

USDA
Study of the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
San Francisco, CA
December 13, 2012

Good morning. Let's get started. I want to welcome you San Francisco and to this meeting. Thank you for taking the time to come to discuss FDPIR and this study. This is a pretty important program for all of us, and we want your participation and feedback. I'm Alan Ng. I'm the regional administrator for Food and Nutrition Service Western Region and consulting official for this consultation. And I'd like to open this meeting by asking (inaudible) meeting.

Dear Lord, I wish that you would perfect us all better here today, protect everybody on their trips going home. Make this a successful meeting, where we get some productive information from here. Make the meeting so that we are stronger in the end to help everybody that we serve and the needs of all of the people that go to bed hungry at night. Thank you.

Thank you very much. Let's start by having introductions around the table, including the FNS folks. Please tell us your names and your (inaudible) and your tribe and your position. Judy, we'll start with you.

Okay. I'm Judy Finch director of the (inaudible) Valley Food Program where I'm in the beautiful Mendocino County, and I'm probably the closest program to the Bay Area, although it took me a good -- almost four hours to get here with traffic. And welcome to the council.

Hello, everyone, I'm Devin Wilcox McCombs, and I work here at FNS with the FDPIR program.

Hi, I'm Melissa Baker. You probably here from me a little bit sometimes, and I work here in the Western Region for FNS as a program specialist for FDPIR.

I'm Sarah Kellogg-Eby, and I'm with Food and Nutrition Service, Special Nutrition Program. I'm one of the section chiefs, and I've been in your lives and I've been out of your lives, and now I'm back in your lives and very happy to be back. And I've been with the agency for about 20 years now, so I'm very happy to see you all here.

Hi. Good morning. I am Barbara Lopez. I work for the Food and Nutrition Service. I work out of the National Office, and I work for the Food Distribution Program on Indian reservations, and I'm in the Policy Department. And one of my main roles is to help coordinate this project team, so I would like you to know that I am a resource for you. If you need anything, please let me know.

My name is Richard McDermott. I'm the director from Tula River. I've been working for the Food Distribution for 30 years.

I'm an educational officer for the (inaudible) Valley Tribe in Northern California. I'm the director the quantity program. I'm happy to meet all of you to have a productive meeting with you.

I'm Melinda Walker, and I'm with the Yakima Nation out of (inaudible), Washington, central Washington. We've had the program since 1984, and I've been the manager of the program since 1984.

Morning. Scott Peone, Spokane Tribe up in Eastern Washington, Director of the Commodity Program. I've been there for 18 years -- morning.

Good Morning.

Good morning. I am Carol Hafford of Principle Research Scientist with NORC at the University of Chicago and part of the study team.

Hi. I'm Nancy Pindus (inaudible). Good morning and welcome. I'm the project director for this study. I'm with the Urban Institute of Quality Research organization in Washington, D.C.

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Good morning. My name is Walter Hillabrant. Citizen Potawatomi and I work for Support Services International Consulting firm in Washington, D.C. area, and it's a pleasure to be here.

Good morning, everyone. My name is Tino Batt. I'm one of the council members for the Shoshone Bannock Tribe and liason for Alice Yellowhair. She's not here. I come on her behalf of her department.

Good morning, everyone. My name is (inaudible). I am a program specialist here (inaudible).

And I'm Jesus Mendosa. I'm a deputy administrator here at the western region.

Hi I'm (inaudible). (Inaudible) Nutrition program and I'm in the supplemental -- I'm sorry, Special Nutrition Program.

Hi, Ronna Bach. I'm the director with the Special Nutrition Program here in the western region and I (inaudible).

Thank you. Thank you all. So the purpose of today's meeting is to consult with you on the study of the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, give you the details of the study, and these guys will go over that, and share with you how we propose to do the study. And we also want to discuss tribal involvement and consult with you on the approval process to possibly conduct this study on your reservation. And let me put this all into context for all of you.

The FDPIR program has been around for a long time. Approved the program over the years, but we also get money every year from Congress to study the program, and the last study, systematic study that was done at FDPIR was over 20 years ago. I mean I think it would be a good time now to do a study, a comprehensive study to see what works, what doesn't work, see how we could improve it. You can always improve the program. It's like we can always improve the staff and the program. So we got appropriations to do a study, and we want to do that study. We want to be able to get information so that we can make better choices (inaudible), on how we could improve the program. And I want to thank all of you for your dedication, your commitment to the program these years. I know that we can count on your continued commitment and dedication through the program, because we need you as well.

We know this program is very critical. That's why we want to study it and see what we can do to improve the program. But we want to improve it with your participation. We need your involvement and your consultation. So that's basically what we're trying to do here is to lay out what the study's going to look like, get your feedback on it, see what ideas you have, make modifications, and ask you what's the best way of doing the study on your reservation and, you know, what that process needs to be to get full participation and full involvement of all your residents on the reservation.

We want to make sure other people make (inaudible) because that's critical. We don't have a lot of participation and all of us do give feedback on the program that gives information, it's going to mean less meaningful data and less opportunity to better improve the program. And we also want to share this information with Congress. Congress helps design the program, so we can make changes to the program, so we can have good information, have data we present to congress to be able to make changes to the program, even if it costs more money.

Let me go over the program. There's about 276 Tribes through 100 ITOs and five state agencies (that run the FDPIR program. It is very important. It is the alternative to the SNAP program, and the benefits for your reservation is to have that choice between SNAP and the FDPIR program. So we want to make the FDPIR program a good choice, you know, make it a meaningful choice for rest of your reservations so that people don't automatically (inaudible). FDPIR program's new package is a meaningful, valuable alternative to the SNAP program.

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So this study is an actual study. But, unfortunately, given the resource constraints, I mentioned there's a 100 ITOs in five state agencies in the FDPIR program. 25 ITOs will be involved in the study, so (inaudible) ITO of the program would be involved in the study. And these folks will go over with you how the selection is made, what the sampling is, and they will go over the specific details of the study, answer your questions, receive your feedback, and please feel free to raise any questions during the session. This is not just a presentation by them. We'll have questions later. Please interact and provide feedback as soon as you have a reaction to something that has been presented.

So let's get started, and let's go over the logistics first.

(Inaudible).

Vice chair.

Vice Chairman.

I'm Daniel (inaudible) Valley.

Great.

The restrooms are down the hall. You should go out, make a left turn down the hall, near the elevators, I guess; right? The first elevators before the doors.

Before the doors, so there's a men's and a women's in this area, yeah.

You should have a packet in front of you, and I think everything is in there; right? And a copy of the PowerPoint that's going to be used.

And if I could just quickly add, we're not projecting the PowerPoints on the screen.

You're not going to do that.

No. We're just going to be referring to the handout and going through the handout as we talk through the points.

And there's a list of 25 ITOs that's going to be part of the casual study. And then there's a template, a draft template.

And that's something we're going to be covering a little bit later today in terms of the approval process on your Reservation. We know that there is an approval process for us to come onto and visit your reservation to do the data collection piece, and our research team here will talk a little bit more about that. And that document is just a resource example writing. I hope that it's helpful to you. We understand that there's likely possibly another process that might be more appropriate on your reservation, but we thought it would be helpful as a resource included here.

Good. And then there's a (inaudible) sample, sampling that is. Okay. This meeting is being recorded, so please speak clearly. We will capture comments for this consultation record, and we have on the agenda three segments. The first is the study purpose and overview, and the study team will go over that. The second one is conducting the study. And then the third one is the Tribal involvement, how these involve the tribes and the logistics of showing that process, and the protocol in that. So let's get started.

Great, thank you. So on your handout that has the different slides, we're on slide number five just for reference, and we'll make sure as we go along (inaudible). But as Alan mentioned, it's been a number of years since we did a study like this on FDPIR, and we know that in the last 20, 22 years, there's been a

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number of improvements to the program, and we know that has been done due to the commitment and dedication of our FDPIR program directors and all of you here, so thank you all so much.

And the study, we hope that we're able to sort of take stock and look at all those improvements and evaluate it a little bit better and continue on that same path to making the program better. So a couple things that the researchers will kind of really be looking at and they'll be going into a little bit more detail here, including looking at a demographic profile of FDPIR, so that's more nationally. So there might be something you may know locally within your tribe in terms of the makeup of your participants, but we're interested in looking at it nationally to get a better understanding of the program.

We want to look at how FDPIR contributes to the food supply of participants. We know that it contributes greatly, but with the this research study we'd like to be able to describe it just a little bit better. We'd like to look at how SNAP plays a role in FDPIR and if there's improvement between two programs. Again, this is something we here from a lot of FDPIR program directors about it's happening, but we'd like to be able to study it a little bit better and understand the reasons why it's happening, and, again, looking at that nationally to see how we can just understand those reasons a little bit better.

We're interested in looking at the different food distribution models. Again, in the last 20 years, there's been a lot of changes in terms of how set distribution occurring, and we're interested in seeing how that looks. We're interested in nutrition education and how those nutrition education funds work, and if there are any promising practices with those types of activities. So these are sort of the main areas that you're going to here Nancy and Walter and Carol talk a little bit more about in detail in terms of what the scope of the study encompasses.

And as I mentioned, if you go on to the next slide, which is number six there on your handout, it just talks a little bit more about the benefits I kind of somewhat alluded to already. Alan did such a wonderful job, but it's really looking to see how we can improve the program for our participants and share that information, obviously with congress as well, but with all of you for you to see how the program operates, not really locally but nationally, to get a better understanding of it. So, Nancy, I think I'll go ahead and hand it over to you and get into the details of the study.

