

**FDPIR Funding Work Group
August 10, 2006 Conference Call Notes**

| Attending | Not Attending |
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| Thomas Yellowhair, Navajo Nation | Melinda Newport, Chickasaw Nation |
| Linday Rayon, Muscogee (Creek) Nation | Tony Nertoli, NAFDPIR President/Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians |
| Red Gates, NAFDPIR Mountain Plains Region Vice-President/Standing Rock Sioux | |
| Gale Dills, Cherokee Tribe of North Carolina | |
| Nancy Egan., WAFDPIR President/Shoshone-Paiute Tribes | |
| Susie Roy, NAFDPIR Midwest Region Vice-President/Leech Lake Chippewa | |
| Elvira Jarka, FNS-MWRO | |
| Don DeBoer, FNS-MPRO | |
| Madeline Viens, FNS-WRO | |
| Chris Hennelly, FNS-SWRO | |
| Laura Castro, FNS-HQ, FDD | |
| Nancy Theodore, FNS-HQ (staff support) | |
| Melanie Casey, Facilitator | |

General comments from the work group members: Melanie Casey asked the work group members if they had any general comments.

- Melinda Newport was not able to join the conference call, but had previously submitted written comments on Attachment C, the narrative description of the proposed preliminary recommendation that was developed at the July meeting. These comments were shared with the work group prior to the conference call. Melinda commented that she would like to see more emphasis on the “objectiveness” of the Basic ITO/SA Grant Amounts to the ITOs and the Regional Negotiated Funding Amount allocations to the Regional Offices.
- Thomas Yellowhair agreed with Melinda’s comments above and offered some word changes to Attachment C.
- Red Gates expressed concern about the administrative funds that are provided to the ND and MT State agencies for warehousing and commodity transportation. Nancy Theodore asked the work group members if they wanted to include a recommendation in the preliminary recommendation package that FNS incorporate the ITOs currently served by ND and MT under the National Multi-food Warehouse Contract, thereby eliminating the need to provide administrative funds to the ND and MT State agencies for these activities. The work group members agreed.
- Red Gates also commented on the use of historical funding data in the calculation. Red stated that he had consulted an expert on funding formulas and had been advised that if historical funding amounts are used, then unspent (unobligated) funds must be accounted for. Laura Castro suggested that she and Nancy Theodore try to explore ways to account for unspent (unobligated) funds in Component 2 of the proposed funding methodology.

Review of the Guidelines handout: Melanie led the work group in a review of the guidelines. No changes were made.

Review of the draft handout describing the preliminary proposal: Nancy Theodore led the work group in a review of the narrative description of the proposed preliminary recommendation and the spreadsheets that show the calculations for the various components.

Based on the discussions of the work group, Attachment C and the spreadsheets (attached) were revised by Nancy to reflect:

- Word changes suggested by the work group;
- No set aside for the warehousing/transportation funding for ND and MT; and
- A \$200,000 set aside for Nutrition Education.

NAFDPIR Resolution 2006-03: There was some discussion by the work group on the interpretation of NAFDPIR Resolution 2006-03 and how it should be implemented. There was a difference of opinion among the work group members as to whether the resolution intended to direct additional funding to under funded Regions or under funded individual ITOs. Melinda Newport, one of the authors of the resolution, was not able to join the conference call, so immediate clarification could not be obtained. After the conference call, Nancy Theodore contacted Melinda, and she provided the following written response: “All of the 1.3 million (or whatever is higher than the 06 appropriation) would be directed to the currently underfunded regions, i.e. SE and SW. All other regions would receive the *same amount of funds* as they received in FY06 – there would be *no reduction*. Overall, it should take us a considerable ways toward balancing the playing field with as little negative impact as possible.”

