and this is separate from program resources. We're not taking money away from the program to do this, it's separate and distinct, with the idea that the research we provide will provide the latest information to help us make informed decisions about the program moving forward. We want to make it better for program participants and program directors and operators as well.

To give you a scope of the FDPIR national study, we want to obtain an updated demographic profile of participants. That includes households and individuals that currently participate in FDPIR including their participation in other assistance programs that are out there. We want to assess FDPIR's contribution to participants' food supply. We know that FDPIR contributes greatly to each participant's food supply each month, but we want to describe that more precisely. And we want to quantify the extent to which FDPIR participants switch between FDPIR and SNAP. This would include determining the main reasons for movements between the programs, and explore, related to that to a certain extent, explore the reason why fewer participants are in FDPIR. We hear anecdotally that the level of average monthly per person value of the SNAP benefit in comparison to FDPIR is affecting participation in this program, FDPIR. But we do know as well that participation has been declining for a long time, even before the change in the ARA (sp) and the SNAP benefit level, so we want to look at that and see what's going on there, what, in addition to that anecdotal information that we have on the SNAP benefit, is causing participation to decline.

And we want to obtain descriptive information on key aspects of FDPIR operations. Now we know, we've seen the grocery store concept in action, now we want to see that in more detail across programs, and get other ideas as to things that can be shared across programs that, you know, we may not know about. So we want to quantify things to a certain extent. We want to make sure that we have data necessary to continue to make the program better.

Ascertain the resources devoted to nutrition education, and the format of the information provided directly to FDPIR participants. We know that's something – an issue of concern of late with regard to nutrition education, so we want to study that and get more data on it.

And we want to identify factors with regard to program managers' and directors' decisions on which FDPIR foods are ordered. Why are you ordering those foods? Is it participant input? Appeal? Variety? Shelf life? Things of that nature. We want to get that data quantified.

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And we want to learn more about approaches used to distribute food packages to participants, and I talked about that, the grocery store setting. We know about other operations that are out there as well. Assembling the food package. Things of that nature.

We want to ascertain participant satisfaction with the administrative practices and the food package itself. So if they identify things, and we have a food package review work group that we work closely with, but this study will give us even more information that we can use from participants to figure out well, what can we do with the food package? How can we make it better and more appealing to participants? And Nancy Pindus and the Urban Institute and the research team will talk more in detail about that and give you information on, particularly on how the information is going to be obtained because you want to know how it's going to impact you when researchers start doing the study, and that's the intent today. Not only to provide an overview of the study itself, but to get down to the detailed information on what's going to be happening over the next several months.

I don't have enough hands I don't think here.

Study benefits, and we've touched on this briefly with this prior slide. We want to obtain current information to help us make decisions about how to better administer the program. And we're not saying we're doing a bad job now, because we're not. But we want the information necessary to make the program as best as it possibly can be. And particularly we want to identify the needs of participants and identify ways to make the program better for participants. And we may obtain information that can not only help us make the program better for participants, but for Indian tribal organizations and state agencies that are running the program, too.

We also want to obtain information that's representative across the board of all Indian tribal organizations and state agencies. Now we know that there are variations and differences in cultures at each reservation, but we want to identify some commonalities in things that, you know, moving forward as far as the data that can, again, help us to continue to make the program better. And, you know, for example we can work with the FDPIR food package work group which consists mainly of program directors, nutrition professionals appointed by NAFDPIR, which is the National Association of Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations. And if we learn from the study that participants aren't satisfied with some aspect of the food package, then we can move forward with the work group to make changes in that regard.

In addition, if the study reveals that we need to change something in our program regulations, or our policy, then it's going to help us do that, and of course we would work closely with the program community in that regard.

With that being said, I'd like to thank you for participating in today's session again. Nancy Pindus from Urban Institute is going to talk now about an overview of the study again, and we'll open up the session at that point for any questions, comments, just open it up for consultation at that point and then we'll move on to get more into the details of how the study is going to be carried out. Thank you.

Before Nancy starts I just wanted to say that if you do have comments or questions now and throughout, it's okay. I'll be watching to see if you've raised your hand. Perry?

I don't have a microphone, but the study kind of seems to be geared more towards participation and the food that you see (inaudible). Are we going to look at – I feel a big concern for the program, and it's nothing to do with USDA but you're kind of caught in this, is the funding allocation, like the beginning of

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the year we're on a continuing resolution for X number of months, so that really prevents a program from implementing what they want for the upcoming year because we don't know how much funds we're going to get, and when we're going to get, and sometimes our budgets are streamlined for the first six months, so it's very difficult for us to plan our fiscal year. That's one area, you know how the funding comes, comes through. The other area I have of concern is also our – and I'm glad you're going to look at the SNAP eligibility versus FDPIR. I think that's a key component that we need to take a look at. The other area that I think impacts the FDPIR and everybody is aware of it is the delivery system of how foods get to our program, the best by use dates, and we have some products that are not available, so we run into those scenarios. And then the other component is the nutrition educational component of FDPIR. We have the participants but yet I personally feel that the nutrition ed dollars are very limited, and there may be a different way of, even though there's money out there, in the past it's been competitive so not everybody receives it but yet we're required under the nutrition education component to provide nutrition education materials or even education which is very limited to us. Then under nutrition, I think it's also important to expound on the nutritional value of our food packets versus other programs. I think that's a key component as well. And a lot of it is maybe promotion, but how do we get to that point? And these are just kind of key areas, as a program director, that I think goes hand-in-hand with the study, and I think the study is just geared towards the people that receive, but there's a whole bigger step before they receive it that's, in my estimation, if it's not done now, it should be considered at some point in time. Thank you.

Thank you, Perry. And those points on the funding, etc., are totally understood, and the study doesn't exactly address that, but that came also in the South Dakota, Rapid City consultation and we made some notes of that to go back and continue that dialogue specifically around that. And I'm hoping when the team shares information about the survey that you'll see I think nutrition education will be key and I think some of the information that you gather maybe could help us ask for more funding. You never know. So, with that I'm going to turn it over to Nancy.

Great. Welcome, everyone, and thank you very much for coming. And Perry, those – even though we'll be giving you more detail, those kinds of comments and questions throughout are really, really helpful because it helps us to figure out priorities and what are really important things to touch upon in the study, so that's really, really useful.

We're really pleased to be working on this study. The Urban Institute, with Support Services International, did a much smaller study of the FDPIR program in 2008-2009. We went to Chickasaw, we went to Choctaw, so we had a great time working with a really dedicated group of FDPIR directors and staff, who were supported by their tribal leaders. So we really look forward to working with you again and providing information that will further the program for ITO's participants.

Just to introduce our study team in a little more detail, the Urban Institute, we're a nonprofit policy research organization based on Washington, D.C. Besides myself other names you might be hearing are Diane Levy and Chris Narducci, who are researchers working on the project. NORC at the University of Chicago, Carol Hafford is here today, and her colleague, Suzanne Bard, are going to be in charge of the case record reviews and the participant surveys, and you'll be hearing and seeing a lot of them in the outreach to get all of that stuff going.

Support Services International, Walter is going to be playing a lead role in the field work and the site visits, and, again, he was on the last FDPIR study, so we think we have a really good team and we're looking forward to it.

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Just briefly to go over some of the key topics in the study. As Dana mentioned, we're going to be trying to get a profile of participants, and the idea here is to get an updated national profile that is representative of all of the country that has FDPIR programs. And, again, these are things you all might know about participation in your program or even in your region, but having national numbers makes a difference in telling the full story and in presenting any case for either changes in the program or funding, so having an updated national picture is very important. The profile includes demographic information like age and gender, household composition, employment status, FDPIR eligibility factors such as the length of the certification period and any changes in circumstances that might affect eligibility.

In addition, there will be participant information collected that will show how the program affects FDPIR participants, so this is the kind of information that you can really only get from talking to participants. That's why we have the survey. Things like their food storage and preparation facilities, how they pick up and acquire their foods, barriers to accessing food, not just FDPIR food but other sources of food for their household, how easy or hard it is for them to get to that and what the nutritional value is of those foods. And what role FDPIR plays in their overall household food supply. And then what factors influence their decision to participate in FDPIR or in other food assistance programs.

So in addition to the information from the participants, we are going to complement that with the profile of program services and activities across sites. And to do that we're going to be collecting information about FDPIR program operations, talking to FDPIR directors and staff, talking to staff of other programs within the tribe, and we'll be looking at the nature of the nutrition education activities, the factors that influence the activities, whether they have nutrition education grants and if so, how they're using those. We're also going to be collecting information about how they coordinate with other programs like WIC or SNAP or education programs and other service coordination.

We know that FDPIR programs have a lot of different ways of distributing food, so we'll be learning about the different food distribution programs, advantages and disadvantages, best practices that can be shared with others.

And we'll be identifying factors that affect participation in the program in general. And reasons for increases and decreases in participation at different sites because we're assuming that program directors might have some insights about what's happening and why they think changes are occurring if they are occurring.