Great, thanks. Welcome, everyone. I'm Nancy (inaudible). I'm with the Urban Institute. I'm the principal investigator for the study. We just want to say how pleased we are to be doing this study. Walter and I actually did a much smaller study of the FDPIR program back in 2008 and 2009, actually visited some of your programs and others around the country. We got tremendous cooperation from all the programs. It was really fun and interesting for us, so we're really excited to be doing it again and hoping that you are as well. So we look forward to working with you.

We've got the information here about the program, and I'm going to go through that, and you can follow along on the slide. I just want to say that we have a lot more detail. Please jump in and ask if you want more information. I just don't want to read through all the detail first, because maybe it's too boring or maybe you're not interested. But if you are, you know, just speak up, ask questions anytime, and we'll be happy to provide details.

So, first, just a little bit more about our study teams. The Urban Institute is a nonprofit policy research organization in Washington, D.C. Others on the project who you might be hearing from are Diane Levi and Chris Narducci who are the researchers at the Urban Institute. NORC at the University of Chicago is a survey research organization with offices in Chicago and Bethesda, Maryland. Carol Hafford is in the Bethesda office, and Susan Bart, who you will also be hearing from in the study, is in the Chicago office, and they have field operation staff around the country.

Walter is the President of Support Services International. We've worked together with him on the last FDPIR study, and we've worked with him on a number of other studies as well, and he will be playing a key role on the site, as well helping us with the study.

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I'm now on slide nine. Just, again, key topic, which Barbara mentioned, are the profile participants, and some of the things we'll be looking at there are demographic characteristic household composition, eligibility issues, employment, and economic hardship so that some of these are things that we can look at nationally from secondary data, so we will have sort of a bigger national picture, as well as what we're going to be getting from the 25 tribes that are participating in the survey.

We'll be looking at participation data that FNS has and demographic data from the census and other sources as well to see changes in population, how some of those changes in population might affect demand for FDPIR or preferences for certain types of foods in FDPIR, that type of thing, how that might be related to any demographic changes such as age, and also looking at how eligibility affects different groups and eligibility for FDPIR, as well as eligibility rules for SNAP and how some groups might be better off -- well not field, better off on one and how eligibility rules might affect that.

In addition to that demographic information, we'll be collected other participant information, and that's really the stuff that you can't get from secondary data that we'll be wanting to get in a survey, and we'll be wanting to talk to participants about things like how they store and prepare food, how they pick up and acquire foods in FDPIR, any access barriers they might have to getting food, especially getting fresh food, and how FDPIR plays out in their full supply household, whether they are involved in other assistance programs as well, and what factors influence their choices to participate in FDPIR or in SNAP.

And then another piece is that we're going to complement that profile of FDPIR participants with our program services and activities across the sites, so that's another place where you all come in. We'll be collecting information about program operations, such as the kinds of nutrition education activity that is you have and how you make the choices about nutrition education, nutrition education grants that you might have, looking at other activities you might coordinate with, like WIC or SNAP, in terms of nutrition education or other activities.

And also, we know that FDPIR programs distribute in lots of different ways, so trying to learn about the different food distribution methods and advantages and disadvantages and what works best in what kinds of places. And we'll also be looking at other factors that program staff think might be affecting participation, so we're asking for participants why you choose one or the other, but then we're also going to ask the program staff why do you think people would choose one or the other? If you're in a place where participation is declining, why do you think that might be? If you're in a place where it's increasing, why do you think that might be?

Just briefly, this is on slide 12, I'm just going to go over just what our tentative timeline is and, as you know, with any general studies these things always change, but we're doing the best we can to tell you with where we think we are right now. So we had some early consultations with all of the FDPIR programs over a webinar last January in 2012, and now we're having this set of consultations with those who are actually in the sample because we figure you really will want more detail because you know being asked to participate.

And then right now we've developed a study plan, we've developed a draft package that has to go to the Office of Management and Budget for approval of the data collection. And so we have draft instruments, which are posted on the tribal website at FNS, and there are copies here as well that Barbara has in notebooks, so those are in draft form right now. We are in the process of pretesting those with some products that are not in the sample because you have to use it with people that are in the sample to do your pretesting. So there still drafts. They're going to be revised based on what we learn from the pretest, but this is also the time for you all to take time to look at those because they aren't final yet, so we want your input, to add suggestions, either things to add or things that we said the wrong way or things like that would be extremely helpful, or any issues we might have missed.

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Also, everybody always complains that these instruments are too long. Now we have some questions you're required to answer, that's why it's so long. But if you can see things in there that you think, oh, we have this on the data, you don't have to ask people about this. Anything that would help shorten it and make it less burdensome for merchants, that would be great too. So we're really looking forward to any comments from you on that.

And in terms of then we're hoping, based on all of that process that we will be able to begin data collection in August of 2013, and it will go on over a several-month period, depending on the schedules with each tribe. There's going to be worked on individually with each tribe when the timing was best, so that's a long period for that, and Carol will give detail about that process. The project report will be completed in September of 2014. At the moment there is not a formal process for tribes to review drafts to the final report, but FNS is thinking about that, talking with NAFDPIR about ways to get a formal review in, and they will be keeping you updated both on the progress and of the study and any plans for that. You can view that website, and when we site visits we will be spending some of our (inaudible) to make sure that whatever we write is accurate because sometimes at a site visit you can miss some things or guess something wrong, so we will definitely be sending it back to you for review.

I have a question. You said the specific forms are in draft right now and they're on the FNS website, so what's the deadline for folks to provide comments?

Good question. And that is certainly one that we've gotten before. So we are hoping to get the next sort of draft of this OMB package, revised drafts back in early January, so it would be ideal for us time-wise if we could get comments back from you by early January, which could be e-mailed to any of us or to FNS, to Barbara or the Jana Rasmussen [ph]. But that will not be your last chance, I mean because I know that's kind of a tight timeframe there, especially with the Holidays, so that's definitely not your last chance, because while it goes to OMB, it then gets posted for public comment, so they will ask for comments before they approve the package. So any time, it's usually a two or three month period, any time, and there you'll have the opportunity to send in comments, either through that official channel or to us during that time because we will have to respond to that and we will have to make any changes that we can if we stop, so there is a longer period. Sooner is easier for us, but it's not too late after that.

Yeah, if I can just quickly interject. Those site instruments, you have them available here if you would like to look at them, but it is something that we're planning on sending to you directly. They're on our website but happy to send them to directly to you so you have them, and we can go ahead and I can ensure to put sort of the timeframe that (inaudible). So there's that first round early January and then likely that 60-day comment period as well.

And then just to wrap up, I think the idea is when this report is out, as well as reviewing the draft, it will be useful for FNS who was planning to hold stakeholder meetings. It will be useful information that you'll learn about other programs that you can share and then will be presented at NAFDPIR. So we're hoping that it's a good way to share ideas and practices and things between the tribes as well. Are there any questions now before we go into anymore detail on how the study is going to be conducted?

I just want to make a comment. It's not a long comment. So I know congress wants the study (inaudible) spend a lot of time on one part and (inaudible) people like yourselves, and they spent years and publish wonderful studies and then 20 years later there's another study, and I think what I'm trying to say is it's (inaudible). What I'd like to see come out of the study (inaudible) we in our western region meetings and in our national meetings have identified as special people run these programs what we need, and when we do our resolutions and we bring those and present them to FNS and to USDA, the ones that come back saying that is (inaudible) we can't change it. Those are the things that we want to be (inaudible) about in this study so it shows. I can give you a perfect example.

In the State of California we're the only state (inaudible) that chooses to be cash-out program, which means that people who are on SSI, our elderly people, our disabled people cannot receive our food.

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However, since California is not obligated to provide in their SSI food allowance that they do to provide an adequate amount of to bring them up to the level that they would be getting if they got our food. They get like 10, 15, 20 bucks tops. I have to, on a weekly basis, sometimes daily, turn away Vietnam veterans, senior citizens, people who cannot work and they have no choice and say we can't help you and they can't get food stamps either. But their sum total from the State of California is \$700 or \$800. And our limit is, what, for a family of one is \$1033 or \$1050 now. So where is that under 300? So where is the equity and the legitimate solution and when it was presented to (inaudible).

We want to prove that the things that we've identified, not just that (inaudible). But there are several issues over the years that our directors have painstakingly identified issues. I think what I'm getting at is what's the intent of this study and show congress what we're doing and show people what we're serving, and that's all great. There needs to be more of that. But I would just hate to go through all this and have it come out at the end where everybody goes, "Oh, that's nice," and then nothing is changed from our point of view, not just from USDA, not just from congress, but from those who have an idea that know what we're doing and know what the needs are that are not being met, we want those (inaudible).

I understand what you would be talking about. You have a national board, and national meetings, and we do bring up all the issues of SSI in California and the population in cities since now that SNAP as changed their (inaudible) format where a lot of our tribal members in the cities cannot receive food stamps and have been cut off for a while; therefore, our tribal members are without food, but that's a beginning issue of the program; that we serve a population 10,000.

30 years old.

Yeah. There's a lot of issues that we bring up about changing the deductions, and a lot of programs feel that our equality with SNAP is not there, so, therefore, we kind of feel that we're kind of downgraded. And the other kind of program is urban, and a lot of our members cannot afford to travel to good stores. They have to travel 60, 70 miles to get to a good store or their SNAP; therefore they stay on "commod," and they have to accept what they receive, and they cannot get none of the items that SNAP gets because SNAP can get almost anything, anything they want. They want coffee, sugar, and spices and all that, but they can't get it because of program regulation.

And then in my tribe, I do have a lot of people that cannot travel, and they go without and they accept what they get. And a lot of programs accept what they receive from the USDA. And like we say, we put in resolutions, but then they're always shot down. There's a lot of food issues that need to be dealt with that our food review team goes through, and these are issues we're working with every year. We put resolutions every year and western region does the most about the problems and programs.

