

**FDPIR Funding Work Group
October 9, 2007 Conference Call Notes**

Attending	Not Attending
Nancy Egan (Shoshone-Paiute Tribes), representing all FDPIR programs as NAFDPIR President	Melinda Newport (Chickasaw Nation), representing ONFACT
Red Gates (Standing Rock Sioux), NAFDPIR Regional Vice President for the Mountain Plains Region	Gale Dills (North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services/Cherokee Tribe of North Carolina), representing the Southeast Region ITOs
Lindsay Rayon (Muscogee (Creek) Nation), representing the NAFDPIR Regional Vice President for the Southwest Region	Elvira Jarka, Director, Special Nutrition Programs, FNS-MWRO
Susie Roy (Leech Lake Chippewa), NAFDPIR Regional Vice President for the Midwest Region	Chris Hennelly, Senior Program Specialist, FNS-SWRO
Yunus Lakhani (Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Assoc), NAFDPIR Regional Vice President for the Western Region	
Betty Jo Graveen (Lac Du Flambeau), representing the Midwest Region ITOs	
Thomas Yellowhair (Navajo Nation), representing WAFDPIR	
Mary Trottier (Spirit Lake), representing the Mountain Plains Region Executive Board	
Don DeBoer, Senior Program Specialist, FNS-MPRO	
Madeline Viens, Assistant Director, Field Operations, FNS-WRO	
Cindy Wheeler, Program Specialist, FNS-SERO	
Laura Castro, Chief, Policy Branch, FNS-HQ	

Work Group Facilitator: Melanie Casey, Program Analyst, FNS-HQ	
Work Group Staff Support: Nancy Theodore, Program Analyst, FNS-HQ	
Rogelio Carrasco, Program Analyst, FNS-HQ	

- The following information had been provided to the work group members prior to the conference call:
 - Revised draft letter to Roberto Salazar transmitting the work group's recommendations (changes discussed in the October 3, 2007 conference call were incorporated)
 - Revised draft attachment to the transmittal letter that describes the proposals (changes discussed in the October 3, 2007 conference call were incorporated)
 - Spreadsheet for Proposal #3 [Proposal G] (with updated FY 2007 allocation amounts from IPAS as of 10/4/07)
 - Spreadsheet for Proposal #2 [Proposal K]
 - Draft notes from the October 3, 2007 conference call

- Nancy Theodore led a review of the draft notes from the October 3, 2007 conference call and asked the work group members if they had any changes to the draft notes from the October 3 conference call, or comments about the October 3 conference call. No changes to the draft notes were offered.
- Three of the work group members were not participating in the October 3, 2007 conference call when Nancy Theodore asked each of the work group members whether they supported at least one of the proposals—Proposal H (Proposal #1 on the draft attachment to the draft letter to Mr. Salazar), Proposal K (Proposal #2), or Proposal G (Proposal #3). Nancy asked the three work group members if they supported at least one of the three proposals. All three affirmed that they did support at least one of the proposals.
- Following up on an email discussion, there was discussion among the work group members as to whether the official record of the work group should reflect the specific proposal(s) that each work group member supported. Work group members questioned whether there was any value in showing this information as the draft transmittal letter to Mr. Salazar states that there is diversity of opinion among the group. During the discussion, no work group member voiced support for recording who supported which proposal.
- Nancy Theodore led a review of the draft transmittal letter to Mr. Salazar and the draft attachment. Work group members suggested several changes to both documents, including:
 - Adding to the letter that each work member expressed support of at least one of the proposals, but did not necessarily support all three proposals.
 - Adding to the letter that the work group believes that no ITO or State agency will experience a reduction in funds from FY 2007 to FY 2008 as a result of the implementation of these proposals due to anticipated Congressional action to increase funding for FY 2008.
 - Expanding on the description of Proposal #2 (Proposal K) in the letter by specifying that the three factors are weighted.
 - Expanding on the description of Proposal #3 (Proposal G) in the letter and adding that this proposal is based on the preliminary proposal submitted for comment to Tribal and State officials in November 2006 and revised by the work group in April 2007 based on the comments received from Tribal and State officials.
 - Adding to the paragraph on consultation that numerous tribal leaders addressed consultation in their comments.
- Laura Castro pointed out that the current draft transmittal letter to Mr. Salazar does not make any mention of the estimated impact of the proposed methodologies on individual ITOs and State agencies. The work group discussed this issue. It was pointed out that Tribal officials will want to see estimates of how these proposed methodologies would impact their ITOs. The work group members discussed a number of reasons why reliable information on the anticipated impact of each proposal at the ITO level cannot be provided:
 - Only one proposal (Proposal #3-Proposal G) allocates funds to the ITO level (the basic grant amount). These allocations do not necessarily represent the total amount of funds the ITO will receive, since the proposal offers an opportunity for ITOs to supplement their basic grant amount through individual negotiation. Therefore, a spreadsheet showing the basic grant amount would not accurately reflect the amount of funds each ITO would receive.
 - ITO allocations for all three proposals cannot be accurately predicted because all three involve some level of negotiation.
 - Without knowing the final appropriation amount for FY 2008 or FY 2009, projected allocations to the Regional Offices cannot be accurately estimated.

- Projecting allocations using the FY 2007 appropriation amount would not reflect the proposed increase in funding for FDPIR in FY 2008 and might show reductions in funding for some Regions/ITOs, which would be misleading.
- The data on the number of programs with tailgating, home delivery, and/or multiple warehouses/stores are from FY 2005 and need updating.
- Proposals to use “fake” data to illustrate the proposals have been criticized in the past.

It was suggested that a statement be added to the letter explaining that accurate estimates can not be provided.

- Next Steps: Nancy Theodore summarized the next steps:
 - Nancy will revise the draft letter and draft attachment based in the changes discussed in the conference call and forward to the work group members by email requesting any additional comments by COB October 11. Those work group members on travel this week that are unable to complete a review of the revised letter and attachment by COB October 11 should contact Nancy Theodore.
 - Once the letter and attachment is finalized, Nancy will forward it to Mr. Salazar. Due to the complexity of obtaining handwritten signatures from each work group member, the letter will go to Mr. Salazar with a listing of the work group members.
 - When the letter and attachment are sent to Mr. Salazar, copies of the letter and attachment will be mailed to all Tribal and State officials. Nancy will email copies of the letter and attachment to the Regional Offices asking them to forward it to each ITO and State agency. Nancy also asked the work group members to provide her with the name and mailing address of any additional persons who should receive a copy of the letter and attachment. [The letter and attachment will also be posted on the FDPIR Funding Work Group website.]
 - Nancy reminded the work group members that Mr. Salazar has accepted an invitation to address the members of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) at a meeting in Denver in November. Nancy would like to get copies of the work group’s recommendations out to all of Tribal leaders as soon as possible so those who are planning to attend the NCAI meeting will have a chance to review the recommendations prior to the meeting. **It was noted that NCAI does not represent all Tribes that participate in FDPIR.**