

**FY 2005 FDPIR Funding Methodology Work Group
May 24, 2005 Conference Call Notes**

Attending	Not Attending
Tony Nertoli, NAFDPIR President/Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians	Susie Roy, NAFDPIR Midwest Region Vice-President/Leech Lake Chippewa
Ray Capoeman, NAFDPIR Western Region Vice-President/Quinault Nation	Melinda Newport, Chickasaw Nation
Red Gates, NAFDPIR Mountain Plains Region Vice-President/Standing Rock Sioux	Mary Lane Allen, Mississippi Band of Choctaw
Linday Rayon, NAFDPIR Southwest Region Vice-President/Muscogee (Creek) Nation	Sharon Thompson, St. Regis Mohawk
Yunus Lakhani, Southern California Tribal Chairmans' Association	
Don DeBoer, FNS-MPRO	
Chris Hennelly & Rosa Coronado, FNS-SWRO	
Madeline Viens, FNS-WRO	
Patti Connolly for Steve Stathopoulos, FNS-NERO	
Kirk Farquaharson and Geneva Freeman for Sherry Daigre, FNS-SERO	
Elvira Jarka, FNS-MWRO	
Phil Cohen, FNS-HQ	
Nancy Theodore, FNS-HQ (staff support)	

Phil Cohen welcomed the members of the Work Group and thanked them for participating. He confirmed, as had previously been indicated in a letter to the Work Group members, that USDA does not have a pre-determined conclusion in mind for the development of a new funding methodology. FNS agrees with the critics of the 1999 funding formula proposed by the tribal/federal Trailblazers for New-Tritition Team (TNT) that the funding formula has limitations. Therefore, the Work Group is expected to start anew in developing a funding methodology that best suits the needs of the FDPIR program.

Phil also remarked that this is a very controversial issue, and that the Work Group members will not agree all of the time. But, it is important to maintain open, participatory discussions with a fair measure of respectful listening. Also, the Work Group members represent the other ITOs and State agencies in their respective regions. Therefore, it is important that the Work Group members share information with the other ITOs and State agencies, and solicit their input. The process is important, and the Work Group members should be able to look back with good feelings about what they contributed and how everyone on the Work Group was treated.

Prior to the conference call, the work group members were sent a package of information that included the following:

- List of the work group members
- Goals for the Work Group
- A history of efforts to develop an equitable and rational method for allocating FDPIR administrative funds
- A description of the funding formula developed in 1999 by the TNT

- A chart comparing the allocation of FY 2005 FDPIR administrative funds to each ITO under the current system and under the TNT proposed funding formula
- A chart comparing the amount of FY 2005 FDPIR administrative funds provided per participant to each ITO under the current system and under the TNT proposed funding formula
- A list of issues that the Work Group may wish to address
- A chart showing the allocation of FY 2005 FDPIR administrative funds to each ITO under the TNT proposed funding formula if the groupings of ITOs were revised
- A chart showing the allocation of FY 2005 FDPIR administrative funds to each ITO under the TNT proposed funding formula if the base amounts were revised
- Excerpts from the TNT October 20, 1999 final report

The above materials were discussed during the conference call.

FNS believes that the TNT proposed funding formula is the logical starting point for the Work Group's deliberations on a new funding methodology. So to ensure that the Work Group members understand the TNT proposed funding formula and how it was developed, Nancy went the steps involved in calculating the allocation of funds under funding formula.

The Work Group also discussed issues relevant to funds allocation. Some of the issues discussed by the Work Group were also identified in an attachment in the mailing referenced above.

Nancy announced that the next work group session would be held in conjunction with the NAFDPIR annual conference in Rapid City, South Dakota, the week of June 20-23, 2005.