Our fresh produce, I've had big issues with that, but it's getting worked out. But it took many years to do it because of my complaining, and it's starting to work, you know, so I'm glad of that. Because when we go to the national meetings DOD comes in there, you receive the number one, well we don't receive the number one products. I don't get it from the DOD, but I get it from the vendors. They kind of gave me what they wanted to, but the tiny produce, but the (inaudible), the bigger ones, we don't get it, so I complained and complained. You know, they might get mad at me, but, you know, DOD said we should get the best, we should get the best. But there's a lot of food issues that I have with the food commodities.

The butter issue was taken away from us, and the people don't even like the butter that they have now. It's like plastic. And you put it on your bread and it makes your bread like water, so, you know, why do they have to eat that. What I see with the ordering process and receiving the food, I think it -- I understand it's nutritional, but I feel that there's big cost effectiveness on this, and so a lot of my participants are noticing the low-grade foods that we're receiving, and they can identify products that are low grade. The dry beans, the canned beans, the vegetables, some of them don't taste very good, so that's my

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issue with the program. I hope the study takes that into consideration, and that's going to be my comments. Thank you.

That really helps for us to hear this because it helps with the things we'll want to ask the program managers. Some of the other issues, I think the policy issues we'll have to start back (inaudible).

And I would like to reiterate some of what Keith said. But in the State of Washington our biggest one is SNAP, and that is because as of October of this year, the State of Washington's eligibility is 300% of poverty for SNAP. Last year it was 200. So we can't fight 300% and have people come, you know, to commodity foods and give up. I actually know of one family that gets \$1,200 a month because they are listed as three separate families in the household because that's what our households are. They are extended families. They are individual families, so they're not going to give up \$1,200 a month in food stamps to come to commodity foods and we have lots who ask to stay in the State of Washington, in Turner and the Yakima Valley anyway, in participation of FDPIR, you know, because they can receive it, so they do.

I'd like to share with you kind of -- sorry.

Good morning. I apologize for being late. I'm Claudeen Tallwood. I'm with the Navajo Food Distribution Program. I'm the program manager with Navajo. Good morning.

I just wanted to say that, really, our job here is to listen, but I think sometimes the dialogue is little helpful. And so here is one of the things I've learned, a takeaway for me is when we do our reports, there is almost always a section in some form or fashion, which is problems encountered and promising approaches to solutions to these kinds of problems. And that tends to get informed through all the aspects of the study, which have been outlined and we're going to talk about in detail more.

But one of the things that I haven't thought of, and I think one of the ways to do it is to work with your -- because about the resolutions that you talked about, which are different regions and stuff, is that when we work with the national organization, that they could help us be sure that we have an inclusive and fairly complete list of the kinds of problems that you are describing today, and then we -- and I can only speak for myself.

The neat thing about having three different independent organizations here is that we have different expertise and experiences, you know, and so I think the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. But for me, the idea of separating out problems that require legislative solution versus other kinds of policy and administrative, that hadn't been in focus to me so well before, so I really appreciate that, and I just wanted to share with you kind of my reaction to it.

There are things that, due to legislation, for example, the nutritional foods, and administratively, you know, a little battle over appropriations, we (inaudible) food now for a long time, you know, they had authorized specifically the purchase of (inaudible) and nutritious food. And then USDA came back with, "Well congress didn't appropriate additional funds for that." So, you know, you've got a killing a regulation by appropriation. But it's also, you know, there's other items, USDA decides on its own, oh, this will be good for them, and they don't have a special line item for that. So there's a little non-equity thing going on.

(Inaudible).

Yeah, so I don't know if there's an actual date, but has that news been shared?

The last we heard it's supposed to be ready for order in February, so February and March timeframe. It already went out for request for proposals.

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I just wanted to blurt out, I'm kind of hard of hearing and it's got to be really hard on the telephone too, so could you repeat that. I didn't get it.

The last that we heard, butter will be available for ordering February or March.

Great. Well we're just going to move on to the different departments that are conducting the study. So this is just a little more detail about the project, and, first, just, again, to remind everybody that even though we're focused here mostly on the survey and the work we'll be doing onsite, there is sort of -- it's a larger project that will have this other data that we're collecting from administrative -- FNS administrative data and demographic data, so there's several pieces of data that will be combined to give us a full of a national picture as possible. So I'm going to discuss some of the data collection, and then, after the break, we'll then go into more detail about working with the tribes that actually collect the data at sites.

So as was mentioned, we're doing a sample because --

Did you say March 17th; right?

Oh, yes, thank you. 16th actually, on my notes, but thank you for reminding me. We want to think of that. We might just roll along and forget. So we can't go to every single FDPIR program and interview participants at every single program just for budgetary reasons. So the idea of sampling is to select the sample in a scientific way that will allow us to use the data that we get on the sample participants to give a national picture. So there is a sampling scheme that's done to do that so that the data will be representative of participating households around the country.

In selecting the sample, they'll say, "Well how come I got picked," you know. So in selecting the sample, we looked at several factors. We looked at size. So we sampled in proportion to the number of households that are participating in the FDPIR program. So certain programs such as Navajo were selected what we call "with certainty" because they have so many participants as proportion to all national participants that they -- it's really important to help have them in the study.

And then after the six largest tribes that were selected proportionate to the number of households participating but also by region so that we would have a sample across all regions of the country, and then in addition, once we got to that level, we then looked at participation trends. We looked at participation -- for the number of participants, we looked at the data we had for fiscal year 2011. But then we also looked at data going from 2001 through 2011 to make sure we got some tribes that had increases in participation, some that had decreases, and some that remain the same over that time.

So we're trying to get a real mix of all the different tribal situations. And there's a lot more detail in that handout of how things were selected, which I'd be happy to explain further, but people just want to know why they got picked, so that's how it happened. That's how we picked the 25 tribes, and then in each of those tribes, we're going to be selecting a random sample of FDPIR participants, and we're going to be working with you in each of those sites to do that very carefully.

Once the sample is selected for the sample participants, we are going to be looking at case records and conducting a survey of the selected households. So there will be more information of exactly how we will work with you on doing that. But for the case records, the idea is we're not interested in identifying individuals so much as using that information that's in the case record to give us a picture of a national profile. So we will be using data that's already in your case record, you know, what you're required to keep in there, and then we'll be working with you to get that information, interested in the demographic, the age, and things like that, but we're not going to be tying it to somebody's name or to, you know, matching it with the data from the survey. It's more to get a national profile. And because it's a national profile, we're not going to be able to really produce results that describe the situation in any one particular tribe. It more gives us a national picture to do that.

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So, as I mentioned, this is now slide 18, at least on my list. We're going to be combining this with the census and the FNS administrative data, and then we will be doing case record reviews and the surveys of participants. And so I'm just going to go through each of those, and then we will be doing site visits. So those are sort of the three components that really involve working with the sample tribes.

So the first part, the case record reviews, and this is slide 19, they'll be reviewed for each household selected for the survey, and we will be looking, as I said, to get that demographic and eligibility information, and we'll be working that out with each ITO. But to get that part of the point here is if it's already in your case records because you are already required to have it in your case records, then we don't need to go through and ask that participant in the survey. So the part of it is we can get some of this national picture without overburdening the participants in the survey. So that's going to happen in these sample sites.

There will be about 35 records reviewed for each site. We'll probably ask you to select a larger sample than that, you know, because some people may not be available, or some records may be incomplete. And then we'll be working individually with each tribe on how to actually pull those records, because some tribes have electronic records, some have paper records, and in the case of paper records, we'll probably have to go out onsite and actually pull that data. Do you have any questions?

I have a comment on that (inaudible).

Oh, yeah, I had the same comment.

Unfortunately, our (inaudible) management database that we use, it's not the direct data, like what you're talking about. It's not set up like a normal database where you can do a report like (inaudible). It may be possible from what we submit for somebody else to do it. For me, I know this for a fact, because in one of our communities we needed tribal members (inaudible) tribe participate in your program. There is not way to identify that number. I don't believe there's a way to identify by age. There may be. I mean we can't sort. We can sort by two or three fields, either by the city, by the social security number, by last name. It doesn't sort, even by gender. It doesn't sort by economic level. It's a very good database for administering our program, but it's not a good database for gathering data.

And I know we've had some discussions with FNS about that, about the AIS system, and they told us the same thing. Basically they said what you're saying. So that's why what we do is -- or work with you to do is to pull a sample of individual records of just this sample of, you know, somewhere around 30-some records, and we pull the information just from those records, because I don't think there is a way to do it all electronically.

I have one other comment. (inaudible) the census data. Census data is notoriously skewed for me.

Oh, yeah, we know.

There's another source you may want to look at, and that's the Bureau of Indian Affairs (inaudible). Every tribe is mandated to do that, and they're done by the tribes themselves. They're not going to be 100% accurate, but it's also in line with -- I know at least in California, and I'm sure the Bureau of Labor Statistics at the Department of Labor is a template for how they count that. The (inaudible) labor report follows exactly where the California EDT report. If you compare the two of those to do a really nice graph showing, you know, the draft they did when the unemployment came out, you know, that kind of (inaudible) stuff between the general population in our area, the State of California in general, and our FDPIR tribes. That was a lot of work. And you're saying to use existing data.

Now that's really helpful. In fact, we just have another study on (inaudible) and housing, and we just finished the draft of looking at just the census and other secondary data. And there's a long section about the limitations (inaudible).

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(Inaudible).

Well, yeah, there is more money involved, but I think we have found the same concerns about the census data. So any additional sources like that, they'll help us for both.

It is available online. It's not paid, but I think, you know, last time I looked it was a few years ago. The last one I could find was 2003. It may be a newer one now that the bureau went back online.

No, but that's really helpful. We will definitely look into that. And just to be clear, I mean the use of the census data is just to provide, like, this very broad context and backdrop, because you can't do much more than that because they suppress a lot of the data, you know, for tribes.