Just to give you a brief overview of our tentative timeline, there were some initial consultations with all tribes back in January of 2012. Those were done through three webinars. We've done a study plan. We are currently finishing up pretesting our instruments for the data collection. There are copies posted on the FNS website and there are some copies, I think, in the back of the room as well. Because they're being pretested and they'll be revised based on the pretests and then they'll be reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget, there's time for you all to really have input into those and suggest changes as well because they are not final yet. So please, when you have a chance, if you haven't yet, take a look at those, either on the website or back there, and feel free to make comments and get back to us and to FNS with any comments.

We are now doing – these consultations are with the tribes that have been invited are those who have been selected for our sample so that we can talk in more detail about how the study is going to be conducted, and that will be these consultations and then one webinar in January. Then we're going to complete the package that has to go to the Office of Management and Budget for review, and there will be time for comment then, and then we're hoping – and this all depends on how long that review process

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takes – we're hoping to begin data collection in August of 2013, so this coming August. And after that there will be a briefing and a project report. We will be keeping in touch with NAFDPIR. We presented at their meeting last year. We'll be coming again this year, if they'll have us, to present an update of where we are, and then again when the study is over. So we will be keeping you informed that way as well as on the tribal website, FNS is going to be posting updates. There has not been a formal process identified yet for tribes to review the draft report. It's not that it's not being considered, it just hasn't been formalized exactly how that might be done. But for sure the tribes that are participating in site visits will be asked to review the sections in that regard for accuracy to make sure whatever we do collect on site that we got it right.

You mentioned (inaudible). Would you let us know who would be involved?

(Audit break)

Is that with the participating tribes or OMB or who's going to receive the briefing?

The briefings? No, I think that's for probably all of the tribes. There will be some prior work with the tribes on the draft but then the briefings will be for all the tribes.

Nancy, on the – you know, I know that the programs that were selected to participate in this, but does this study allow, if we're in a setting such as the national conference, does the study allow you to gather or collect any information from programs other than those that were selected from the study?

We're not doing new primary data collection, but there are parts of this study that use FNS administrative data that will look at total participation numbers demographics for all FDPIR programs.

Okay. Well, kind of what I'm thinking is as you start to gather information from staff and participants, it could open up areas that you would like to get some additional information from perhaps other programs, and I think the national – when we come together for the national, it would provide a nice opportunity for additional clarification or how does – how is this impacting your area, even just a survey because, you know, we've had discussions that sitting in the room Jaime and I butt up against each other in our service but it can often be very different. Trista and I, you know, we share borders, but the people that we serve and their needs can often determine how we may deliver services in one area versus another area. And I just wondered if that is a possibility when the time comes. Because I do believe that we could possibly have other programs if you're at a national meeting, they're going to want to visit with you some and offer their input. I just didn't know – I don't want to pursue something that, you know, then we have to say that the study doesn't allow that. So between now and then if you can let us know something.

I think that's a great suggestion. There's many ways it could be worked out so we might, you know, we certainly will want to think about that. I think that's a great suggestion.

Okay. Thank you.

So then I think the last part just to mention that we're hoping the final report will be completed in late 2014, which would combine requirements across all the sites and include some illustrative examples of programs, and again we'll talk about different ways that we will share the information – that FNS will share the information. And that's another area where it's far enough down the road that suggestions certainly will be considered about best ways to do that.

I think maybe we'll stop here.

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Any comments or questions at this point? Not that you can't later. I'm just allowing you an opportunity. There's lots of time. We have the session until one today, but, I mean, that's just making sure that we had enough time and we'll continue to move through. I just want to make sure that if there's something that you'd like to say now - .

When will the –

Go ahead Will.

Excuse me.

When will the actual visits to the sites, to the tribes, be done? Is this the brief period between August and November 2013?

Yes, that's the period for the data collection.

Do you feel like you have adequate staff to do that in that brief period of time?

Yes, we do. We're planning on that. There will be visits earlier for outreach and to organize how we would go about the data collection in each location, which we're going to talk about in a little more detail later. But we do have, for the actual data collection, for the staffing we'll be set up to do that then.

One of the concerns that I voiced during the – I think we had a teleconference about this several months ago, was that there would be adequate time to really, instead of just glossing over the Cherokee Nation they would be able to paint a picture and see the reality of the program instead of just coming by and saying hi and bye, you know?

Yeah. Well, and we'll get into this in a little bit more detail, but there will be a survey effort going on at the same time that there will be – and then site visits will be overlapping in that same period. So the site visits (inaudible) programs are planned for two to three days. But the survey period, there will be somebody visiting the site regularly for several months because it will take time to get people on board for the surveys, and they'll be coordinating with the FDPIR program and tribal leaders as necessary during that whole period.

So there may be several different people –

Right.

That we get to talk to?

Right. Right.

Okay. Thank you.

We'll give you a little more detail on that.

Okay. Thank you.

Great. Thank you.

That was kind of one of my questions I was going to ask when you're starting to schedule, it seems like you're going to come out multiple times instead of like a one or two-day period, because there's a lot of –

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in our particular program – I'm a consortium so we have eight tribes. So I didn't know if you were going to – if you came out for two days just at the warehouse or you wanted to actually go out to an individual tribe, and then our method is tailgating so I didn't know if you wanted to go along on a tailgate, a short one, a long one, and a lot of it has to do with logistics because we have a monthly schedule and when you're free, we may not be free. But I just wanted to get that a little straight as well, so I think you kind of expanded on that. The other question I have was kind of the question that came up at the other consultation meeting about how the programs were selected, because even in New Mexico it's like we have four programs, I was the one selected, it's like well, how come you were selected and I wasn't, right? And I didn't know if it was a draw in, if it was participation, if it – because I talk too long on the mic or what. But it was just a question. I don't know if you have any information on how that was conducted?

Well, actually, I'm going to talk about the sampling next. But if there's more questions, we can go over those first.

Anna, is there something to say about how the (inaudible)?

Yeah, and that's actually the next – that's what's coming next, so –

Oh, I'm sorry.

We can move on to that if there are no other questions.

I guess for clarification I did have one question. Is this study – was it requested by FNS?

(Inaudible.)

Okay. Thank you.

(Inaudible.) I just wanted to follow up some of those questions, and so there's some hard things to talk about in this, too. My view on the bottom line is that – and you're going to see – it was a good segue – you're going to get a lot of detail on how did you get selected – you'll get that to death in a few minutes. But the issue I'm sensitive to is can we come out in a two or three-day site visit and really get a sense? And there's two sides – many sides – to that issue, but one of them, there's always a question of resources, you know, and so I dare say if we spent 30 days at the site we would get more information than if we spend three. But that takes a lot of your resources as well as our resources, you know, and so my mother says this about visitors, including relatives, you know after three days, they're like fish, they begin to stink. So there's a balance there, is all I'm trying to say. Your concern is appropriate, and we're sensitive to it, but what I can tell you is on other studies and in the earlier study that we did, we suck up a lot of your resources, the time of not just the director, but we go through – and if anybody has been through that earlier study – we get a lot done in three days. Including we probably wouldn't go to all eight pueblos, but I wouldn't be surprised if we end up in going to at least a couple in there, and so. The proof of the pudding will be in the eating, and we'll see how it goes, but, you know, one of the things is maybe we ought to circulate the prior study that we did so you can see like some of that stuff. That's available. So.

Yeah, that's a good idea because we do have that on the website. More questions before we move on to sampling?

Yeah, I just had a question. When I looked through the information, the study that we're doing, I mean it's for FDPIR, but I was just kind of wondering if it's just going to be mainly focused on what the tribes are

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doing, you know, what we're doing good, what we're doing bad, what we can improve on, what we're doing that's okay. (Inaudible) going to totally focus on the tribes or if, you know, if we're going to be taking a look at, maybe like the SNAP program, too, and some things that, you know, they're doing that, you know, might could also be affecting our participation levels, you know. Or if we're just going to look at the tribes, though, with this study.

Dana, here, and just a reminder, if you wouldn't mind saying your name, you know, presenting your name before you speak just so we can get it on the record because our transcribers are – you know, they do a real good job and we could tell them who's spoken to date and all that, but to the extent you can help out, that would be great. And I don't think the intent is to single out tribes or see what, you know, people are doing wrong. Really the goal is to look at this on a national basis and figure out what we can improve upon, what we're doing good, what we could do better, but there's no intent to single out tribes. And certainly SNAP is going to play a role in this study because we're trying to figure out that relation between SNAP and, you know, why is FDPIR participation declining? Is it just SNAP? Is there something else going on? So there certainly will be a big look at SNAP. Now the focus is not on the SNAP program. The focus is on FDPIR, but you can't look at FDPIR without looking at SNAP, right? Thank you.

Yes?

Cherrah Giles, Muscogee Creek Nation. The question, will there be a recommendation that the study will occur every so many years versus us waiting to ask for it?

