

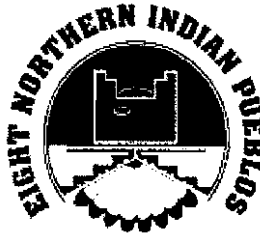
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Interim Executive Director  
Valarie Lyon

May 29, 2008

**FDPIR-08-025**

Mr. Roberto Salazar  
USDA, Food and Nutrition Service  
Food Distribution Division  
3101 Park Center Drive, Room 506  
Alexandria, Virginia 22302

Dear Mr. Salazar

This is in response to notification of your decision on the allocation of funding to the Food Distribution on Indian Reservation (FDPIR) to Indian Tribal Organizations (ITO) and State agencies for fiscal year 2008. Based on recommendations made by the FDPIR Funding Work Group (created as a result of concerns generated by the membership of The National Association of Food Distribution on Indian Reservation (NAFDPIR) to address inequities in funding to FDPIR Programs), Resolution from Tribal Government and direction as you mentioned from the United States Congress to resolve this long standing issue of inequities in administrative funding to the FDPIR Programs.

I have received and reviewed in detail your correspondence dated October 30, 2007 explaining the foundation for your decision to utilize Proposal # 2 which you feel will help ensure the inequities that currently exist in the allocation process will be expeditiously addressed, in an easy to understand methodology that will best serve the FDPIR programs. The clear expectation by Congress that Food and Nutrition Service must take action in FY 2008 to remedy funding inequities in FDPIR. With the House and Senate proposal for increased funding for FY 2008, each Regional Office will receive an increase in funding under this methodology. I am very pleased you have instructed the Regional Offices to ensure no FDPIR program receives less funding in FY 2008 than in FY 2007.

The FDPIR Program historically operated on a continuing resolution well into the fiscal year. In February 2008, the ENIPC FDPIR program received their award for FY 2008. We received a

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very much needed increase in funding with the implementation of the pilot funding methodology.

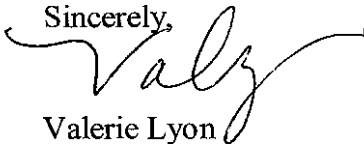
The impact on the ENIPC-FDPIR program has been positive to say the least. We have experienced a great number of benefits from the implementation of the pilot funding methodology, of which the most significant is improved services to our clients.

On behalf of the Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council Inc. (ENIPC) Board of Governors which is comprised of the Northern New Mexico Pueblos of Taos, Picuris, Ohkay Owingeh, Santa Clara, San Ildefonso, Pojoaque, Nambe and Tesuque, Mr. Salazar, we support and commend you in your unrelenting efforts to provide a mechanism to distribute administrative funds in a fair and equitable manner. We are appreciative that you have reviewed all relevant issues, factors and comments submitted by the Funding Formula Working Group, Tribal and State Officials in assisting you in making a decision that is fair and equal to all FDPIR programs. Although there is no simple solution to the allocation of administrative funding it has always been our understanding that a funding methodology is very much needed to address the inequities of the current system of allocating administrative funds to FDPIR program in a fair and equitable manner to all FDPIR Programs.

We would like to commend the Funding Formula Methodology Work Group, USDA-FNS staff and all the individuals that have contributed to this enormous task. It is clear that a lot of time and energy has been put into the development of several proposals, it has always been our understanding a system was needed to address the inequities of the current system of allocating administrative funds to FDPIR programs.

Should you require any additional information or clarification on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact my office @ (505) 747-1593 or Mr. Perry Martinez, FDPIR Program Director @ (505) 455-2288 or my office directly @ (505) 747-1593.

Sincerely,



Valerie Lyon  
ENIPC, Interim Executive Director