I don't know what year it was, but I know in one year the tribes that we came down from (inaudible).

Yeah. No, it's very difficult. But it was just really for that background, that's why we have to do the survey, and the site visits. That's it. There isn't a great source of national data there that we can use. Thank you.

So then in addition to the case record reviews, then the next would be the participant surveys, and Carol will be discussing this more after the break. But there will be a field interviewer that's assigned to each site and will work with the program in terms of arranging to conduct interviews. They will be kept confidential and people's anonymity will be protected, interviewers have a lot of training in terms of how to protect confidentiality and informed consent, and they sign confidentiality pledges. So they will be working with the tribes on that, because we know that, you know, each tribe has their own procedures and rules and research review processes before we can be approved to do this. So, while we have our own IRB that we're required to do at our organization, we still will make sure that whatever we do meets your requirements to get your permission before we conduct any data collection.

And then the next part, to get the program information there will be site visits. And, again, for budget reasons, there will be site visits of 17 of the 25 programs selected for the study. We haven't selected which of you. It will be from this group of 25, but which will be selected to the site visits, we have not actually made those decisions yet. And, of course, your availability will have something to do with it as well. But we're trying there just to get a good diversity of projects, so we're going to be looking at, again, size, most average monthly participants, the region of the country, population changes, and also to get a real range of program administration. So we'll want some that maybe serve several tribes, some that serve a very large and dispersed area, some that serve a more central area, some that use home delivery, some that use tailgate, some that have a supermarket set up.

You know, we want to make sure we get a real range of what's out there in the programs we select. And that will include interviews with program directors and staff, as well as discussion groups with FDPIR participants, and also what we are calling "eligible," which we don't know for sure, non-participants. So people who would likely be eligible for FDPIR but are not participating.

And we'll be talking with other programs at the tribe that you might coordinate with, whether it's IHS or WIC, or others that you might coordinate nutrition education and other activities with, as well as with the FDPIR staff.

(Inaudible).

Well that's an interesting question, and we have several ways. I mean in some cases, the FDPIR program staff might know people who used to be on FDPIR and dropped off, so that's one possibility. We also usually talk with other programs like, say, the TANF director or the WIC director who might know, or someone who is in charge of elder programs who might know people who, "Gee, I think they probably

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would qualify for FDPIR but they're not participating," so that's another way that we would get suggested names.

When we've done this in the past -- and we did do this on the last study -- there's a lot of people who go back and forth. So pretty much in every group you end up getting people who have experience with both programs many times. But we're going to try and talk with the tribes about the best ways to get those contacts. More questions?

On the participant surveys, about how long are those individuals?

Well, let's see, at the pretest they were about 45 minutes.

We're hoping to reduce it to about 30, but it depends sometimes on someone's willingness to talk. Some people respond to the survey but then wish to talk a little bit, so it can take a little bit longer. So we're trying to keep it between 30 and 45 minutes to minimize burden.

I have a quick question. We heard a lot about the impacts of the state-specific SNAP administration non-participation and the effects of the program. How is that playing directly into the sample chosen, the site visits, and how are you getting the information? Will you be taking FNS data that impacts some of those decisions, or are you actually meeting with the state SNAP people in the regions (inaudible)?

We actually, in this study, we're not meeting the state SNAP people. We're doing some analysis of eligibility using -- we have a database and a modeling program that puts in all of the welfare -- the SNAP rules that the states have, so we'll be looking at the rules on a national level and seeing how that affects participation. But we're not actually talking to state SNAP administrators. It was not part of how the study was originally designed. I mean some of that background, clearly what's going to happen when people -- like you told us about Washington State. You know, these are states that we'll have to then go back -- when we hear things like that, we're going to have to make sure we understand what those rules are, and in those cases it might involve talking with the state SNAP folks.

Is that information informing the choice of sampling, or is that information you get the report out of?

It's not being used to select the sample. By having it across regions we're going to be getting that anyway because we're purposely selecting different regions. But we haven't selected particular states. I should mention, too, that we have been talking and will continue to talk with the FNS regional offices, and a lot of the regional staff know about these differences in the states in their regions, so they're a really good resource for us.

(Inaudible). Can we take a break?

We'll take a break.

We'll take a break and then, yeah, (inaudible). And, you know, if you think of questions any time along the way.

Okay, let's get back at -- I have 10:05 -- 10:45.

Thank you.

[Break]

I'd like to introduce my tribal council member, Ryan Jackson.

Hi.

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Hey, everybody.

Thank you. Well, great. I think we're ready to get going again. So what we're going to do, this next section, Carol is going to talk in detail about how we're going to work with the tribes to conduct the data collection and the travel research process. And then after that, she's going to spend a little time where we have parts of some of the data survey instrument to discuss. So we'll spend a little time talking about some of the specifics and some of the questions too, as a way to get some feedback from you early on on that. So now I'm going to hand it over to Carol Hafford (inaudible).

Okay, good morning, everyone. I want to begin by just sharing with you a little bit about NORC at the University of Chicago and what the organization is and what we do there. NORC was founded in 1961. It's a survey research organization. It's out of Chicago, but it has offices set up around the country, in Bethesda, Maryland, where I am. There is also an office here in San Francisco. And NORC has been doing survey research for 70 years, and it has been one of the leaders in developing the survey methodology. And the very important part of that is learning how to work with communities to obtain information that is of national importance. And NORC works on issues concerning human services, education, (inaudible), health, health care, public health, security, energy. We work in a wide variety of areas. And I'm from the department that focuses on employment, labor, and population studies, which includes human services.

I think it's important to note as well that Walter, Nancy, and I each come from organizations that have worked together in the past and that we work very well together. And our goal is to be able to take the kind of partnership that we've established and to work with you in this manner. And in order to do that, we need to get to know each other. And so this meeting is just the first step into that. And our goal in forming a partnership and collaborating with you, to emphasize the fact that our approach to doing research is very much grounded in respecting your sovereignty in the research process. We are all too acutely aware of the wrongs that have been done with tribal populations in conducting research, and so we are taking measures to mend that and to conduct research in a way that respects your sovereignty and respects your people's involvement. So we want to make sure that we do this well and in a way that you are comfortable with.

So the first step in that is to, first, learn more about you. And we've been doing these consultations now for the past month, but we began back in January. And we're going to be continuing into next year to do that. So, as Nancy described earlier, during the period when the study protocols go to the Office of Management and Budget, they're going to be reaching out to all of the tribes that have been selected to work on an outreach effort. So in order to do that, as I said, we need to know more about you. We need to know how research is conducted on your reservation, what your processes are, whether or not you have a tribal IRB; for instance, Navajo Nation has very extensive IRB review process that we'll have to become involved in, and then also to learn about how best to get the word out in your community about the study.

And we are very aware of the perception that people feel they've been (inaudible). So we want to minimize that as much as possible, and we want to work with you on getting the word out to the community. An important component of that is respecting both human subject protections at two levels, at the community level and then at the individual level. So our outreach effort in working with you will begin at getting the information out to your community. And what we are able to provide to that is a number of informational materials, letters that come -- that we work with FNS, for instance, to get letters sent out to tribal leaders, letters that are sent to FDPIR, study directors from FNS, letters that come from our team, from the Urban Institute, from NORC, from SSI so you have all the proper notifications and observance of protocol at your leadership level, and then we begin to work through those levels and to talk with both the FDPIR program, any of your research review committees to get the proper commissions in place to do that, whether that's going through the formal IRB process, whether it's going and making a presentation in front of a tribal council and obtaining a resolution to do the study, whether it's having the

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study protocol reviewed by a research review committee. So we're prepared to work with you in any way that you are currently working.

Some tribes don't have IRBs but they work with tribal colleges, so that might be another venue for getting that approval in place. We understand it will take time and that it involves a lot of communication and discussions and coordination among many parties, so we set aside time to do that. We can come and visit if that's your preference. If you want phone calls and e-mail communications, we can do that. So we'll be reaching out to you in that way, and I will be taking the lead on doing that, along with my colleague, Suzanne Bard [ph], who is in Chicago. Suzanne participated in the first consultation in Rapid City.

And Suzanne has been with NORC for more than 35 years. She started out as a field interviewer, and she became the deputy director of the national field operation. So she's someone who has spent her whole professional career in working with communities to work through the whole data collection process. So if any of you are fortunate enough to be working directly with Suzanne, you will be in very good hands.

But we also will be asking Nancy and Walter to assist us as well, because it's been our experience that different people have different relationships and connections, and so whoever else is in the best position to kind of get this conversation started, we'll be polling them. So we'll be reaching out to you and working with you to get that approval process started. So we want to emphasize that this is not an act of helicopter research where the survey research team comes in, collects data, picks up and goes. We want to make sure that we do it in a way that we are observing your processes, respecting that, and that we leave behind some benefit to you in having come and helped assist with the survey effort.

And in that regard, I also want to emphasize that we really view ourselves as just an intermediary, an organization that comes in to help collect the data but that you're a very key part of that. And one of the ways that we can structure that with you is in the field interviewers that will be actually doing the data collection in your communities. And, as Nancy mentioned, there's 25 tribes or ITOs in the sample, but even within that sample, we're really only focusing on about 40 households. It's a small selection of people in your community. But the goal is to get about a little bit more than 800 responses to the survey that will help paint a picture of participation across FDPIR programs that are nationally represented.

So in order to do that, we also understand that, you know, it's hard for a stranger to come in. That might not be your preference. But the NORC field interviewers, of which there's 1,500 across the country, have great experience in working in many different kinds of communities, in tribal communities. Some are actually tribal members. Some have participated in other studies in Indian country. For instance, most recently there was a very big national study on child care supply and demand that was done for the Department of Health and Human Services, and that had a very large representation of tribal communities.

