



## Administration on Aging: Nutrition Services for Native Americans

### A. Funding Table

(Dollars in Millions)

	<b>Total Appropriated</b>	<b>Planned Obligations FY 2009</b>	<b>Planned Obligations FY 2010</b>
Nutrition Services for Native Americans	\$3.0	\$3.0	\$0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

### B. Objectives

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) provides \$3 million for Nutrition Services for Native Americans. Established in 1978 under the Older Americans Act (OAA), this program provides congregate and home-delivered meals and related nutrition services to American Indian, Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian elders.

In line with HHS Strategic Objective “Address the Needs, Strengths, and Abilities of Vulnerable Populations,” these programs are responsive to the cultural diversity of American Indian, Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian communities and represent an important part of the communities’ comprehensive services. Performance data indicate that these nutrition services are an efficient means to help Native American elders remain independent and in their own homes.

Nutrition services for Native Americans are faced with the dual challenge of rising food and other costs in addition to an increased demand for services because of the growing population of older Native Americans. Now the economic downturn is forcing many Tribal senior programs to scale back or eliminate nutrition services and staff. Funding provided under the Recovery Act will help Tribal programs to offset these cutbacks and contribute to the provision of nearly 400,000 meals to more than 2,300 vulnerable Native American seniors and their caregivers.

### C. Activities

Funds will augment existing resources, replace revenue lost from local sources due to the economic downturn, and support the continued delivery of meals to vulnerable Native Americans. In addition to meals, services include nutrition screening and education and nutrition assessment and counseling as appropriate. Home-delivered meals also represent an essential service for many caregivers by helping them to maintain their own health and well-being.



### D. Characteristics

AoA distributed \$3 million in Nutrition Services for Native Americans funding under the Recovery Act to the 244 Tribal organizations and two Native Hawaiian organizations currently funded under the OAA. Formula allocations are based on the population of elders aged 60 and older within each Tribal service area. Tribal organizations directly provide, or arrange for, congregate and home delivered meals and related nutrition services. Tribes may decide the age at which a member is considered an elder and thus eligible for services. No Recovery Act funding will be used to pay for AoA administrative costs associated with this program.

### E. Delivery Schedule

On April 2, 2009, AoA distributed \$3 million in Nutrition Services for Native Americans funding under the Recovery Act to 244 Tribal organizations and two Native Hawaiian organizations under a formula based on each Tribal organization's share of the elderly. On March 18, 2009, AoA posted to its website Frequently-Asked Questions about the implementation of the Recovery Act, and on April 28, 2009 the agency hosted a plenary session on the topic at the Title VI National Training and Technical Assistance Forum. Tribal organizations directly provide, or arrange for, congregate and home delivered meals and related nutrition services. AoA will comply with the requirements under the Recovery Act legislation and OMB Guidance concerning monitoring and reporting.

### F. Environmental Review Compliance

Environmental review compliance does not apply to these program activities.

### G. Measures

Table 1

Measure	Type	FY 2009 Target	FY 2010 Target	FY 2010 +/- FY 2009
Home-Delivered Nutrition meals.	Output	TBD	TBD	TBD
Congregate Nutrition meals.	Output	TBD	TBD	TBD
For Title VI Services, increase the number of units of services provided to native Americans per thousand dollars of AoA funding.	Outcome	TBD	TBD	TBD

Table 2

Measure	Data Source	Data Validation
Home-Delivered Nutrition meals (Output)	State and Tribal Program Report data is annually submitted.	The web-based submissions include multiple data checks for consistency. Multi-year comparison reports are reviewed by AoA and state staff. AoA staff follow-up with states to assure validity and accuracy. After revisions, states certify the accuracy of their data.
Congregate Nutrition meals (Output)	State and Tribal Program Report data is annually submitted.	The web-based submissions include multiple data checks for consistency. Multi-year comparison reports are reviewed by AoA and state staff. AoA staff follow-up with states to assure validity and accuracy. After revisions, states certify the



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Measure	Data Source	Data Validation
		accuracy of their data.
For Title VI Services, increase the number of units of service provided to Native Americans per thousand dollars of AoA funding. <i>(Outcome)</i>	Title VI Reporting System, Budget amounts as appears in the Congressional Justification.	Annual reports submitted by grantees, reviewed by AoA staff who follow-up with questions. Tribal officials certify report is accurate. AoA staff review record keeping system during regular on-site monitoring.

To minimize the reporting burden on Tribes, AoA will track performance under the Recovery Act using two existing measures. These include the outcome measure “increase the number of units of service provided to Native Americans per thousand dollars of AoA funding” and output measure “the number of meals provided.”

The outcome measure “increase the number of units of service provided to Native Americans per thousand dollars of AoA funding” demonstrates the efficiency of AoA in providing services to Native Americans. Program efficiency is a necessary and important measure of the performance of AoA programs. OAA intended Federal funds to act as a catalyst in generating capacity for these program activities at the Tribal level. It is the expectation of the OAA that Tribal organizations increasingly improve their capacity to serve Native American elders efficiently and effectively with both Federal and Tribal funds.

**Outcome Measure**

The most recent year for which this outcome data is available is FY 2007. In that year AoA’s target for this measure was 264 units of service provided per thousand dollars of OAA funding, which was exceeded with an actual rate of 312 units per thousand dollars of funding. AoA develops its targets based on trends rather than a single data point. Given that the actual FY 2005 measure was 254 and the one in FY 2006 was 281, AoA increased the target in FY 2008 to 273. AoA also selected this target to take into account the rising costs faced by Native American nutrition programs. AoA will increase the FY 2009 target to 277 because of the additional Recovery Act appropriations and an increase in AoA’s FY 2009 budget for the Native American Nutrition & Supportive Services program. AoA will work to develop targets based strictly on the Recovery Act funding. AoA will report this data annually and will make the results public via press releases and at [www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov) and [www.aoa.gov](http://www.aoa.gov).