Well, that's a good question. As I said in the beginning, we do get – Congress does appropriate money to FNS to look at – do evaluation and research on all the nutrition assistance programs, and there's like 15, I believe, or 16 on any given day. So we did request this one ourselves because it had been over 20 years since a study or evaluation had been done about the program, so from here, if we hear from you all that we think it needs to be looked at again, we would certainly take that into consideration, I do know that. It's just – I don't think anybody had asked, we just had realized it hadn't been looked at in a while and realized this might be an opportunity to maybe ask for some more things, too, from Congress. Though money is limited, I know that this is – it's a critical program. So.

(Inaudible.)

Any more questions? Just one more thing on the food service part of it. We will have some other – there are other parts of the study that are looking at the eligibility rules between the two programs and seeing how that might affect participation as well as values of food packets, so there will be some administrative data analysis looking at those two factors. And then, of course, we'll be asking participants and program directors, you know, what they think about it, you know, either participants, why they – because we know some people switch – why they make those switches and things like that as well.

Okay, so we're going to get into a little more detail now about the parts and different components of the study. So for the participant profile, what we're trying to get is a nationally representative sample of participating households in 25 programs. Now the reason we're doing it this way is because, number one, there just isn't the budget or the time to visit every single program and interview participants in every single program in the country. So this is just a way to select in a scientific way a sample that would be representative of participants across the country. So in this case, the sample design was done by selecting programs, and then we'll be selecting participant samples in each program. And to identify the tribes that were participating, we looked at the size of the program and selected tribe – your chance of being included is proportional to the number of households, so larger tribes had a higher chance of being

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included, and the six largest ITOs were included, what we call, with certainty so that we had to include the six largest tribes, and then the other tribes were selected in order to get a distribution on size, region, and we also looked at participation trends. So the size was looked at using participation data for fiscal 2011, but then we also looked at trends between 2001 and 2011 to make sure we got some tribes that had increases in participation, some tribes that had decreases, and others that remained the same, so we had a range of tribes. So that's really the really – the broad explanation of how that sample was selected. There's a handout on just sampling and what is sampling to help you through some of this.

Now the sampling is being used for the case records and the household survey, because that's what we're trying to get to be representative. And so what that means is it will give us a good national picture. It's not going to be able to tell a story of any one particular tribe that happens to have participants in the survey, because it's not designed for that. And so we won't be identifying individual tribes or individual participants at all in our report, in terms of these numbers. It will be maybe grouped by region if the numbers are large enough, but not individual tribes.

And we'll be working, then, with each of the tribes, each of the 25 tribes that have been select – to work with you to select the sample of participants at each site, which needs to be a random sample of participants.

Then just to go over – I just want to make – I have this here because I want to make it clear that while there's a lot of new data collection and we talk to you about that because that affects you the most, that's not the entire study. There's also looking at secondary data, meaning data from the census and data from FNS, administrative data that helps us look at the overall demographic and socioeconomic picture that might also be related to changes in participation. That will tell us things about participation changes, but it also tells things about demographic changes, increases in the number of elderly, decreases in the number of elderly, and how that might affect participation or eligibility for benefits.

And then the new data collection for the study, is the case record reviews, the participant surveys, and then the site visits.

So the case record reviews for the sites that have been selected, and there will be an outreach process to go over this because I know it works differently at each place, but the idea is to get information from the standard case record about these participants that are selected for the sample in a way – by getting what you've already collected, we don't have to ask participants that again. So it saves time on the survey and it's less of a burden on them. So the idea is to use what you have first. And we know tribes have this information different ways, some have electronic records, many have paper records. So that's going to have to be worked out separately with each tribe, and when there are paper records, maybe we'll have to make a visit to the program and sit down in an office that you have for us and actually just abstract the data on an abstract form that we'll develop to get that. On other cases there might be electronic ways to get the data. It's going to be used to present a national profile. It won't be tracking or identifying individuals.

Nancy, Perry Martinez, Eight Northern. I have a question when you talk about survey, are you going to do a survey of all our participants – are you going to send – or is the survey related to the interview? And I – just one suggestion, if it's one or two, I'm still not clear if you're going to send us a survey for all our clients or if you're actually going to do a survey where the survey is an interview with a client. I would recommend if you're going to interview clients if maybe from USDA we can get a sample letter to all our clients asking for individuals who want to participate in this survey, that way when it comes down to it, we have people that are committed, then you can follow up with their case file, you can follow up with a

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phone number. At least we sent the information and invite all the clients to participate in this survey. That's a suggestion because it's going to be difficult for us to try to right now to find individuals to participate. Some may, may not want to, and even if you come in, we'd like to interview this person, they may not want to, but, I mean, it's just a suggestion that now, we're so early on that we're going to be conducting this survey, and if we get letters, we can issue them to all our participants if anybody is interested, please contact or let our certifiers know that you wish to participate in this survey – it's just a suggestion. Thank you.

Do you want to talk to that a little bit?

Well, actually there's two ways to respond to that. And the first in terms of drawing people in to hear from them, is, I think, best addressed by the focus groups that will be conducted during the site visits.

Okay.

So what you've presented is actually terrific because what we love to hear about is people that are willing to come forward and talk. The second part of that is we can't invite people to participate in the survey because that sample is drawn randomly, and the folks that are drawn for the participant survey sample represent FDPIR participants nationally. So there's two different – there's actually a number of different samples that we have to – that interact in a way and some that need to be kept quite distant. So there's two answers to your question.

All right. Thank you.

Okay. This is great because you're always like two steps ahead of us, so - .

Yes?

Anna Cruce. When you talk about demographics, is this going to maybe, somehow – Dana mentioned earlier about changing regulations eliminating the waiver on the counties that we – or the cities that we can't right now service?

I think we do have – there's a NAFDPIR resolution out there on urban waivers – what you're referring to – and there's, you know, in urban places of 10,000 or more, in those near areas where they're not currently served, an urban waiver is needed to serve those towns of 10,000 or more people if they're within your FNS service area in Oklahoma or in a near area elsewhere. So we're considering that now, trying to figure out what's the best next step when it comes to urban waivers because we did seek input at the June conference on that, and we're trying to figure out what's the best approach at this point. But at the same time, this certainly – this study will end in 2014. Hopefully we'll have a resolution on urban waivers before then, something we can at least move forward on. But at the same time, if we don't, we'll have more data, so this should help. But when it comes to demographic data, I'm not sure how much will be studied on urban versus rural, and maybe Nancy can cover that, but I don't think that would be a focus of this particular study.

(Inaudible.)

Well, I think it comes up mostly with the eligibility side, you know, people's need for the food assistance, so that would come up in our study of some of the demographics because that includes some economic – larger, you know, economic conditions in tribal areas. But then also we'll be asking about that. The case record review will have income information. We'll be asking tribal – on the site visits we'll be asking

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program managers about some of those issues, you know, whether there have been changes, some of the demographic – the economic factors that might have affected who participates or people's eligibility for the program. Does that answer?

Uh, I'm thinking about – we're – I'm sorry – we're basically looking at variations in participation, and what about those that have gone that we no longer have records for, how are, you know, how can we come back with that kind of information and be able to determine what caused that? And, you know, it's kind of lost information, because I'm thinking about particularly a period back in the 90s where we had large increases in participation and all of a sudden everything just seemed to go downhill. And it's been going downhill ever since, you know, and there had to be a reason for that. And it was not addressed that I recall, and how are things like that going to be covered in this? I'm Larry by the way.

Well, you want me to start on that, Dana, you may want to chime in. So the last study that we did which, of course, was a much smaller study and wasn't nationally representative, did cover some of that time period that you're referring to. We did an earlier study in 2008, so that might be interesting. And we will post where that is on the web because that might be of interest to you for that.

On this project, there will be a small part of it on these focus groups in the sites we're doing site visits that will include nonparticipants, FDPIR nonparticipants, so we're recruiting for those. So that will give us a chance to get some, you know, anecdotal information, people, why, oh I never participate, or I used to participate and I stopped and here's why. So there will be some opportunity to get that there. And then we'll be getting more information from program managers as to what they think are the reasons. So those are the main – the main sort of new data collection we'll be doing on that.

We're also doing a modeling analysis, looking over a ten-year period of eligibility changes and overall demographic changes and economic changes, and how those dif – and food package values – and how those things might factor in and might have affected FDPIR participation. We did that in the last study, too, so it sort of shows you, well, people at this level are eligible for both programs, but then there's this group that maybe was eligible but isn't eligible any more, or this group that's of this income or demographic component may – the value of food stamps would be X dollars for them, whereas the value for food stamps would be X dollars for them. Now we can't say that that's why people made the choice, but we could certainly see that there are factors, if that's true, that might affect participation.