But if it's your preference that you would like to have a tribal member do this, to build capacity around survey data collection and research methods, we'd be happy to work with you to do that. So when we get into the outreach piece of this and, you know, work out more of the procedural parts of it, if that's your preference, then help us. Steer us in the right direction as to where we might recruit a field interviewer or a couple of field interviews, because we like to have some backup people in place, and that way that leaves behind someone in community who has been trained, who has a credential, and who can earn about \$17 an hour for this two-, three-, four-month field period and who would then be able to use those skills in another capacity.

So we often see that large-scale data collection efforts sometimes become small kind of employment opportunities in the communities where it's conducted so we want to make sure that for your community that we help you do that. Okay?

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(Inaudible). It would be much more effective to have someone come in (inaudible). Is there any type of -- but, you know, actually finding someone who has a degree in that is another story, but is there any type of, you know, training module that we could do with somebody who has the potential to do it and create a short position for a person.

Uh-huh.

That would be wonderful.

Yes.

And I can explain a bit more about that, because when a field interviewer is hired, you know, they go through the typical hiring process, but then there is a training that would occur as well, and that could be either part of a small group training -- it would have to be done by phone -- or an individual training, but that person would be trained in survey research methods and all of the study protocol so that he or she, after 24-hour training that might occur over the period, would be quite well versed in the study procedures and how to actually conduct an interview, and then also have the support of one of NORC's field managers who is stationed across the country, really, to serve as a coach and to help that person, you know, with their work, and to make sure that things are done properly and that the actual survey instruments are returned back to the processing office in Chicago where they'll all be going.

But there is very focused training, and it does provide a very good credential for someone who is, you know, trying to get into the workforce or offer different skills, and it could be someone who is a student who is looking for some experience. It could be somebody in a tribal workforce development program who is looking for some work as well. So we're ready to work with you on how best to do that and to make sure that whoever is selected is appropriately trained, and, of course, compensated at the rate that I said. It would be \$17 an hour. And also the expenses would be paid as well, because there's considerable, you know, expenses in terms of getting from place to place and reimbursement for mileage and things like that.

My very first experience in conducting research was conducting a study of homeless youths. I basically worked out of my car in the Baltimore/Washington area, and I had to track them over time. They had been living in shelters, transitional living programs, and it involved, you know, having to get to know them and to know where they were and to make sure that I could reach them and do so in a way that I respected both their privacy and willingness to participate. So I often bring that experience back into the work I currently do. So we're ready to work with you on that component, and that's just one piece of it. But from NORC's perspective, it's a very important piece of helping to build capacity in these kinds of studies.

Are there any other questions on that topic before I go on to the next?

You use the acronym IRB?

Yeah. That's the Institutional Review Board. NORC, the Urban Institution. Each have an institutional review board that reviews our study protocol. I actually have NORC's protocol right here. It's reviewed by a committee to ensure that all human subject research protections are complied with. So it addresses issues around, you know, developing sample, recruiting the study participants, how you're going to recruit them, what kind of information they that will be provided, what kind of informed consent procedures you have, both at the tribal level and at the individual level so that we ensure that we respect confidentiality, privacy, and so that we ensure that we impose minimal risk on the study population and that we do our due diligence to ensure that the study is conducted according to very high ethical standards.

So each of our organizations has gone through the IRB process, and then once we work with various tribes in doing this, we would share our protocol with you. Certain tribes have different components in

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terms of their IRB process, and one of the things that we would be quite -- that there is very often a requirement to review the final report, make some comments on that. There's also very often a requirement to return the data back to the tribe, and we're prepared to do that as well.

As part of our contract with Food and Nutrition Service -- and we're actually subcontracted to the Urban Institute, so some of this kind of flows to them first and then over to FNS, but we're required to prepare a public use data file, which is essentially all of the data elements and responses from every participant in the study. That is completely de-identified. There's no personal information. It's just provided in terms of, for instance, age, gender, region. There will be no tribal identification as well in that file that gets returned back to FNS. And one of the reasons that for that is because if you only have 30 participants from a tribe, it could be very easy to recognize who those individuals are, and so we are obligated to respect their privacy and confidentiality.

But we can return to you the de-identified data file pertaining to your community. We would say that it might not have not much value research-wise because it would just have 30 responses, but I think it's an important part of the commitment to respect, providing back the products of the research to the tribe, so we're prepared to do that as well. And that's something that would occur much later in the process. But as we go through these discussions with each ITO, those kinds of question that will come up, so we're preparing to answer them. Any other questions?

I'm going to go to the next slide. So the next one is actually a little bit of what I just addressed, slide 27. So telephone outreach; that is, you want us to come visit. We travel a lot, so we're happy to come. I'm actually going to Hooper Valley tomorrow for another project, so I very often combine my travel with visiting others with different projects, respecting culturally-specific research guidelines. Then, you know, we can even work with you. A number of tribes have checklists. The national Congress of American Indians also has a checklist that used to review the research protocols, so we can work with you to go through that.

Develop policies for data sharing so that everybody is clear and transparent about what kind of information is going to be shared and what it will be used for. An important aspect of that on our end is how it will be destroyed, literally. At the end of the data collection we don't retain any of the information that we collect. The data comes into us, we process it, we create safe files for analysis, and then it goes and informs the findings of the report. It becomes a public-use data file. Each individual tribal piece of that would be returned. But we then destroy the data at the end of any study.

And then working with you around any other requirements that you might have; for instance, that could be, in your community, disclosure process. If it's necessary for you to get the word out in your community, if you need some kind of particular piece of information to share that you might want to put in your newsletter, we'll be sharing with you different brochures that can be distributed both like perhaps at the program office, shared at community, and that could form the basis of something you might put in a tribal newsletters, so just providing you with additional materials that might be helpful to you to get the word out, so we can take care of that as well. Any other questions before I go on to the next one?

How do you get the conversation started with each ITO?

Oh, with a phone call.

Who are you going to contact?

Well that depends in each community. The process is that we first begin with a formal letter to the tribal leadership, and then usually there is the check-in at the leadership level, and the leadership will tell us to talk to the FDPIR program, and then that gives us the go-ahead to make a call to anyone that's here at the table. But then also we talk with perhaps the staff at the IRB. So it varies across tribes sometimes who we're directed to talk to, so we just have to do a lot of, you know, coordination and communication.

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And we've actually been doing that over the past few years for another study. And it's just a lot of communication.

So with that, not only with the tribal leaders, you'll send it to the directors themselves too?

Uh-huh.

I know oftentimes the paperwork, it'll get to a tribal leader and they've got so much stuff on their desk to process.

Right. So there will be a formal letter that comes to you from FNS.

Okay.

Which will be followed up by a letter that comes from us. And you might feel a little inundated with all of the letters that are going to you, but it's important in helping keeping everybody informed. But there will be a letter that comes under Nancy's signature with my name, with Walters name, and introducing things more. And then, you know, these kinds of studies operate on two levels. There's the formal level, and then there's the kind of informal compilations that occur itself, and so it just involves a lot of communication and talking. And this is really the first step in doing that.

So another important thing is that after this is conducted there will be another one in January, and Barbara will be organizing that at out of the Washington headquarters. And we'll be conveying this same message again to anyone that wasn't able to participate in these three consultations. But if you wanted to bring on any other members of your staff or people in your community to hear, we'd be sharing that again.

The next important part is that we are very sensitive to the fact that your tribal calendars and the cultural rhythms of your communities will dictate time for communication with us, for conducting the data collection, so it's important that we learn from you when, you know, when you have cultural activities that don't coincide with doing business and research so that we kind of lay low and respect that, and when is the best time. So we want to be able to know about that as well. And also, we do want to know what is your preferred communication preference, and do you prefer to just, you know, have us call and talk with you, do you want us to write e-mail, do you prefer to have face-to-face visits. So we just want to make sure that we do things in a way that you're most comfortable.

And we also want to make sure that as we work through this process together that we leave enough time for you to then go back to your leadership so that you can fully convey, tend to the procedures, the processes of the study so that you feel well-informed and that you can carry the message back from anyone else that might need to be part of that critical approval process. So we're quite aware that it becomes quite logistical (inaudible) and it involves a lot of time, so we're trying to build that into the process.

And we also are in communication with FNS through the course of doing this, and also with NAFDPIR. The three of us attended the meeting back in June, I think, in Niagara Falls, that Seneca Nation hosted. And we were able to share more information with the larger FDPIR community about the study. So we intend to go back and do that again. And, as Nancy and Barbara also indicated earlier, there is a time for you to comment on the study protocol, and perhaps as we conduct our outreach with you, you might be sharing some things with us about some element of the survey that you wanted to get back to the rest of the study team. So we can convey that information as well. Any questions?

Please, let me know if you can hear me. Okay. So I started to get into this a little bit already, slide 29. It's important that NORC begins with a very informed understanding of each tribe and (inaudible) and get a good grounding in your organization history and culture, send you information (inaudible) about the study, conduct follow-up calls, and to enter any kind of data-sharing agreement or IRB approval that's

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necessary, and meet with you and your leadership onsite, if necessary, or certainly by the phone. So we're prepared to do that.

I'm going to speak now a little about the actual process of conducting the case record review component of this, but I just wanted to see if anyone had any questions about anything I've just shared. So, as Nancy indicated earlier, there's two pieces around developing the data, the demographic profile of the study participants, and then actually learning from them with what their perceptions are with the commodities program and what their needs are, how they move or not between SNAP and FDPIR and such things like that. So the first thing that we'll doing is doing a case record review, and this was actually done in the 1990 study, where the case records actually are based on the eligibility form a participant fills out; that those forms are used as the basis to get abstract information.

