

**Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)**

Food Package Review Work Group

April 18, 2018

Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Food Package Review Work Group**Meeting Dates: April 18, 2018****Meeting Minutes****Attendance****Voting Members**

Benita Lewis (WR VP)	x	Jaime Prouty (NAFDPIR Treasurer)	x
Brandon Bristol (MWR Nutritionist)		Jerry Tonubbee (SW VP)	x
Carmen Robertson (SWR Nutritionist)	x	Joe Van Alstine (MWR VP)	x
Charles "Red" Gates (MPR)	x	Julie Skolmowski (HQ FNS Nutritionist)	x
Connie Martinez (SWR)	x	Lorraine Davis (WR)	x
Desiree Jackson (WR Nutritionist)		Mara Yborra (MPR Nutritionist)	
Fi Davis (NAFDPIR Parliamentarian)	x	Marisa Fuller (NAFDPIR Secretary)	
Gloria Goodwin (MWR)	x	Mary Greene-Trottier (MPR VP)	
Graydon Yatabe (CDC Nutritionist)	x	Tod Robertson (NAFDPIR President)	x

Non-Voting Members**Support Staff**

Barbara Lopez (HQ FNS)	x	Christina Riley	x
Amy Swartz (WR FNS)	x	Erica Antonson	x
Jessica Creed-Capsel (MPR FNS)	x	Hunjin Lee (HQ FNS)	x
Matthew Martin (HQ FNS)		Janice Fitzgerald	x
Richard Burley (SWR FNS)	x	Sam Hunley (HQ FNS)	x
Samia Hamdan (MWR FNS)	x		

Discussion Items**I. New Members - Welcome**

- a. The following new members were welcomed to the Work Group:
 - Benita Lewis, representing Western Region.
 - Amy Swartz, representing Western Region as a nutritionist.
 - Jerry Tonubbee, representing Southwest Region.
 - Fi Davis, representing the NAFDPIR Board as Parliamentarian.

II. Category Consolidation

- a. In continuing the discussion from the last Work Group meeting held on February 12, 2018, Work Group members reviewed a proposal presented by the Nutrition Sub-Committee to make the following category and guide rate changes:
 - Consolidate the flour/cornmeal category and the bakery mix category into one category. This change increases flexibility in product selection while making a

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modest adjustment to the quantity of grains offered by allowing participants to select up to two units among the products. This change is paired with increasing the vegetable maximum guide rate by an additional unit.

- Consolidate the pasta/rice category and the tortilla/crackers category into one category. This change also increases flexibility in product selection while continuing to make modest adjustments to the grains offered. This change will allow for participants to select up to 5 lbs. from the product selection. This change also includes increasing the vegetable maximum guide rate by another additional unit.
- In total, the vegetable maximum guide rate will be increased by 2 units for a total of 13 units once these changes take effect.
- Work Group members voted to make the above category and guide rate changes. See Attachment A – Voting Tally Results – Grain Category Consolidation.
- FNS Food Distribution staff will work on an implementation schedule to share with the Work Group.

III. USDA Foods Updates

a. Frozen Items

- FNS shared that staff is currently working on an implementation schedule to include three new frozen items to the food package: frozen blueberries, frozen carrots, and frozen peas. All three products will come in a 2 ½ lb. frozen bag.
- The availability of the two frozen vegetables, carrots and peas, will be introduced around the same time-frame as when the vegetable guide rate will be increased, per the category consolidation (see II. above).

b. Traditional Foods

- FNS shared that the solicitation for catfish will close in April 2018. Once the award is made final, FNS staff will work on making two offerings of catfish between July through December 2018. The catfish will be a 4 oz. unbreaded fillet in a 2 lb. zipper bag which is approximately eight pieces of fish. The distribution will be similar to the wild salmon at 1 lb. equals 1 unit.
- Work Group members shared concerns with the existing guide rate for bison. Currently, the distribution of bison is 2 lbs. equals 1 unit with a limit of 1 unit of bison per person per month. Work Group members are interested in increasing and/or removing the limit to offer a higher guide rate for households interested in more bison as well as to avoid any potential issues with Best-If-Used-By (BIUB) dates.
- Post-Work Group meeting: In a follow-up email to the Work Group, FNS shared that it will remove the limit on bison for all households for at least six months subject to funding and product availability. During the 6 month period, FNS will continue to monitor the take-rates for bison to help determine the impact of this change on costs, inventory levels, and product availability. This change will be implemented July 1, 2018. Work Group members shared their support of this change.

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c. Dried Fruit

- FNS staff shared the current market conditions for raisins which, unfortunately, had a bad harvest year. FNS' procurement partner, the Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS) will not be able to procure raisins at this time or in the near future. As a result, the only dried fruit currently available in the food package are dried plums, which have a very low take-rate.
- FNS discussed with the Work Group members the opportunity to procure, in the interim, dried cranberries. The dried cranberries come in a 35 lb. case with 300 individual packets that would need to be bundled together to make a unit (e.g., 10 individual packs would equal 1 unit). Work Group members have previously expressed interest in offering dried cranberries and noted that re-bundling would not be a concern.
- Post-Work Group meeting: In a follow-up email to the Work Group members, FNS presented the following two options:
 1. Proceed with purchasing dried cranberries to allow for 1-2 offerings.
 2. Do not purchase dried cranberries. Only dried plums will be available until the raisins can be purchased again.
- This topic will be on the agenda at the next Work Group member (June 12, 2018, NAFDPIR conference) to discuss and vote.

d. Chicken

- FNS staff reviewed the request to potentially offer the split breast chicken and the whole-bag chicken year-round instead of its current schedule of quarter on, quarter off. Due to inventory maintenance and costs, year-round availability of the two types of chicken is not an option at this time.
- Work Group members had previously requested a boneless, skinless chicken option to replace the current split breast chicken. FNS confirmed that a boneless, skinless chicken option is available for procurement.
- Work Group members voted to replace the existing split breast chicken with the new boneless skinless chicken option. See Attachment B – Voting Tally Results – Boneless Skinless Chicken Option.

IV. Other Business

- a. Work Group members had a brief discussion on continuing to review other potential category consolidations and noted the hot and cold cereal categories as contenders. FNS will set-up follow-up meetings with the Nutrition Subcommittee.
- b. Some initial concerns were expressed with the Loretta brand macaroni received by some Food Distribution Programs last month. Standing Rock Sioux Tribe shared that they tried the product again and did not have any new concerns. As a reminder, complaints should be entered following the FNS Complaints process.

V. Meeting Adjourned



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Summary of Action Items

1. ACTION ITEM: FNS will follow-up with Work Group members to continue the discussion on bison and dried fruit.
2. ACTION ITEM: FNS will set-up follow-up meetings with the Nutrition Subcommittee.