I want to just – I think Nancy really hit it, and one way to look at your question is what's the background in which the study is created? And I think that's our long suit. If you look at the other report, for example, is we really try to paint that picture. And that's one reason why census data is in here. And I think you can tell from Nancy's response, that's really the Urban Institute's long suit is really having the socioeconomic analyses from a variety of data. In addition to that, in addition to the smaller study we did, there'll be reference to the last big national study that was done, so those issues will be addressed. I think Nancy is really strong and honest about it, is given all that data and those analyses, I don't know that it will really answer the question that you posed as well as we would like. But it's certainly – we get it. We understand what the issues are on that. And there will be data that we'll be analyzing that look at that.

Any more questions?

So, just to get into a little bit more – yeah?

I just had a quick follow up. Sam Spang with Sac and Fox. I guess to kind of touch a little more on Larry's question and kind of my question, I guess, well, with Larry's question, you know, kind of wondering how

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we're going to get that data from households that might have, you know, switched over to SNAP already. I was just kind of wondering, you know, if the study, you know, we're going to be looking at our participants and our staff, I mean, are we going to be able to include any of these households that are part of the SNAP program – maybe like for the tribes that are part of the study, like maybe the DHS offices that are in our regions, is that going to be possible to get with them and, you know, maybe question them, you know, try to figure out why they went over.

I can begin to answer that by leading you to the part of the survey instrument that addresses participation in FDPIR and SNAP. And so when we have a respondent to the survey, we will be asking that person whether or not at any period during the past year they have switched back and forth from FDPIR to SNAP. So we would be able to capture that on a sub-sample of participants in FDPIR. And we'll be able to understand the behavior and the reasons for switching. I think there's some discussion with respect to the focus groups about bringing in former participants in FDPIR who have switched to SNAP so that would be able to address your concerns.

I think that – that we'll be getting that information.

This is Roxanna. I guess – I think part of what I'm hearing from Larry and Sam is their concern is how do we find these people that left the program ten years ago and know who they are, and just as a question, and I don't really expect anybody to answer it here, but if we could look at does – I mean, even if Doug could go back and pull participant data out of AIS, get it to the specific tribes, and let them look, and even if you didn't do anything but just pull from your tribal member rolls to be able to send a letter out to these individuals asking them if they would be willing to be a participant in a focus group so that we had a way to identify – I mean, you know, some of us sitting here probably, off the top of our head, could tell you some of the tribal members that used to be on the program that aren't any longer. But to be able to really tie it back to that and maybe get some of them in with that specific discussion to take place could really be helpful for all of us I believe. I don't know if – I mean, I think that's a Doug question.

Do you think Doug could do that? I mean, that would be a great idea just as another – a good way – to start recruiting the focus group participants, that would be great if it's possible.

I think – Dana, here. I think it is possible. I think Doug will need to be in contact with any tribal organizations to get, you know, get the data, because I think he operates a system, but he's got to come to you guys to get actual data from past years, so that's my general take based on what we've done in the past when we've worked with AIS there's – there's a very limited amount of things that he can get just by being the administrator of the system, you know, and he's careful with regard to confidentiality, and he wants to make sure that you're on the same page, too, so he might need to be in contact with you.

I know Nancy and her team have been – are going to be working with Doug on AIS to begin with just to see what they can get from the system because they recognize that's where participant data is in addition to the case records that are on site. Looks like most of the information is going to have to come from case records, so to the extent you have historical files that you can provide, it would be helpful to dig those up. And if you don't, we'll figure something else out.

Just to move on some more with the data collection, maybe this will answer some more of your questions. So we talked about the case record reviews, and now these are the participant surveys. So the topics, briefly, we're going to ask about, we mention are their participation in FDPIR and other nutrition assistance programs, access to food store – so that issue about the waivers in urban – while we're not dealing with the waiver thing in this particular study, I mean, there is a question that participants will be

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asked about their access to food stores, so, you know, that certainly is related to the urban waiver issue. And then if their opinions (inaudible) and their satisfaction with FDPIR.

When the – when a sample is selected, we'll be asking the head of the household to respond to the survey unless they designate someone else. And there will be about 32 interviews completed per site, and these will be conducted either in person or by telephone, and we're saying it that way because we want to give as much flexibility as possible, and Carol will talk about that further. There will be someone coming on site to do household interviews, but there might be someone who doesn't want somebody to come to their house, but if you give them a toll free number, or, you know, or say you can come to the FDPIR office and use this private space here to do your telephone call, that might be okay, too, so we want to make sure there's various options for people. And that's going to be worked out separately with each tribe because everybody's got different circumstances.

And there will be an interviewer from NORC that's assigned to that site, so it will be the same person that might come back several times, might get to know how things work at the tribe better, and so work out things with the FDPIR office, try and come when there are – when there's a food distribution time so people are available. You know, they'll be working that out individually with each tribe. But the names of the individuals and their information will be kept confidential, so we're not trying to track anyone individually, we're trying to use this information for a national profile, and that's another area we can work that out. I know certain tribes have their own procedures for this, and some have institutional review boards. We're going to work that out separately with each tribe to make sure that it follows whatever procedures they have in place.

Then the site visit is the next part of the data collect, and although we have 25 tribes participating in the household survey, there will be sites visits to 17 tribes, and that's basically for budgetary reasons, and there will be staff interviews there. There will be discussion groups with FDPIR participants and nonparticipants. And tours of the facilities as well. We'll be wanting to learn more about the operations of the tribes and working with the tribe to visit it so we can manage to be there when there's a tailgate site if they have that. If they have different ways that they do food distribution, we'll try and see more than one of those. And we're going to be trying to get – out of the 25, when we select the 17, our aim there is really just to get a diverse look at the different practices, so we're going to be trying to get tribes that are varied by size, by region, by their economy, by participation changes, so, again, looking at some tribes that may have had decreases, some that have had increases, and at program administration, so whether it's a tribally or state administrative tribe, whether it's one that's, you know, there are several tribes, whether it's one that has a single service area and whether they – and different ways that they might coordinate with other tribal programs. So we're really going to try and get a range of what's going out there. There will be a lot of discussions beforehand with regional offices, with NAFDPR, as to suggestions to make sure we can capture some of that diversity.

I'm going to hand it back to Darlene, see if there's any more questions.

Any comments, questions at this point? Perry?

(Inaudible.)

Just a real quick question. Do we have a timeframe of when the site visits will be selected? I know you'll probably go through the data collection and everything, just what you said, but is there a timeframe because, you know, in some instances it would be nice for the 17 that are going to be selected because

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of staff needs and obligations. If you have a time frame or at least an idea of who's going to (inaudible), we can veer towards having (inaudible).

No place is too far. That's right. Nothing's too far. That I know.

(Inaudible.)

Well, are we up for a break right now or what?

Yeah. I'm just going to answer this one question.

Yeah.

So that's a very good point. We sort of casually didn't actually say when in here because we haven't done it yet, but we will – it will happen – you know, there's this period when we're doing outreach and when we're – after these consultations are done where we're revising instruments, and we will have to have our sites selected before we get really far into outreach because it will be, as you say, part of the outreach process to discuss that with you. So thanks for reminding us.

Another question.

Cherrah, Muscogee Creek Nation. I just wanted to clarify, when you say site, you mean the tribe. Obviously we have two different facilities, so site means the tribe, no matter how many facilities you have. And secondly, language. Will we have opportunity to have traditional speakers to help translate or even having those survey tools in our language?

The first one is yes, it's the whole tribe. And (inaudible).

And yes, we can do that. NORC works with a number of different language populations, so we can work to translate the instrument, and that's something that we would work out during the outreach process with you.

Any other questions or comments at this time? I think we're going to – I see they're setting some things up in the back it looks like. We'll see. But anyway, why don't we go ahead and take a break. Let's see what time it is on the official time clock. Twenty after. How about a 15, 20 minute break, and then we'll reconvene. Thank you.

(Inaudible.)

Okay. Are we about ready to get started for part three? Oh, she's trying to move it to the next slide, so.

(Inaudible.)

Thank you. Thank you, Lou, and we're getting ready to move now to part three, but before we move forward, during the break did any thoughts come up or questions? Perry? No, just kidding. I mean that respectfully, Perry. Anna?

We just had a – were discussing something. When you said the six largest tribes were chosen, was that nationally or by region?

Their numbers are so large that they make up such a large proportion of the - .

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Just out of pure curiosity, do you have what those were and then how many total programs nationally there are?

Off the top of my head I don't know the total of programs nationally, although you probably do. A hundred and fourteen. So it's 25 of the 114. The list – you have the list of the tribes that are invited. I can, off the top of my head, for sure say which are the – I'm not positive I'll get them all, but, for example, Navajo, Cherokee – I know are in what we call the certainty because they were the largest. I can't remember all six here. I don't know if I have another –

The next one is (inaudible). Then I believe (inaudible).

Yeah. So I have it on a note. Unfortunately I didn't bring it with me. I have it someplace though.

I believe next is Choctaw. And then Chickasaw.

There's only six, right?

Yeah, I'm going to look and see.