And in developing the protocol for this part of the study we referred to the eligibility worksheets and certification forms for a number of tribes -- the Chickasaw Nation, the Pueblo of Acoma, Muscogee Creek Nation -- to identify the key elements that can be abstracted from that so that we can information about household composition and about resources in the household in terms of any kind of income through employment, self-employment, other resources.

And so I believe Barbara has one of the notebooks, or Nancy, and in that we have the three study protocols; the case record review template, the participant survey, and then the site visit questions. What I have here, and I'll pass this around, what would be abstracted from the case record form is who are the members of the household, their relationships to each other. It's important to understand just, you know, who is in the household and who is the person that is the applicant for FDPIR. And, as we heard earlier, there's large households with extended families, and so this helps to get a sense of just who is relying on FDPIR as, you know, one of their sources of nutrition. Then, understanding about income sources and then understanding a bit about, you know, whether there are students in the household and if there's any financial aid.

So this is the kind of information that FDPIR collects to determine eligibility. We would just be going and abstracting this information so that we can develop that portrait of the 800 or so participants in the study based on the 25 tribes. So I'll share that with you. It's important to note that there's no personally identifiable information on that form, so we won't be collecting any of that information.

How are you going to determine households (inaudible) depending on how many people are actually (inaudible), how are you actually going to get a wide range of (inaudible)?

We're actually going to sample. Go to do a random sample of participants. We thought about stratifying it, but it wasn't really going to work. So what we will be doing is using the household issuing history report that is produced through the AIS system, and this is kind of the best case scenario, but we might have to work with each tribe individually to develop the sampling frame. But just envision that the household issuance report indicates all of the households that are participating in FDPIR, and we will randomly select from that list 30 or 40 to draw information from. Yes?

That information that we can print out about households from AIS, it doesn't say anything about the relationships to (inaudible) in household (inaudible).

Right.

So certifiers are the ones that know the samples, or, you know, sometimes there will be different (inaudible) social service (inaudible). My program is fairly large and we don't actually, literally know all the families and what their situation is, and so we do have to interview them. But (inaudible) together and then three staff people later, they have -- what I'm leaning towards is it's going to be really hard to gather that information. (Inaudible).

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Do you use an eligibility form?

The eligibility form doesn't say relationship to the head of household in any way, shape, or form. It just state the date of birth and (inaudible).

Okay. In that case, I think there will be kind of case-by-case scenarios that we have to work through, but in that case maybe we wouldn't do the case record review if your ITP –

Wait, that's not ITO, that's the way AIS does it. There's nothing to enter.

But the AIS system and the household issuance report would just provide this sample – the sampling frame. It's just a list of who the participants are.

So you're saying in some programs they have the relationship between the household members on that form?

It's in the case eligibility worksheet, the first initial piece of documentation for determining eligibility into the FDPIR program, and that's –

(inaudible).

Huh?

It's not required to have it (Inaudible) relationships in the household can be wide and varied.

So maybe we need to talk to you more about that, because there might be differences that we have to work out on a case-by-case basis. But the idea was to then get the list of all participating households and then randomly select from them to get a group of participant case files that could then be pulled by each ITO, and then from that written record then have a couple of staff from NORC come in and just do a data abstraction with the fields that are on that form that are circulating, and so that we just collect that information. And we were thinking, depending on how many records we would look at, it could take -- I don't know -- a day, two hours. It might take two days, because in some of the larger tribes, like the Navajo, we'd increase the sample size slightly so that we get full representation, so it might take longer to do that. It might take a little longer to go to sites that have citizens in multiple locations. So we would work through that process with you. But it means, then, on our part, coming in and kind of sitting quietly in an office and just kind of, you know, pulling in this information.

The income information (inaudible) relationship to (inaudible) –

Just have head of household and then everybody else comes –

(Inaudible). Is there a border that (inaudible).

If it's not in your case file, we also have a piece in the survey that captures household composition, so that's kind of the backup plan we have in place. The records that are selected – the sample that's selected for the case record review will be the same sample of people that are selected for the participant survey. So they'll be the same people, but the information will be obtained in two different ways, one from the case records and the other from people themselves. And in order to draw the sample, we would work with you to do that. We can provide guidance about that. If, for instance, there's a list, we can provide guidance from our statisticians about, you know, doing this randomly and starting here, and then going through every 10th or 11th person on the list to get a list of 30 or 40 people. So we can look for you in that census.

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Are you going to randomly poll these case files and check them, and are you going to review these people (inaudible)?

At a later time. We would –

I'm saying that because a lot of the Indian communities that I know, the census thing, they are very protective of their livelihood, and they don't want to give out a lot of information about their households, you know. It could cause a problem. That's what I see.

Well that's something that we then need to talk with you about, because we see that we would need to have the tribe's permission to do the case record process.

It's more or less the people, the people's agreement in the tribe.

And we might need to work out a method where people then – we ask permission to review the case record review.

Yeah, okay. So you're going to ask first before you pull the files?

Yes, we'll –

Is that what you're saying? Okay.

Uh-huh.

You'd have our input first? You would have input first? I'm talking about the case file.

Yes, first program input, and then – because that person would be – their case file information would be reviewed and then they would be asked to participate in the survey. We have to work out a method where we can get permission for both parts of it. And I think in some places it might work out a little differently where the tribe might be able to say "We give permission for the case record part of it, but for the participant survey, permission needs to come from the individual, him or herself." So there's different scenarios that we need to work through, and it will become, I think, a bit complicated. But it's an important part of that whole obtaining permission. We just need to find out the right way to do it with you.

I've just got one more comment.

Yes.

I think defining household by what's just generally understood as the composition in the household (inaudible) because our extended families can be extended beyond extended, just, you know, a real distant relative (inaudible), you know, it's not always really clear, sometimes that information is not something people want out there.

And mine is as long as they reside within the reservation boundaries, everybody of every nationality is eligible for my program, so it's not just natives. There's black and Asian and Caucasian and Hispanic and all of that, so.

Colville.

Yeah, lots of Colvilles, some Warm Springers, melting pot here.

In Washington you've got the werewolves.

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I have over 6,000 participants within my program, I have several warehouses scattered throughout Navajo Nation in the south. Does that mean – or how is the sampling or the files are going to be extractable? Is it going to be per (inaudible) house throughout Navajo or, or is it going to be evenly –

That's something that we need to talk with you about to work out, you know, to understand better how your program operates, how various components are distributed, where people reside in terms of the kind of distribution point. For instance, when we spoke with the Chickasaw Nation last week, we learned that they have four distribution sites. So what we would do is pull a sample from each of those sites so that we can capture at least a bit of the participation across their main distribution sites. So that's something that we need to work out with you so that we have full representation of participation within the Navajo Nation.

But, you see, we're working with very, very large tribes, and in some cases very small tribes, so both in terms of the logistics of doing this and the science of doing it, it will involve a lot of kind of discussion and really figuring out the best approach. And so we have a team of people that, you know, can help with both the statistical part of that, but then also people that will help, you know, with getting this done in, you know, a practical, non-burdensome way. But this is a good example of the kinds of questions that we will be working out with you through the outreach process.

Before we move on I just wanted to make sure that the household issue was – that you were comfortable with that as well, because I think it's definitely a key piece of information. It would impact program decisions and certainly tells a lot when you're talking about the benefits. And so, you know, when I hear you all say there are issues with sharing that kind of information for a variety of reasons, is there enough of a resolution as how to get at it, or is that something that you don't feel is critical to the information collecting (inaudible)?

No, in terms of developing the demographic profile, it is quite important to understand household composition. I think we might be able to – if there are kind of gaps in the data that result, if we can find out what the size of the households are that the FDPIR is supporting that's a really key piece of information. It may not be as important at a descriptive level to know who exactly are all of the members of the household; however it would be very important to know how many children are being served by the program and how many elders are being served by the program. It would be important to know if the program is serving single males, veterans. So I think that being able to understand the composition and, you know, who is in that household, is it a person or is it a household of 12 people across three or four generations is important to know.

I think the question concerned that we've heard is sharing that information, and I think that if there's concerns about the kinds of information that we obtained, it's important to get, you know, people to voice that so that we can either identify an alternate strategy or perhaps, you know, help people understand why it's important. And that's why both our conversations with you, but then also our conversations in the community are important.

I'm sorry, this is my first meeting to hear what's going on with the food program. I was just wondering – my question for myself would be what's the purpose of the study?

(inaudible).

Okay, can I turn that over?–

Sure, the last time we did a study like this was in 1990, 22 years ago, and we know that there's been a lot of improvements done to the program in the course of those 20 years.

Like better quality and quantity or
It's all of that.

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Are you guys moving away from it and trying to --

No, absolutely not. No, no, absolutely not. It's to continue on that same path of finding ways for us to make better decisions about the program, how we can improve the program. And we need to understand FDPIR a little bit better based on some of the different things that we're hearing the research team talk about to help us answer those questions.

I was just wondering, is there going to be any other organizations or peoples out that you are serving other than the tribes?

(Inaudible).

No? Okay, that's one of the reasons why I was wondering why (inaudible) to see where you guys are going with it (inaudible). Is the government mandated to provide that service?

But the idea is learn more about it and the needs and key improvements.

You really make the FDPIR program (inaudible).

[Cross talking]

I have two bits on something related to that question, which I've said at the other meeting, which is I think there's a bunch of different kinds of stakeholders with interests in this study. And so one of them are ultimately are the participants in the program, and another are the people who operate the program. And then you get the funders of the program with -- to make up this congress, then you get policy (inaudible) and people like that who want to understand. And so I think of this hypothetical question if somebody comes along and says what's the budget for USDA and what's the budget for FNS, and what is this FDPIR, and why does FDPIR exist. And you start to get answers, and somebody says, "How do you know what these answers are? Have you ever really looked? And the answer is, "Yeah, we did this study 20 years ago," that starts to sound pretty stale.

