

UNDERSTANDING NUTRITION: PRIMER MODULE ON FDPIR

The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) offers nutrition assistance to low-income households in the form of USDA Foods^a (commodities). FDPIR is administered federally by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and locally by Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) or a state agency. The program is an alternative to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), known in California as CalFresh. (Go to www.ccrwf.org to access the *primer module on CalFresh*.)

FDPIR does not have federal entitlement status. The program is funded by an annual Congressional appropriation. From this appropriation, participating ITOs and state agencies receive administrative funds and USDA Foods. In addition to the foods purchased and shipped by USDA using the FDPIR appropriation, surplus foods procured through other USDA programs may also be offered through FDPIR. FDPIR administrative funds may be used locally to store and distribute food and to provide nutrition education to participants. In federal fiscal year (FFY) 2011, the FDPIR appropriation was \$97 million.¹ Approximately \$60 million (62 percent) of those funds were designated for local administrative costs.²

In FFY 2009-10, average monthly participation in FDPIR was 84,577 individuals, who belonged to an estimated 276 tribes nationwide.³ That same year, average monthly FDPIR participation in California was just over 7,000⁴ people, who were served by seven local agencies and ITOs.

To participate in FDPIR, applicants must meet residency, income, and asset eligibility criteria:

- Participants must reside on an Indian reservation, in approved areas near an Indian reservation, or in an approved area within the state of Oklahoma. Off-reservation households must include at least one member of a federally-recognized tribe in order to qualify for FDPIR.
- Applicants must have a net^b household income of no more than 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.
- Participating households are limited to no more than \$2,000 in resources (or \$3,000 for households that include at least one elderly or disabled individual).

Participating households must be certified for program eligibility at least once every 12 months (or once every 24 months for households that include at least one elderly or disabled individual). Households cannot simultaneously participate in FDPIR and CalFresh.

^a There are over 70 types of food offered through FDPIR, including frozen meats, canned fruits and vegetables, pastas, cereals, rice, milk products, oils, beans, cheese, and flour. For a complete list of USDA Foods available through FDPIR in 2011, visit: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/foods/FY11-FDPIRFoods.pdf>.

^b Net income is calculated from the gross household income minus all deductions that are allowed under the program rules, such as the standard deduction, child support deduction, and dependent care deduction.

For more information about FDPIR, please visit USDA's FDPIR homepage:
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/programs/fdpir/>

END NOTES

¹ USDA Food and Nutrition Service. (April 2011). *Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations - Nutrition Program Fact Sheet* [PDF document]. Retrieved from <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/programs/fdpir/pfs-fdpir.pdf>

² Ibid.

³ USDA Food and Nutrition Service. (June 2011). *Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations* [Web page]. Retrieved from http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/programs/fdpir/about_fdpir.htm and (September 2011). *Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations: Persons Participating* [Data file]. Retrieved from <http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/21irpart.htm>

⁴ USDA Food and Nutrition Service. (September 2011). *Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations: Persons Participating* [Data file]. Retrieved from <http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/21irpart.htm>

FOR MORE INFORMATION

This module on FDPIR is one component of *Understanding Nutrition: A Primer on Programs and Policies in California*. Go to www.ccrwf.org to access additional modules.

The primer program modules were produced by the California Center for Research on Women and Families (CCRWF), in partnership with California Food Policy Advocates and the California Department of Public Health's *Network for a Healthy California (Network)*, a public health effort working with hundreds of partners and organizations to empower low-income Californians to live healthier lives through good nutrition and physical activity.

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RECOMMENDED CITATION

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