(Inaudible.)

(Inaudible.)

I don't think so. I can find the list, but I don't have it right in front of me. But we can get that for you. It was done completely by population.

Just out of curiosity.

And a big announcement. Look what has arrived. Dana's suitcase that was lost by American Airlines.

I can return all the clothes to Bass Pro Shop.

All right. We're going to turn it over –

Okay. So this third part of the consultation is really to get into a little bit more detail and the parts that really where we need your involvement the most and we're really going to be working with you for this section, so it's a lot of detail about what happens with collection. And I'm going to hand that over first to Carol, who will talk about outreach and the survey, and then also Walter will talk about the site visits.

Thank you, Nancy. Okay, so in order to get this study off the ground, the first thing that we need to do is to conduct outreach. And this consultation session is actually the first step in that process. And what we will be doing is reaching out to all of the FDPIR program directors to first talk with you about what's the best way to work with your tribe and how to work within your tribal research regulation processes. We understand that a number of tribes have IRBs, others have research review committees, some work more as a consortium and pool together IRB applications, some work through a local tribal college or university. So we first want to be able to understand what is the process that we need to observe in order to do responsible research in your community. And it's very import to us, as the study team, that we don't come in and do what's referred to as helicopter research, that we come in and out and that we don't spend time to get to know you and to really get a very good understanding of what it takes to conduct research in a way that both all members of the tribal leadership are informed and the community as well.

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So with that said, our goals are to respect tribal sovereignty in the research process, build a partnership with you, with tribal leaders and FDPIR program staff, so we can work together to get this done. And we envision that it will take about a year to do that. If you go back to the timeline that Nancy shared, during the period when we go into the OMB phase, which is a kind of a lull in our research activity because OMB is reviewing the study protocols and the instruments, that's when we'll be reaching out to all of you. And that could take up to six months to do that. And then once the reference month for the data collection has been decided upon, which we think will be June of 2013, then we would be ready to go into the field to do the data collection. But there's a lot that needs to be done in advance. So part of that building the partnership is actually working together on a number of levels, both logistically and in terms of developing relationships with each other so that you feel comfortable with us in doing this.

And, as I said, observing tribal research requirements so that we do this right, we do it properly. And then seeking input from tribes and IPOs to insure that we have effective communication in place. It's real important that everybody has a common understanding of what the expectations are and how we'll be working together.

So some of the ways that we do envision working with you is to tailor information to your particular community so that you do have some kind of generic advance materials, they're called in kind of survey lingo, but letters, brochures, things like that, so, you know, how can we tailor those so that it really speaks to your community in the best way and that we're using language that resonates. Then how do we work with you to observe the protocols for conducting research. For some other studies we've already worked with the Chickasaw Nation, the Choctaw Nation, working through their tribal IRB process, and we realize that that process needs to start early, and so we'll be looking for your guidance on who we need to reach out to because it goes through a number of levels of review.

And then we also want to be able to get people excited and interested about doing this and so that we can convey that in a way that will reach people in your community in ways that, you know, you know how to get to them.

So the actual research regulation process that we need to observe, as the study team, is that all of the study protocols are submitted to OMB, they are reviewed, OMB sometimes comes back and makes suggestions about how to refine the instruments. They might raise questions about the burden that we have assumed for the study. Right now we're thinking it's 30 minutes based on the interview part of it, the participant survey, but, you know, through the pretests we're learning how to refine the instrument so that we don't impose too much burden on any of the respondents.

At the same time the study protocols as they've been developed so far have both been reviewed by the Urban Institute and NORC's institutional review boards, which is quite a lengthy process, internally, because we need to give assurance to our organizations that we are conducting research responsibly, and so we have laid out the protocol for recruitment of tribes into the sample, the procedures for case record review, procedures for participant surveys, procedures for site visits, and such, so all of that involves a lot of documentation, and there is here a letter, a sample letter, that could be shared with your tribal leaders about what this study will be involving. But we do have lots of different kinds of letters that will be sent out. There will be a letter that goes first to the tribal leadership. That will come from FNS. There will be another letter that comes from us that says, you know, hi. And then there will be another letter that goes to the FDPIR program from the study team as well. And then there will be letters that go out to the participants that have been randomly sampled for the participant survey. So lots of different kinds of communications going out, and it would be important that you all understand and are well

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informed about who's being informed about what. So part of our outreach is to just, you know, make that very clear.

I've probably gone a little bit beyond the first slide, but I'm going to go to the second one now. So the – as I said – we'll do initially telephone outreach with all of you, either myself or Suzanne Bard will be on the phone. I'm actually located in NORC's Bethesda, Maryland office and Suzanne Bard is located in Chicago, so she and I will be leading the outreach with all of the FDPIR programs and tribal leaders. Suzanne attended the consultation that was held last week in Rapid City. And we will work with you to understand your research regulation requirements. We envision that we will submit an IRB protocol and work with you to gain that approval. And we know that that could either be done through a telephone conference or we might need to come in person and make a presentation. For other studies that we've done, we've gone before tribal councils and conducted presentations similar to this to gain a tribal resolution to conduct the study.

So as I mentioned, that sample letter is there, and there will be other letters that will follow once we get the outreach effort off the ground.

So I'm going to go to the next slide. This is concerning outreach and scheduling. We're building off the consultations that are being conducted over these three weeks and then also what was discussed back in January. And what we've learned as we've done outreach on other studies is that tribes are unique and they have different cultural calendars and different rhythms within their communities, and we need to know that and respect that. And we need to know when is the best time to be in touch with you, when is not a good time, when would be the best time, for instance, to come on site to do the site visits, and when would be the best time to come, for instance, in person to do the case record abstraction. So we want to be very sure that we honor your time and respect it and that we don't impose in any way.

We also need to allow sufficient time for communication. All of this study planning involves a lot of back-and-forth, a lot of discussions on your side with people, and we just need time to kind of work through this all in a very coordinated fashion. And I believe in the six months lead-up to the study, the data collection, we'll be able to achieve that. And sometimes we'll be bringing in Nancy and Walter into those conversations as well. And we're also trying to build off our own knowledge base as well so that whoever is kind of in the best position to, you know, who knows people in the tribe who's worked with the tribe before to be the one that takes lead on it so that we're trying to build upon previous relationships as well so that there is greater continuity in the research process.

And we'll also be communicating with FNS throughout this process, and then also with NAFDPIR as well. So we'll be in touch. Okay.

So moving to the outreach steps. This is just kind of the nuts and bolts of how we do this. We first start with really doing our homework and getting to understand each tribe, each organization, its history and culture, so that we can go in with as much knowledge in advance, and so that we're not starting from a blank slate. And then we'll be sending advance information to you about the study, and sometimes we work with a particular tribal point of contact, and we'll discuss with you if that's the best method to do that. We see that there will be lots of follow-up calls to just get all the details right, and lots of back-and-forth talking to each other, emails. So informal processes and formal processes in place as well.

And then entering into data sharing agreements. And this is important so that everybody is transparent, above board, about what data is being shared, abstracted, from the tribal perspective that may be going into being transferred for data analysis. And so everyone understands what particular data elements

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we're looking at, for instance, for the case record review, that we're interested in household members but not their names, that we're interested in income from participating household members, but we're not getting other personally-identifying information. So all of those terms would be laid out in what's formally called the Data Sharing Agreement. But it just lays out very clearly what kind of information we'll be obtaining and what kind of information that we will then be held responsible for securing on our end, through our respective organizations. And NORC and the Urban Institute have very tight data security procedures. So we'll be providing more information about that.

And then, as I said, we'll be meeting with your leadership, with the FDPIR program directors, and any other staff that you think is necessary for us to talk to, and we can come on site as needed. And I think it's just important that we make ourselves accessible to you.

So the next slide is the data collection where I get more into some details about each of the particular processes, but I just wanted to see if anyone had any questions at this point.

(Inaudible.)

Oh. Okay. Okay. All right. So moving on to the case record reviews, as Nancy presented earlier, in order to develop the demographic profile of FDPIR participants, we'll be doing a case record review and abstracting information about participants and their household composition and income sources within those households. And this is actually modeled on the study that was done in 1990, so we're trying to replicate some of the procedures that were already in place, and actually this sets up a nice kind of template for perhaps doing this over time, so that there is consistency. But we will – we're exploring ways about how to get that information, and there's two different scenarios that I think have emerged. We spoke with the regional offices about how they do their monitoring reviews of the case records, and we learned that, for the most part, the staff go on site, to your organizations, and do the case record review on site. In some other places it happens by sending redacted forms to the regional office and then that's done at their desks. So we want to explore with you what's the best way to do this and what's the most secure way to do this. We also know that some of you use an automated system and that we might be able to just get this information as a data file and then the analysis could be done just as a secondary analysis.