And the other thing is, although it's an important context as a benchmark to look at it, one of the things that I say is that, you know, we have congressional elections every two years. We just had one for a president that's reelected, but there's a lot of people taking office that are newbies who don't have a clue, and some of them don't even have a clue about American Indians, that there's no reservations in their state. And they say, "We've got SNAP, what's FDPIR for? Who are Indians?" These questions come up in the staff, you know, why do they have FDPIR and why do they have these other programs. And so this study intends, this goal of it, in part, is to provide answers, empirical-based answers of a good study to all of those stakeholders. And it's a big effort. It takes a lot of effort on your part. And one of the things I think we're trying to say in these consultations is the results should be of benefit to you directly and indirectly, to the stakeholders (inaudible).

Are there any other questions? I'm just going to say a few more things about the case record review piece. The household competition part is on the first page of the survey instrument.

So where are we? (Inaudible).

We're still on slide 30, but the question came up about household competition. In the case record template that's one way to obtain the information, and that's a way to, in a more unobtrusive manner, just abstract the information from a (inaudible). The other way to obtain that kind of information is also from the what's referred to as the household remuneration in the survey instrument itself, and this is where you just get a list of all the persons are in the household, the relationships to each other, information about

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age and gender, and just some more information about perhaps their educational status and things like that, employment. So if we don't obtain the information from the case record review, there's also a need to do the survey. And before the survey can begin, the respondent would provide informed consent. So we would also hope that you make information about what the content of the survey is available in your community so people are informed about the kinds of questions that will be asked.

That's a really important thing for you to look at when you can, too, because we've come up with what we think makes sense, but you may say, "Oh, this isn't the right way to ask it. If you ask this, you'll either get the wrong information or you'll get people to close up and not want to talk." So think where you can say, "Oh, these questions aren't, but I can see these three, nobody's going to answer that." You know, it's really helpful for us to get that kind of feedback, so take a look at that as well.

So just a few more possible scenarios about doing a case record review, in kind of thinking through how this would occur, we provide on the model that the program officers use in doing the – and I forget what the right term is – for doing the review of the –

Management evaluation.

Yes, doing the management evaluation where some go on site to, you know, do this case review process, but then others might have this information available electronically, and it could be shared in a secure manner so that the information is just kind of zipped up in a secure file and sent over to FNS, for example, for analysis. But then a similar method could be used to send it back fast. And if you do have electronic files available with this information, we can work out to do that. I'd like to add in that regard that we operate with very, very secure data systems and that we observe very high standards for data security, and each person on the study team, all of us, have taken an oath of confidentiality about the information that we have. We respect very high standards for doing ethical and secure research.

Another method of doing this, but perhaps not our one, is to, once the case records are identified which households would be the ones the information would be abstracted from is to redact information; name, social security numbers, things like that, and then copy them, send them, like, through FedEx, and send them to our offices. I think that's the least preferred method. It means imposing a burden on the tribes to do that at the outset, and the whole goal on our part is to minimize doing any of that, so that would be just one alternative. But if you prefer to do that, we can work with you, and we would reimburse you for the expenses incurred in doing that and pay for the shipment. So that, I think, describes the case record process. I think we'll get into more of that as we begin outreach.

I'm going to turn now to the participant sample. And, as I said earlier, the sample that's drawn for the case record review, the same people will then be participants in the survey. So you'll be getting information about the case records but then hearing from them in the survey. So it would basically come from that list of the households that have been identified. And one thing to keep in mind is that there will be a reference month that is identified for when the data collection would occur. So it would involve all people involved in the program in the month of June, 2013, for instance, because we know that participation can change from month to month as well.

We'd identify a month that we would be working towards and get the list of participants, and then once we have that, then we would need mailing addresses only for the participants identified. We wouldn't need their name because they would get a letter saying, "You've been identified, you know, randomly selected to participate in a survey about food distribution program. Your tribal leaders are aware of it and might have heard about it through other community channels." That letter would indicate how someone could respond to the survey, either by calling an 800 number or by having someone come to do an in-person visit.

It would also describe the incentive that would be provided as a thank you for their time. And what we have proposed is to provide \$25 incentive to the survey participant, and typically the incentives are

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provided in the form of a gift card. And one of the conversations we typically have is, you know, what's the best place to – you know, should it be the local convenience store, could it be a gas counter, could it be a big box store nearby, what makes sense, is it, like, the Visa card that they can draw down from, because it's important that we work with you to provide an incentive that's meaningful and practical. So you don't want to give people a Wal-Mart card if Wal-Mart's 100 miles away, so just working through some of those practical things.

And, actually, I've kind of jumped ahead a little bit to slide 30. But we will be sending the study participants' brochure in that letter that describes simply what to expect. This is done for any study. It indicates the purpose of the study, who's the study sponsor at FNS, who the study team is, and would answer such questions as why did you select me, what's the importance of the study, will my information be held privately, what's the benefit to me or my community for doing this. So it's a list of questions that we would provide responses to, and we actually have one under development. And if it needs to be more tailored for your community, we can do that. If there's certain things you don't want to see on it or questions that you want answered and that you want to make sure that your community is informed about, we can do that. So we can tailor those materials to your community.

Then, there's two scenarios typically in doing this kind of survey, where someone gets a letter and says I want to participate, and there's an 800 number that they can call into and there's somebody at the other end that will ask the questions about the survey. Then there's the scenario where somebody takes a little bit of time to decide whether or not they want to participate, and then there's another scenario where somebody just decides they don't want to at all. So what we typically do is over-sample so that we make sure that we send out enough letters so that we get back at least an 80% response rate so that the results are meaningful and well-representative.

In some cases, it might mean that somebody just needs a bit more time to think about it, and so, you know, we're prepared to wait, we're also prepared to come into the community to have a field interviewer who would establish a presence onsite and be known to the community. So this is where the field interviewer that I described earlier would perhaps be a member of the tribal community or a neighboring tribe and then come in and before the study starts come in and meet with the FDPIR program or other tribal leaders, introduce him or herself so that you know who the person is, and then also come around every once in a while so they're not some complete random stranger who's collecting this information, so that if you have distribution occur once a month in a particular site perhaps that person could come by and just, you know, be there to let people know that he or she is the person that is doing the survey and that, you know, people can see who that person is just begin to feel a little bit more comfortable that it's a familiar, accepted person in their community.

So if there are ways that you wish to have that interviewer become more of a presence in your community, then we can work with you in that way. But those were some of the kind of basic ways we thought that presence could be established so that has greater community acceptance to do the study and that helps to build cooperation. In some cases, interviews are done in-person in somebody's home or in a kind of neutral place, and so we can work with you about how that might occur. So we take these on a kind of community-by-community basis. Some people are very comfortable with having someone come in to sit down and talk with you. Other people aren't, and so we'll prepared to address that as well. Let's see, any questions about that component?

(inaudible) mail out letters (inaudible) but I just fear that if (inaudible). They don't deliver mail that far. (inaudible) that's really what outreach is going to do. So for each tribe that will be (inaudible) to what works for them, I think that's absolutely right. In some places it might be that, you know, FDPIR has a little space in their warehouses where the interview can sit and people could come there, you know, because they don't want people coming to their house or they're only getting in their to pick up food once a month, so it's just more convenient. You know, whatever can be worked out.

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The study is geared to participants, the majority of it, and is there going to be sections in there about what the program wants to change? Is that coming up next or?

Yeah, that's coming up. Stay tuned. There's a lot to explain, so we wanted to make sure that each component of it was fully covered. But Walter will be addressing site visits with programs next. So we're hoping that the person that's identified to serve as the field interviewer becomes someone who's known to the community and that we can work with you to identify perhaps spaces where someone could come to take part in an interview. We've even thought about, you know, providing a cell phone that, you know, could be held within the FDPIR office so that somebody could come if they don't have a phone to respond to the survey. So we're trying to work through different scenarios about how to be in cooperation for the study, but minimize the burden on participants, and do it in a way that provides the least burden on FDPIR.

We also want to say that in a number of studies, in recognizing that the studies impose burdens on programs, there's a site visit payment that's provided, and what we have proposed is to – and certainly not cover amount of I guess the extent of time that's involved in doing this, but we did propose in our budget to FNS that each tribe receive \$100 site visit payment that they can perhaps supply to, like, an emergency food fund or something just to provide some compensation back to the tribe to recognize the effort that it takes to do that. So that's another area we need to work through, how that payment goes to you, because we do recognize that. It involves a lot of work and we want to be respectful of that.

I have one more slide and then we'll get to site visits, but I did want to go over things in the survey. We have a couple of sections from the survey, so we're going to pass that around. But we envisioning that the survey itself will take 30 to 45 minutes, but there's lots of topics to cover. And some key areas are understanding the extent of participation in other nutrition assistance programs -- I'm on slide 33 -- understanding access to stores and different food markets, understanding more about facilities for storing and preparing food, hearing from program participants about their perceptions of FDPIR, what's working, what could work better, and then also understanding the (inaudible) switching back and forth between FDPIR and SNAP. And now having just given all of those sheets away, I don't know what it starts with.

(Inaudible).

Thank you. Okay, so this survey is on FNS' website, but we just pulled out a few pieces of it in response to some concerns that were raised earlier. Under Section D, one of the areas that will be explored is understanding access to food, understanding food desert, just how difficult is it for people to access it. So where is the nearest food store, the nearest grocery store, the nearest convenience store, the nearest big department store such as Target, just understanding where the food resources are in that community and how difficult or not it is to live there. Then, understanding to what degree a household spends on their food expenses; that's question three. Understanding, for instance, for those communities that rely on subsistence, you know, understanding if there's a difference in food stores' supplies at different times of the year. So, you know, if food is obtained through hunting, through gaming, through gathering activities, how much does that contribute and does that, you know, vary seasonally, and might that explain some of the differences in FDPIR patients.