In addition, Tony Nertoli, NAFDPIR President, provided the following written comments: “My belief is it was passed to assist Tribes that were under funded and was not directed to any one region. The money was not directed at the Regions like Mana from Heaven, to be used at their discretion. There needs to be uniform criteria in allocating the funds to the Tribes, from our meeting on the funding formula this does exist in the various regions. Money should be distributed only to Tribes that need help and not based on participation by national allocation to Regions. Any Tribe that has returned federal allocations within the past two fiscal years (04 and 05) or possibly 06 should not receive an allocation. The Federal match of 25% in-kind must be maintained to be eligible. In conclusion the NAFDPIR Board should be consulted on your decisions as this resolution was by membership recommendation and not a USDA administrative process.”

Review draft Action Plan: Time ran out in the conference call and a detailed review of the draft Action Plan was not possible. However, Melanie suggested a goal of completing the preliminary recommendation package by mid-September.

The work group members were advised that a decision memorandum containing proposals for consultation was in clearance within FNS. Laura raised the possibility of holding a consultation meeting in conjunction with the National Congress of American Indian (NCAI) convention in Sacramento, CA early in October 2006. Reds Gates and Thomas Yellowhair expressed concern that not all of the Tribes that administer FDPIR are members of NCAI (e.g., the Navajo Nation is not a member of NCAI). Red suggested that we look at HUD, IHS, and BIA for consultation models.

Dates for conference calls in September: The dates for the next conference calls are:

September 6 from 11:30-1:00 Eastern time and September 12 from 12:30-2:00 Eastern time

The goals for the next conference calls are to:

- 1) complete the draft Q&As; and

2) review the draft preliminary recommendation package.

Assignments:

| Work Group Member(s) | Action | Due Date |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| All Work Group Members | Review the draft Q&As and provide the following input to Nancy T. via email: 1) suggested changes for those questions that have draft answers; and 2) suggested wording for those that do not have draft answers. | 9/1/06; prepare to discuss on 9/6/06 |
| Laura Castro and Nancy Theodore | Explore ways to account for unspent (unobligated) funds in Component 2. | Prepare to report to work group on 9/6/06 |
| All Work Group Members | Provide to Nancy T. via email a suggested definition for “Federal Allocations” in Component 2. Specifically, the work group needs to address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Whether to exclude reallocated funds (i.e., allocated funds that an ITO/State agency will not be able to spend and returns to FNS for reallocation to other ITOs/State agencies within the same fiscal year); ▪ Whether to include or exclude capital expenditures; ▪ Whether to include or exclude unspent (unobligated) funds. | 9/1/06; prepare to discuss on 9/6/06 |
| Don DeBoer | Recommend a proposal for the handling of administrative funding for the MT and ND State agencies | Provide details to Nancy by 9/1/06 to allow for spreadsheet revisions; prepare to report to work group on 9/6/06 |
| All Work Group Members | Review draft Action Plan and provide suggested changes to Nancy T. via email | 9/1/06; prepare to discuss on 9/6/06 |
| All Work Group Members | Respond to Nancy T. via email on whether the work group should: 1) develop guidelines for the negotiation of the Regional Negotiated Funding Amounts and include the guidelines in the preliminary recommendation; or 2) include a statement in the preliminary recommendation package that guidelines will be developed at a later date, with a request for comments on what should be in the guidelines. | 9/1/06; prepare to discuss on 9/6/06 |

| Work Group Member(s) | Action | Due Date |
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| All Work Group Members | Respond to Nancy T. via email on whether the work group should: 1) develop guidelines for the reallocation of unspent funds and include the guidelines in the preliminary recommendation; or 2) include a statement in the preliminary recommendation package that guidelines will be developed at a later date, with a request for comments on what should be in the guidelines. | 9/1/06; prepare to discuss on 9/6/06 |
| Nancy Theodore | Forward draft preliminary recommendation package to work group members | 8/17/06 |
| All Work Group Members | Review cover letter and attachments of the draft preliminary recommendation package and provide Nancy T. with suggested changes via email | 9/8/06; prepare to discuss on 9/12/06 |
| FNS lead, with input from Work Group Members | Develop a plan for consultation | Prepare to discuss on 9/12/06 |