So there's basically three different ways that the case record review might occur. The first process, if we go on site, it means that we would need to have had the sample of participants drawn in advance, and we would work with you about drawing a random sample of all of your current participants for the reference month. So say it's June, 2013. And the household issuance report would be the basis for drawing that. And we would have one of NORC's sampling statisticians work with you to basically walk you through the process of how you do this in a systematic but random manner so that if you have a hundred participants, that you just don't pick the first ten. That you pick every ninth, or something like that, and then go through the list until you get the 30 or 40 cases that we need. And we will be oversampling the cases, and we need to do that because sometimes you have missing information in a record, we wouldn't want to use that data.

So we'll be working with you to do that sampling piece, and so if we had to come on site, it would be myself or one of the staff from the Bethesda office that works with me. We have very strong research analysts that work with us, and they would be doing the data abstraction.

And I have a sample of the template that we'll be using, and this is going into our own B packet. And essentially what it covers is making a list of the members of the household and their relationship to the

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FDPIR applicant, whether or not any of them have ever received or applied for or been disqualified for SNAP. And any income that that particular person brings into the household. And then any self-employment income, whether there are students in the household receiving financial aid. And then other resources that the household has, such as cash, checking accounts, etc.

I'll pass this around for you to look. I think it's important that you note that there's no personal identifiers on that template. And we did base the template on the case –

(Inaudible.)

The eligibility forms that you use, so for instance, we reviewed forms from Muscogee, from Choctaw, from the Pueblo of Acoma, because a number of these forms are available on line, and we just saw that there was consistency in the way that this information was laid out. And some of it's required, but we also understood that tribes had some leeway to design their own form. So we took common data elements, and those will essentially be the elements that we draw from the case record review and which will serve to present a socioeconomic profile of households participating in the FDPIR.

So that will be one aspect of doing this study. And what it means logistically is that we would work with you to have the sample pulled in advance, and then we would come on site, it could be one or two of us, and we'd basically sit quietly in the office with the files and have a laptop, a secure laptop, and just abstract the information, you know, do one file, move on to the next. Depending on how many cases we have to review, for instance in the larger tribes we have already discussed having to do a bit more to account for the fact that they have large populations, so we might have to do 80, and that might take us two days, it might take us three days, so we just have to work through what the best timeframe is for doing that.

And we've asked the regional officers for some guidance on how best to do this and to kind of observe the protocol that they do, so if it means just sitting in the warehouse and doing this in a quiet corner, then that's what we'll do. Totally flexible. We're kind of like a movable research team. You put us in a corner, we'll be fine, so we're real easy to work with in that way.

So, important points, then, this will be a very secure process. We understand that we're going to be leafing through confidential information. We have all taken a pledge of confidentiality. The study team and our organizations hold this to very high research standards, so no personally identifying information will be abstracted, and we just want to assure you about that.

If you happen to have electronic records, then there will be a different process. It will be a more streamlined process, but it will be a very secure one as well, and we would work with you about how to abstract the participants from your records and to send us a data file that has those particular elements that map to the case record review template. And that would then be done through a secure data transfer and come into NORC's offices in a secure manner. So that would be another method that we work out.

I think the least preferable method is having forms sent to us that have been redacted because it involves burden on your end. It means having to redact, photocopy, send in a secure way, and then get it to us, and I know FedEx is great and very secure, but I think the example of your lost luggage is, you know.

(Inaudible.)

Yeah. You know, we just want to make sure that all of the information that we obtain is very secure and traceable. So if that's the way that is best for your tribe to go, then we'll work with you on that as well.

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So, just want to make sure that everything is done very securely.

Okay. So does anyone have any questions about that process?

(Inaudible) Choctaw Nation. When you come to our sites, we have four locations, would you plan on visiting all four of those locations?

That's a very good question, because we would need to draw the sample that, I mean, do you have like a central location where the information about all the participants is stored?

No, each location houses its own information for those participants.

Okay.

And we do have a pilot project going on now (audio break) fixing to begin it where we are going paperless at our Durant office, everything will be electronic. But at our other three locations we would still have paper files. So that's something to consider as far as the accessibility to be able to do things electronically on your end also.

Great. And that's exactly the kind of logistical things we need to work out together, because in order to have a representative sample, we need to be able to sample from all four, and so we would have to do kind of mini-samples from each site and then we would then, if one sample could come to us electronically, we would then need to go on site and do it by hand in the other three. But we can work that out, so.

Okay.

Any other questions? Okay. All right. So I'll move on to the participant sample. So the sample of the case record will be serving as the sample for the participant survey. An important caveat to that is that they're not going to be linked. We'll be getting information about the socioeconomic profile of participants from the case record review. From the participant survey we'll be learning lots of other things, as Nancy said this morning. An important part of that is that the linkage piece creates issues around obtaining informed consent, around, you know, it just creates a lot of kind of human subject research protection issues, and we thought that it might be best to just delink these and keep the samples separate in terms of the information that we derive about individuals from each data set. So, for instance, with the case record review, no names, no other personally identifying information. But with the participant survey, we need a mailing address. We need to know who to send letters to in order to have people be recruited into the study.

So what we will be working with you to obtain is once that sample of who the possible participants are in the study, that we would need to get mailing information for each participant. We don't need their name as long as we can get it to an address, but we also understand that in some communities there's only post office boxes, so it's another logistical matter that we'll have to work through.

But we will be then sending a letter to these potential participants, and I say potential because we'll be oversampling, and everybody that gets a letter has an opportunity to say no thank, I'm not interested. But we'll do our best in working with you to gain as much cooperation as possible to do this. And some of the ways that we envision this occurring, and has been done in other studies, is that, for instance, the brochure that I mentioned, the advance materials, the letters and things like that, that will be going out to you, but then the brochure could be shared, it could be posted in the warehouse, it could be handed out

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during tailgates or something, so that people are informed about the study in general. There could be an article in the tribal newsletter. There could be a radio announcement or something like that. So that you just get the community aware that the study is occurring. And so we can work with you about providing materials for that.

So the sample for the participant survey will essentially be the sample drawn for the case record review with the exception that we would then obtain some mailing addresses to contact people.

So the next slide. Okay.

And I already said that we'll be asking you to distribute a brochure to participants in advance. And if there's other ways that, you know, you have ideas that might be helpful about communicating, we'd be happy to make additional materials, to tailor them.

And I want to spend a bit of time talking about the actual person that would come on site or be the person on the phone that does the field interview. And we, in thinking through how best to do this, NORC has lots of field interviewers. There's 1,500 NORC field interviewers across the country. Many of them have worked in tribal communities. Many of them are tribal members themselves. But you might also express a preference that someone from your community be recruited and hired to serve in that capacity, and we'd be very happy to work with you to do that. It would involve going through a hiring process and being trained in survey research methods and field interviewing. And for other studies what we've done is we've been able to work with the tribe to identify field interviewers through tribal colleges, through work force development programs. Sometimes it can even be a TANF recipient who is in need of some short-term work. The hourly rate for an interviewer is \$17.00 and expenses are paid in terms of mileage and such, so it also then serves as a very good credential for someone who is interested in doing further research.

So we'll also talk to you about that, because in some ways surveys, national level surveys, become like mini job programs in different communities.

Another important dimension about the field interviewer is that we're hoping to have that person serve as a kind of site liaison so that whoever is acting in that role comes first to meet with you, through the FDPIR program, tribal leadership if that's preferred, to say, you know, hi, I'm the person that's been hired to do this. I'd like to get to know you better, just work through some of the procedures that will be in place so that you feel comfortable with that person because we see that sometimes the program people are kind of the ones in the middle between acting as the liaison between the study team and the study participants. So we've allowed for time in the budget for that field interviewer to come on site, to introduce him or herself, and then also to come around, you know, at least once a month, maybe on the days that food distribution occurs, however it's done, but, you know, to just make his or her presence known in the community so that it's not some random, abstract stranger who someone is calling or expecting a visit from. Because the data collection might be fielded over a period of, say, two, three months, and if someone's gotten a letter saying, you know, oh, you've been randomly selected to participate in the survey, and they're a little wary of doing it but they see the field interviewer, and the field interviewer says, hi, I'm the field interviewer, and just kind of makes it known who they are and seen that they can be a trusted person, then sometimes that helps other people come around. And it takes a while. You know, you have, like, people that respond immediately to doing survey, and there is also the incentive of \$25.00 which would be the gift card and we would work out with you what's the best way to do that. Is it the local big box store or is it, you know, the convenience store that's closer, to work out what's the best incentive to provide, and then be able to just have different procedures in place that match what's best in your community.

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And as I said that, I lost my train of thought, so wait a second. Oh, I know, I was saying about, you know, it takes time for people sometimes to be comfortable, so you have the ones that say sure, I'll do it, no problem. They'll call the 800 number. They'll respond to the survey. And that's great. But then there's also people it takes a little bit more time and it might require, you know, some follow up – a follow-up mailing. It might involve coming on site. So we're just trying to figure out different strategies that will work in your community and that people are comfortable with.