**Output Measures**

This outcome measure is supported by the corresponding OAA output measure “the number of meals provided.” The most recent year for which this output data is available is FY 2007. In that year Tribal organizations provided 4.37 million meals, 270,000 more than the target. In FY 2008 AoA decreased the target to 4.05 million meals to take into account the rising costs faced by Native American nutrition programs. In FY 2009 AoA anticipates serving 4.37 million meals given Recovery Act funding and the increase in AoA’s FY 2009 budget for the Native American Nutrition & Supportive Services program. AoA will work to develop targets based



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strictly on the Recovery Act funding. AoA will report this data annually and will make the results public via press releases and at [www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov) and [www.aoa.gov](http://www.aoa.gov).

## H. Monitoring and Evaluation

All Recovery Act programs will be assessed for risk and to ensure the appropriate internal controls are in place throughout the entire funding cycle. These assessments will be done consistent with the statutory requirements of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act and the Improper Payments Information Act, as well as OMB's Circular A-123 "Managements' Responsibility for Internal Control."

Nutrition Services for Native Americans is a long-established program with a proven track record of delivering results. Internal control assessments conducted under the Federal Managers Financial Integrity Act have consistently found AoA grants programs (including Nutrition Services for Native Americans) to be low risk and to have a sound internal control structure. Financial statement and other programmatic audits have not identified any significant deficiencies in OAA nutrition programs and there are no uncorrected weaknesses or deficiencies associated with these activities. Primary recipients are Tribal governments that have their own established control structures and Tribal audits of these programs under Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133 have not generated significant systemic findings.

Nutrition Services for Native Americans also has an established system for collecting and validating financial data and program data on both outputs, such as numbers of meals and individuals served. Existing AoA performance measures of efficiency and targeting, as well as the ongoing measurement of program outputs, are applicable to Recovery Act funding activities as described above.

To ensure that recipients understand and can meet the objectives, outcomes and accountability expectations associated with the provision of Recovery Act funds to OAA nutrition programs, AoA will provide additional technical assistance to Tribal organizations, along with enhanced monitoring and reporting as required under the Act. On March 18, 2009, AoA posted to its website Frequently-Asked Questions about the implementation of the Recovery Act, and on April 28, 2009 the agency hosted a plenary session on the topic at the Title VI National Training and Technical Assistance Forum. AoA will also utilize existing technical assistance mechanisms, such as such as Native American Resource Centers and training and technical assistance contracts, to support the efforts of Tribal organizations and ensure full program compliance for Recovery Act funding. AoA will not use Recovery Act funds to provide technical assistance under these existing mechanisms.

## I. Transparency

AoA will be open and transparent in all grant activities that involve spending of Recovery Act funding consistent with statutory and OMB guidance. AoA will ensure that recipient reporting required by Section 1512 of the Recovery Act and OMB guidance is made available to the public on [www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov) by October 10, 2009. AoA will inform recipients of their reporting obligation through standard terms and conditions and other program guidance. AoA will provide technical assistance to



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grantees and contractors and fully utilize Project Officers to ensure compliance with reporting requirements.

AoA now collects OAA data via the web-based Title VI Reporting System. AoA staff check the data for consistency and follow-up with Tribal organizations to assure validity and accuracy. Tribal performance data is available via the Aging Integrated Database (AGID), AoA's online data query system, at [www.data.AoA.gov](http://www.data.AoA.gov). These tools will continue this function for the data collected under the Recovery Act. AoA will also utilize the technical assistance methods described above to ensure that recipients understand and comply with the OMB reporting requirements.

## **J. Accountability**

To ensure that managers are held to high standards of accountability in achieving program goals under the Recovery Act, AoA will build on and strengthen existing processes. Senior AoA officials will meet regularly with senior Department officials to ensure that projects are meeting their program goals, assessing and mitigating risks, ensuring transparency, and incorporating corrective actions. The personnel performance appraisal system will also incorporate Recovery Act program stewardship responsibilities for program and business function managers.

AoA performance plans for both Senior Executives and managers align individual and organizational performance with results-oriented goals that are linked to the HHS and AoA Strategic Plans. These goals, which include objectives related to effective program management and proper stewardship of Federal funds, are cascaded to subordinate supervisors and staff throughout each executive's portion of the organization.

## **K. Barriers to Effective Implementation**

Because Recovery Act funds will be used to augment existing programs that already have service delivery structures in place, there are barriers to effective implementation of these programs. Many of the Tribal and Native Hawaiian organizations that will receive a portion of the \$3 million in Recovery Act funding are in rural areas and have small numbers of staff, with more than half having one or less full time employee equivalents. Most of the Tribal and Native Hawaiian organizations will receive less than \$13,000 in Recovery Act funding. To prevent undue burden, AoA will request that Tribal and Native Hawaiian organizations report annually on the effects of Recovery Act funds. To ensure that recipients understand and can meet the objectives, outcomes and accountability expectations associated with the provision of Recovery Act funds to OAA nutrition programs, AoA will provide additional technical assistance to Tribal organizations, along with enhanced monitoring and reporting as required under the Act.

## **L. Federal Infrastructure**

Not applicable.