

**FDPIR Funding Work Group
October 5, 2006 Conference Call Notes**

Attending	Not Attending
Nancy Egan,, WAFDPIR President/Shoshone-Paiute Tribes	Susie Roy, NAFDPIR Midwest Region Vice-President/Leech Lake Chippewa
Gale Dills, Cherokee Tribe of North Carolina	Tony Nertoli, NAFDPIR President/Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
Linday Rayon, Muscogee (Creek) Nation	Melinda Newport, Chickasaw Nation
Red Gates, NAFDPIR Mountain Plains Region Vice-President/Standing Rock Sioux	Madeline Viens, FNS-WRO
Thomas Yellowhair, Navajo Nation	
Elvira Jarka, FNS-MWRO	
Don DeBoer, FNS-MPRO	
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 and Nancy Theodore asked the work group members if they had any general comments. The comments are summarized below under the relevant topics.

Draft Cover Letter to the Preliminary Recommendation Package

- Red Gates suggested that the names and addresses of the Tribal leaders be verified, since several Tribes are holding elections at this time, and the Tribal officials may change. Thomas Yellowhair noted that some tribes may have elections during the comment period and it will be important to make sure that both the incumbent and any newly elected officials receive the package. Nancy Theodore suggested that the work group members and FNS regional offices keep her abreast of any changes in leadership during the comment period so she could send a Tribal/State leader package to newly elected officials.
- Red commented on the timeframe for submitting written comments in relation to the consultation meetings. It was unclear to him whether the comment period and the consultation meetings were two separate timeframes. He suggested that the written comments be submitted first, and then the consultation meetings should be held. Thomas Yellowhair and Don DeBoer suggested that the due date for the written comments should follow the completion of the consultation meetings because some Tribal leaders may want to attend the consultation meetings before submitting their written comments. After some discussion, the work group members agreed that the comment period would begin before any meetings are held and end after the meetings conclude. The letter should be clear about the relationship between the meetings and the process for receiving written comments.
- Red also asked about the consultation meetings. Nancy Theodore clarified that the statement in the cover letter about the first consultation meeting in Green Bay, WI, was not correct and would be stricken from the cover letter. Laura Castro reported that FNS-Headquarters Office asked the FNS Regional Administrators to determine a time and location for the consultation meetings. Some of the Regional Administrators may consult with the Regional Associations on this. Nancy Theodore stated

that FNS-Headquarters Office expects to have the proposed dates and locations soon and she will forward that information to the work group prior to the next conference call on October 24. The work group would be able to make a decision on the due date for comments when the dates of the consultation meetings are known. Chris Hennelly reported that January 17 would likely be the date of the consultation meeting in the Southwest Region.

- Thomas Yellowhair commented that the letter's statement that the "ultimate" decision rests with FNS implied that the work group's and Tribal comments would be given little consideration. Other work group members also commented on the wording of the statement, and there was discussion on whether to delete the entire statement or reword the statement. The work group members agreed to reword the statement.
- Two of the work group members reported that they were not able to access the FDPIR Funding Work Group website via the link in the cover letter. Nancy stated that she would check the link. Later in the conference call, Gale Dills reported that she was able to access the website via the link. Nancy Theodore reported that FNS has had some Internet problems lately and those problems may have caused the problem in not being able to access the website via the link.

Attachment A – Background

- Thomas suggested a change in wording in the first paragraph of the "Basis for Need for a New Funding Methodology" section to replace "strong persistent" with "continued." He also suggested that this paragraph be elaborated to include the language from the cover letter that the Under Secretary asked to have the work group convened in 2005.
- Nancy Theodore pointed out that because of concerns voiced by some work group members about information provided previously to the Program Directors, she eliminated the comparison of the Regional percentages of funding allocation to the Regional percentages of participation, and simply listed the Regional percentages of funding allocation. Chris Hennelly responded that she felt the Regional percentages of participation should be listed. Thomas disagreed with Chris. There was a general discussion about the chart and whether to remove it. It was agreed to retain the chart as is.

Attachment E – Request for Input

- Nancy Theodore asked the work group members if they thought Attachment E would be helpful to the Tribal leaders by highlighting issues for comment. There appeared to be agreement that Attachment E would be useful.
- Linday Rayon suggested changes to the introduction to clarify that the Tribal leaders may comment on any or all of the issues listed. Melanie Casey also suggested that wording be included to clarify that comments may be submitted in any format.
- Nancy Theodore asked the work group members to provide her with any additional comments they may have about the issues listed or any additional issues that should be added to Attachment E.

Attachment D – Q&As

- The work group members discussed the relevance of Questions 6 and 20 and it was agreed that those Q&As should be deleted because they cannot be appropriately addressed at this stage of the development of the funding methodology. Question 6 cannot be addressed until the work group

determines the guidelines for the allocation of regional negotiated funding, and Question 20 deals with a decision that will have to be made by FNS once a methodology is finalized.

Next Steps

- Nancy Theodore stated that she will revise the Tribal/State leader package based on the comments/discussions summarized above, and provide a revised draft package to the work group members. In the next conference call on October 24 (12:30 Eastern time), the **final edits** will be made by the work group members.

- To finalize the package, the following issues need to be resolved:
 - due date for written comment (based on time frames for consultation meetings);
 - Plan for allocating administrative funding to ND and MT by FNS-Headquarters Office and Mountain Plain Regional Office.

- Nancy also listed other remaining issues that may be resolved after the package is sent to the Tribal/State leaders:
 - guidelines for negotiation;
 - guidelines for reallocation of turned back funds;
 - procedures for allocating Nutrition Education set-aside.