And also we said that we're estimating that the interview will be 30 minutes, and we recognize that sometimes it does take a bit longer, but we're trying to get a really clear sense of just how long it will be.

And the interview process also involves informed consent. In the mailing that goes out to each participant, there will be an informed consent statement as well so somebody can review it in advance, but all interviews begin with a very thorough kind of negotiation, discussion of what informed consent really involves. And then once that consent is gained, then we would conduct the interview.

A couple of important points, and it relates back to a question that was raised before, we envision that we might need to use a proxy to do the interview, so let's just say, for instance, it's an elder who doesn't really want to speak but wants to participate, they might be able to designate their oldest daughter to be the one that speaks on their behalf. And we've got a protocol for that. We also have protocols for bilingual interpreters, if we don't translate the instrument itself, if we can have someone from the community who could serve as an interpreter, so we've made provisions for that. So we're trying to customize the data collection to your community and to work through the different human subject protections that are required in order to do that.

And then also have like just really friendly informational brochures and things to share.

So, let's see, the next slide is the participant –

Before we move on –

Oh, I'm sorry.

I have a question.

Yes?

I may have missed it. What's going to be the source of your field interviewers? Are you going to hire them and interview them yourself or do you already have them on staff? What I'm asking is, are they going to be familiar with the Cherokee Nation, in my instance, you know, all the communities?

Exactly. I can tell you that NORC goes out and recruits and then hires field interviewers. They do rely on suggestions from local communities about who best to recruit from, and what I said earlier was that there were two ways we could do this. We could rely on field interviewers who have prior experience with the Cherokee Nation in doing field interviewing and who may also be a member of the tribal community. Or we can work with you to identify where there might be some good people to recruit to hire for this position. So if that's your preference, then that's what we would do because we want to make sure that in doing this study that we help to build capacity within your organization, within your community, so that we leave something behind, and that's some people are trained in research methods at the same time.

Okay.

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So we'll work with you on that, so.

All right. Thank you.

Okay. Any other questions about that? And I think an important thing to add in that regard is that the importance of building capacity in the research process, you know, doing research is a two-way street, and it's not something that you go in and you take information from people and then you write a report and give it to the federal sponsor. It involves a lot of relationship building and a lot of reciprocity, and so it's our approach to doing research that we attempt to build capacity with any site that we work with. Even if it's as simple as drawing the sample for the case record review or if it's training tribal members about conducting an interview and all that involves, then that's what we want to be able to do, and leave behind as well. So there's lots of different ways that we can explore with you what would be the best way to do that.

I'm moving on then to the participant survey. And Nancy addressed this earlier, but the survey addresses the extent of participation in other nutrition assistance programs, access to food stores, access to facilities for storing and preparing foods, participants' perspectives on FDPIR, how it's working and such, and the exploring the reasons for switching between FDPIR and SNAP. And I encourage you to look at the instrument carefully. Some of the questions were specifically developed for this study. Some of the questions rely on other survey instruments that have been used in national studies. One key item in it is based on a food security measure that FNS uses. So we actually pulled from the best survey instruments about issues related to food security, nutrition education programs, and we've also looked at tribally-developed instruments, food security and food sovereignty surveys to obtain questions as well.

Yes?

Perry Martinez from Eight Northern. As far as the survey instrument, I did go online and take a look at that. A lot of it is draft. Do you have a deadline date of when you're going to make it the official document and I don't know if there's an opportunity for comments on that survey instrument, but I think there also needs to be a deadline of when people need to respond and if you don't respond you didn't meet the deadline. That's one question. And then the other one is just more of a comment on the process as you move forward. I don't know if that process is going to be flexible for change, because as you go through the process there may be areas that need to be included, deleted to make things more efficient. Just a comment. You know, I mean there may be certain steps that you have laid out in the process, but after going through the first few initial interviews, or you may not need that process or there may be another process added to that. I hope that there's that flexibility, that way we're not stuck in a scenario that processes that we don't have to go through may no longer be needed. Or included. I just wanted to make that comment.

So to answer your first question, yes, definitely there is time to make suggestions, comments, edits to the instrument. In terms of timing, this came up in South Dakota, so there's a lot of different stages. We're hoping to get this, what they call the OMB package, submitted end of December, early January, so obviously any comments we can get before the end of December would be really helpful to us because that will make the package sort of more final. And we are pretesting now, so we ourselves are making changes to those instruments based on what we've learned so far in the pretest. So that's ideal. But when it goes to the Office of Management and Budget, these instruments then get posted for public comment. So there's actually another period during which you or any other tribe can comment on those instruments. So even December is not your last chance, but it would just help us to get them sooner, but there's still more time to comment on those.

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And then the other question was about the flex – okay, so, certain things are and certain things aren't, you know. So I think a lot of these procedures that Carol went through will vary by tribe, so with certain tribes it will be, oh, well, you know, we're just going to – you know, we have a quick process here for tribal review. No problem. So that will shortcut it. And other tribes we'll have to do – they might even have more steps than we've even thought of and we'll have to do that. So there is that – I think that once everything in the study plan is approved by the Office of Management and Budget, you really can't change too much about how you're sampling, or adding new questions, you can't do things like that. But your basic procedures of how you would conduct the outreach or get things moving are okay.

Thank you. Does anyone else have any other questions? No? Okay. Well, if they come to you, feel free to ask. I think I'll turn it over to Walter now. Thanks.

Okay, we can do the next slide maybe. Or – no I'm sorry. Did we – where are we at? I'm sorry, I went too fast. Okay.

You know, kind of an introduction of this. At some point it could seem like you're drinking out of a fire hose, you know, instead of a drinking fountain, all this stuff, and I just make a couple of points which is, because we talked about the OMB review process, and, you know, that was all created by what's called the Paperwork Reduction Act. Twenty or 30 years ago, people were complaining so much about the burden of having to report to various governmental entities, including your income tax form, so the Paperwork Reduction Act required the Office of Management and Budget to review all research, federally-sponsored research and related activities, and look at the burden that's on the public. And including the public – everybody, including Indians, right? And they really look at it and say, what good is this research? What questions is it going to answer? And so forth. And Carol just came back from Alaska because on a similar study for HUD, the OMB said, we don't think that you can really draw random samples of housing in Alaska Native villages, and if you've ever been up there, you could see why they ask a legitimate question. So she went up there and proved that you really could enumerate where everybody – because, you know, and you see this a lot in Indian Country, people don't have a regular street address if they're living in a hogan on the Navajo reservation, and you know, there's some similar things in Alaska native villages. So that's a good thing. So OMB thinks pretty good. So you're going to go back and say, so why are we doing this project and taking all of your time today and telling you all the things we want you to help us do and all that stuff, and so my look at it is a lot of these things have different facets and so forth, so it makes sense that USDA – I cannot talk for anybody but myself, you know, but I'm a research in the deal – so USDA comes in and says, we're running this program and we get regular reports, but we haven't done a big study of it, and we really need to see how it's going and hiring firms like ours, who don't have a dog in the fight, you know, our mandates to be objective, and honest, and truthful, and as comprehensive as we can be. Right? So that's one reason why we're going all this.

But there are, you know, because you could say this is déjà vu all over again, you know, yet another study is coming. Why are we doing this? And there's sometimes a little paranoia about that. And another answer is, you know, we just reelected a president and a whole bunch of congressmen and senators got elected, and there's some new people on the block, and they don't have a clue. Some of those people outside of Oklahoma don't even hardly know Indians exist, you know, and they don't have any idea about –so what is the Indian Health Service? And what is this FDPIR? And where is tax money going for this, you know, and so this study is done, not necessarily in response to that pressure but being prepared, so I mean that's one reason why we're all here.

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So having said that, then we're going – we're going to do this study, right, so we're going to look at people who actually participate and we're going to look at records for those people who are actually participating, so you could say, well, site visits, why are we talking about site visits because there's going to be a lot of site visits going on. But this is a special kind of site visit, you know, and this question was raised before is, so you think you can come here in three days and get a real sense of what our program is like? And the answer to that is yes and no, but it won't be the first time that somebody is there because it's going to be an innertive (sp) kind of procedure. But there will be a formal site visit with two or three staff, which will probably be different from the people working on those other survey portions, and we're coming and we want to get a sense of what the program is. And we think we know, you know. A little knowledge is a dangerous thing. But when we did this kind of thing before, what we found is instead of when we come in people saying, oh, God, here come these idiots again, instead what we found in FDPIR is people are really glad – really glad to have us there and say we want you to see what we've got. And, you know, it goes from the director all the way down to somebody working in the warehouse. I mean we even went on – we followed the big trucks around in a place that had 22 sites and a TNL, and saw that the highway patrol had to check the – there was a random stop by the highway patrol to check the brakes, you know, on the big truck, and so we learned a lot in those two or three days, okay. And you've already – if we haven't convinced you of one thing, is we're going to coordinate with you all to death, right? We're going to say here's how we're going to do this, and help us do that, and all that stuff. And so the same thing goes with that site visit. You know, we're going to come when it's actually we're going to try to – if we were going to come to the Eight Northern, we're going to try to pick one of the feast days so that we could – no, I'm just kidding.

