

**Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
Regional Vendor Distribution Pilot**

FNS is considering a pilot of a Regional Vendor Distribution Model in FDPIR in 2012. Under the current National Warehouse Model, USDA buys food for the FDPIR food package. Two USDA contracted warehouses distribute the food to participating ITOs and State agencies administering FDPIR. Under the pilot, USDA would contract with a regional vendor(s) to supply food to some FDPIR programs. The vendor(s) would buy FDPIR-approved foods and distribute them directly to ITOs and/or State agencies administering the program. FNS anticipates that the Regional Vendor Model would potentially allow for greater opportunity to buy traditional and/or local foods from Native American producers, and reduce overall storage and transportation costs. We envision that the pilot would be available in a limited geographic area(s), and that a limited number of programs would participate. The remaining FDPIR programs would continue to be served by the National Warehouse Model.

On the February 29, 2012, quarterly consultation call, FNS will provide an update on the status of the pilot and next steps.