But actually a lot of times it's the opposite. You know, you say you can come, you know, here's a bunch of time (inaudible), but don't come at this time, and that's when we'll try to come.

Okay, and so it's each of the two site visits, and typically the team will be a two-person team, and you know, sometimes, we'll have a person recording or help us out, okay, and so we just want to learn how you do it because it's one thing to look at the records, and it's another thing to sample people and stuff like that. Okay. But we want to see how you do it and what you do. And we'll be asking questions like, one of the things I always like to find out is, so what kind of problems have you faced? And what kind of solutions are you developing for that? Because the value of this study – so there's all these stakeholders that get it, but one of the values of the study should be for the participants, the programs participating, you know, and so you can say, oh, well, tho – now, a lot of this stuff you already know, but this will be – it's been a long time since there's a nationally representative sample, so it gives a different picture than from a case study. Okay. So it should be of value to you. You say, oh, that's what they do. That's what their problem is. I mean, I can only go from past history. Supermarkets. Now that's an interesting way to do it, to organize the distribution like that. That's an issue. Well, what kind of problems did they have in doing that? And can they do that? Whatever.

Okay, next slide.

So, what are we actually going to do? Well, this is what gets negotiated, but a lot – we like to come to the top a lot of times and talk to the tribal executive, chief, chairman, whatever. And sometimes they, as a rule, they want to. And that's good for the program, as a rule. It gets more visibility and stuff like that because, you know, and it's like an education. If you go in Indian country and you say what are our top most important things we want to do, and taking care of children and education is always at the top of the list, but it's not always the highest in the budget. And what's more important than eating and having a nutritious thing, but they don't always get down there. But anyway. So we want to try to the top. And then we want to talk to everybody, you know, from A to Z at the FDPIR program. And while we're out there, we

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want to go look at, if we can work it out, if you're 638 and running your tribal clinic, we want to talk to them about food and nutrition and how does that work, and – boy, I always get in trouble when I say this, but I think a problem that we have in Indian country is that we have all of these silos, you know, and so IHS isn't always to FDPIR and education isn't – but actually what we found is on one of the site visits, Head Start was really involved with food and nutrition and they got rid of French fries and replaced them with sweet potato fries and stuff like that, so we want to try to see how the tribe deals with health, food and nutrition, and so then we want to go to WIC, and we want to go to TANF, because that's another program that has a lot of overlap with your clients. Stuff like that.

So I think I got another slide.

Okay, so what else are we going to do? So we're going to see, you know, a new facet, a new set of eyes looking at how you administer it, how do you do it, what's your intake like, how does – we will have collected data that reflects that, but we want to actually see how you do it, and stuff like that. And, you know, get from the staff's position what works and what doesn't work, and what creative ideas that they might have or might not have.

We're also going to run what's called focus groups, right. So even though they'll be the sample participants, we want to get a group of people together, and we've got to work with you to select those people, and we were saying earlier, you know what the theory of communication is? You tell them what you're going to tell them. Then you tell them. And then you tell them what you've told them. And half the people get the message, right, so I mean you've heard all this stuff before.

But in those focus groups it would be nice if we could get some people who have switched, who have been on SNAP or FDPIR and one recent time. And as a rule, sometimes getting those started is a little bit hard, but, boy, once you get people talking and they really have a good time, you know, and so we record that, and that goes into the report.

And I think that's pretty much it. And that's the last slide. No, we got another one here? Okay. So, and just repeating again, so this is only going to work if you all want it to work, you know, so we can't be helicop – helicopter research doesn't work, so throughout the whole process, and today has been a good example. We've been taking notes and writing down stuff, but we want to know from you what's the best way to try to get those people on the participant survey and how we're going to recruit people for the focus group and stuff like that, so we want to do that. And then we want to find out from you anticipated problems. What kind of problems will we have when we come? And whatever that you've got to say in advance, or even during the site visits and stuff like that, that will be helpful, and you can say, this doesn't seem to be going well because, you know, and then we'll try to modify accordingly.

So that's kind of the big picture on that. And I'm done. Any questions, comments, laudatory praises? You know, I came out here on Southwest, and we shared this flight, and it was unbelievable. The flight attendant, she had this whole spiel down. She talked to fast you couldn't believe it, but said all kinds of silly little things like I just said.

Okay, so I'm going to pass this back to one of the bosses.

Thank you all very much. I appreciate that. Again, any comments, concerns, questions, thoughts?

Bud Squirrel, Cherokee Nation. I didn't know what to expect, you know, of what you all had done. I had some concerns, but I've got a little bit of assurance now that you all are seeking input on how to develop your research tool, you know, and that's encouraging. I thought you all were going to bring your cookie

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cutters and already, you know, ready to stamp it out and file another report, so it's good to hear what I've heard today. Appreciate it. Thank you.

Thank you, Bud. This won't be your only time to comment, but just, you know, want to ask one more time before I hand it over to Dana for next steps.

No. Just – Perry Martinez from Eight Northern. Just a really, really quick question. This goes back to getting permission from the tribal leadership. Since we're a consortium, would a resolution from the board suffice as far as giving you the authorization to conduct the study on their programs? Because for us that's probably a lot easier because we are a consortium, eight governors, and then we have a board of governors resolution authorizing – would that suffice for the individual letter from each tribal leader?

I'd like to say I believe so, but I think we need to refer back to which of the tribes in the consortium are in the sample?

Actually, all of them. Eight Northern is the consortium of the eight –

Oh, so they are all in it?

Yeah.

Okay, so if that's your process and that's what you require to do research, then that's fine.

Thank you.

I'm surprised people didn't really – one of the problems that we run into is the sampling issue all the time, and it seems like that wasn't quite as big in this particular group, but it is. People say, like in the recent presidential elections, I used to do polling, and somebody would say, how can you take a sample of 1,400 people across the United States and try to predict the election outcome? And so I didn't get to use my stock answer, which is – it's kind of a deflection – but it is, you know, so if you say how can you tell from this sample, you've got to count everybody, and a census really is a nightmare. You get more better data a lot of times out of a sample than you do out of counting everybody, because it's too hard. So what I always say is if you're sick, you think you're sick, and you go to the doctor, and they says, look, we need to take a sample of your blood, well what you should do is you should insist they take it all because you want to be really sure. Instead of a sample.

On that note, I will turn it over to Dana for next steps. Okay.

Thank you, everybody. Thank you for coming today. Slide. See if this – I can't do two things at once. Can't walk and chew gum. Can't do this. Okay, here we go. Next steps.

How to provide additional input. There's the email that you can try, and we'll be looking at that email account to give you an opportunity to provide more input after the session. We are going to have a follow-up consultation call on January tenth of 2012. Well, there you go. I'm going to have to change that in the notes. January tenth, 2013. Going to be 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time. It's intended for folks that can't make one of the in-person sessions, but it's also intended for you, if you have additional comments that you want to make, or if you want to hear something again because you're not – didn't quite hear it the first time, so keep that in mind. It's going to be a webinar, national webinar for those tribes that were – have been invited to participate in the study.

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Again, take a look at the – be expected to be contacted by our Urban Institute and the research team with regard to the study on your reservation, on the tribal leadership and, of course, programs. There's going to be a letter going out this winter. We want to get started on and begin the approval process, and this is your tribe's approval process for those on site visits. So look at the one-page template there that we handed out in this packet. We wish we could have given you folders, but they were in my luggage. So if you want folders, they're now here. So we got – but – yeah, check out that letter, you can use that. If not, whatever works for you. Again, Perry mentioned, from his Eight pueblos, that, you can go that route if you want to, and get a resolution from the board. A lot of different options there.

Expect an update at next year's NAFDPIR conference and we can format as the association sees fit, whether by a general session with Urban, and without, however you guys want that to work, Roxanna. And after that, data collection is going to begin in August of 2013 or so. Yeah, that's a loose timeframe, but we like to stick to it, so we want to get moving on the study and see what we can find out.

After this we got some emails and web links for you. Again, you're welcome to contact anybody on this list if you have questions. And I want to thank you, again, for being here today. It does take a lot of time out of your day to travel here and go back and do the work that you do.

So, that being said, I want to defer to Darlene for any last comments.

Yes, again, thank you all for being here today. Thank you for your comments, your questions, your ideas. After serving as the consulting official in Rapid City, I feel lucky to have been able to also attend this one and to see some familiar faces and to meet some new folks.

So as we get ready to close out, I know this is an important program. I thank you for what you do in your work and what you do for the people that you serve. Thank you to the research team, again, for information. Really appreciate that. And to the FNS team, I appreciate that, and please say hi to Bill for me and I know he sends his regards too.

And as we close out I would like to turn it over to Perry Martinez for a closing blessing. Thank you.