Section E concerns participation in food stamps and SNAP, and that takes up three pages. And what we would be doing with the participants is understanding, looking back over the previous year, you know, whether or not someone participated in FDPIR and then switched to SNAP and went back and forth. And if you look at question E3, here are some of the reasons that we have so far learned from previous research as to why someone might have changed from FDPIR to SNAP, and much of this was informed from the previous research on FDPIR that both Nancy and Walter conducted. They did very extensive focus groups with participants, and one of the questions they raised was about, you know, switching behavior. And we were able to go back to that previous study and learn a bit about, you know, reasons why people might switch. And it could involve household composition changes. It could be because someone participates in tennis and there's environment or encouragement to sign up for SNAP. It could

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be because people's available time someone might have to prepare food (inaudible) is greater than in another. So if kids are out of school in the summer, it might be easier for the household to rely on convenience foods that they can get through SNAP. So here are a list of reasons for switching, and we hope to get a better understanding of that.

On the next page, the inverse, understanding why people might have changed from SNAP to FDPIR, and it could relate to these related to eligibility. It could be because someone doesn't like the SNAP program. It could be because the SNAP program's too far away, their certification process might be burdensome. And so we just explore what some of those reasons are as well.

After all of these, you know, when you look it over, if you see either reasons that we've missed or that didn't quite work, frankly, enough, you know, suggestions definitely are welcome.

And another thing to take note of is that at the bottom of each item you'll see the source of the question, and it will either refer to whether it was a question that was developed specifically for this project or whether it comes from a different survey or a different measure. So there's other national surveys that are done about food access and security, and so we've pulled those in from different studies; for instance, related to the SNAP program or the WIC program, or other health surveys. They're also in the instrument questions that pertain to food sovereignty that were tribally-driven surveys. So I just wanted to draw your attention to that.

Another section addresses nutrition education and other services in the community to get a better understanding of how people are learning about healthy eating and cooking and things, different activities that help support FDPIR and which we know that your programs engage in, so getting an understanding of that, then learning about whether FDPIR programs are also held in conjunction with other fitness or health classes (inaudible). If it is, you know, what's good about it, you know, are there any barriers to participation that would be important for others to hear about, make changes.

Let's see, let's look at section G, "Satisfaction with FDPIR." Understanding that the households most important reason (inaudible) assistance, and then understanding more about, you know, their satisfaction with what they're receiving in terms of the quality of the food, the nutritional value, the taste of the food, the visual appeal of the food. So, for instance, we heard today a concern about the lack of butter as part of the food package, you know, we envision that that might surface here. Are community is receiving the traditional foods that they wish to have. There's a question, G5, 31, satisfaction about different components of the program. So the application process, certification, the location of the distribution, whether they're pleased with the facility, where they're getting their food from, their interactions with program staff, the nutrition education offering, and other factors that somebody might identify.

Looking over to page 33 under questions G7 and G8, asking the participant if you could tell the federal government something about how to do this program or what your concerns are or anything, what would that be; and then, again, what would you like to tell your tribal leaders about the FDPIR program. So those are examples of very open-ended questions where we would learn from participants about what their thoughts are about FDPIR. And very often you find some questions on the list that it's kind of like when you go into a store and, you know, you lodge a complaint, just basically people either indicating that they appreciate the program very much and they need to see it in their community, or people saying, "Well, I was just a little concerned about it and I just want to make it noted." So this would be a way to capture those kinds of participant voices and take it (inaudible). And we thought it was important to do it at two levels, so at the tribal and at the federal level because I think there's different concerns can be raised and I think (inaudible) to different leaders in different ways, so we wanted to make sure we covered that.

Thanks. Two things, when you look at these you'll notice sometimes where it says the question comes from and it mentions "Usher 1990," so that is the last national study that we have of FDPIR. And so we tried to keep some questions the same so that one could actually do a comparison between what was

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found back in 1990 and currently. That's one thing. The other thing, for those who are not that into surveys, you'll see a number of places where it says, "Can respondents show for it." So what that is is that the interviewer has, like, a little, you know, index card or something like that lists all of those choices that you see listed here so that it means the interviewer does not have to read, "A means loss of job, B means, da da da," you know, and by the end of the list you can't remember what they said to start with. So this way it's on a card that they can hand to the respondents to look at all the choices and decide what's the best choice. But I just want to let you know, that's what that means when it says "show for."

Thank you, that's a very important point.

Now with the survey also -- and I know the survey's geared towards the clients and the participants, but do you have anything, say, towards directors?

That's coming up.

Okay.

So just to summarize here, the survey addresses participant and household characteristics. It addresses FDPIR contribution to the food supply. It addresses access to FDPIR distribution and (inaudible). Then it addresses food access and cost, and switching between FDPIR and SNAP. Then it goes into the nutrition and education, and then the satisfaction piece. And then at the very end there's a piece called "Ending the Interview," and this is where the respondent receives the incentive, but also where some personal information needs to be obtained, a phone number to re-contact that person as the responses to the interview (inaudible). And what that process involves is once this paper -- the survey is sent back to the process office in Chicago, there's just a random number of, like, 10% of the surveys are then validated by the program staff there to ensure that this interview actually occurred, that these responses are accurate, because we need to protect the integrity of the survey process to ensure that the information is not, you know, made up and that it is a bona fide survey respondent. So that information is obtained at the interview, and that person may or may not be re-contacted by NORC to just validate the interview.

This last page of the interview and the first page, where the informed consent process takes place and where these pieces of the interviews are separated from each other, so that you have someone back at date of processing office who sits there with the paper survey and just enters the responses to each item without having any knowledge of who the respondent is. So the information at the front and the information at the back is removed and placed -- you know, stored securely elsewhere. So I just wanted to ensure you about the way that the data is handled and the way that people's personal information is not part of the responses to the survey.

I just want to say one more thing about the informed consent. Before an interview begins there's the conversation about making sure that the person understands the purpose and the intent of the survey, and the informed consent is to be conducted that someone reads aloud and the other person, the respondent, reads the actual informed consent form at the same time. There's typically a dialogue about do you have any questions, do you understand the purpose of this. And then once that person agrees, then the interview can begin. In some cases, someone might not feel comfortable responding to the survey, but wants to participate, so they might offer up, you know, someone else. So it could be a case of an elder who says, "I would prefer my daughter respond for me." So then we have to go through informed consent with the proxy.

(inaudible) really can't read very well?

And in that case we would need to provide other materials to do that and make sure that the statement is read to them and read slowly and carefully, and that after each component is addressed that there's full understanding. So --

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(inaudible). You want vegetables (inaudible). People like (inaudible) I can't read.

Exactly, yeah. So we would be sensitive to that and talk more with you about that.

What is the deadline for sending back the comments for this survey? Is there a deadline?

Well it would be best for us if we could get the comments by early January, because then we could incorporate it in our next revision that we're sending to Office of Management and Budget. It will be sitting and going through review there several months, and it will be a period of, I think, 60 days of public comment after that.

Are those available on the website?

Uh-huh, the complete ones because this is just an excerpt.

(Inaudible).

Just a quick reminder, we're going to be sending out the actual three documents directly to you (inaudible).

[CROSS-TALKING]

Yeah.

Because just (inaudible) doesn't mean that we don't have good ideas, too.

Absolutely, right. So we'll be providing it to you as well.

I just wanted to throw out a question, this was much more about what's in the survey, but I'm curious myself maybe because where we sit. Do your communities, in terms of changing behaviors from ten years ago, do your community participants do online purchasing, and in terms of (inaudible) lots of these questions really talk about area purchasing – you know, purchasing with the area, but if you, you know, look at literature. And, again, I'm asking because I don't know if it's appropriate for your communities, but there's been a huge shift of purchasing behaviors not within areas, and so are we missing a whole set of access points –

Through the groceries online or something like that?

Yeah.

We don't have that kind of service where I live.

I don't either.

(inaudible) areas (inaudible).

But not the stores themselves. So, Amazon, for example. I mean, you could – virtually, you can get anything. I just don't know if that's the pattern of the community (inaudible).

(inaudible)

We don't even have a computer store, a show store, a men's clothing store in my town, we don't have it. (inaudible) 25 miles down the road.

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So your question is does the client have the opportunity to go online and order their food through the computer?

I think the focus of this is – some of these questions is access to food, and the questions really talk about area access. And, you know, in the global environment that we live in, is there extended access beyond, you know, where people – exactly what she's talking about, where people can walk to or get to. And I don't know whether it's relevant, but maybe it's worth exploring, and I'm just asking if that's the culture within your community. Certainly, here, you know, in Silicon Valley, people don't move from their homes, they order everything online, including food, including dinner.

No, they have to physically get in their car and drive down to where we're at.

If they have a car.

If they have a car.

Yeah, I guess –

And that's why we have tailgating. In some cases, some of us have tailgating. Some of us have (inaudible).

(inaudible) their food on a bicycle.

Or you just have a small tailgating, but at least you're going an hour away from town to deliver to those people.

Yeah, I wasn't talking, again, to – they made a point about asking about not FDPIR food, they're talking about everything else, other behavior, outside of –

No, they only have Safeway at our – in our town, to go to if they're going to shop in our town, you know, for food. But they do have access to Yakima, which is about 80,000 people in it. But, once again, if they don't have a car to drive to (inaudible), then they probably don't have a car. And we do have a community connector now, we have five buses, we're down to one. So if (inaudible) reservation, not off reservation.

I think that answers that.

Because it's not about transportation, it's about somebody else delivering, so you don't need a car.

[CROSS-TALKING]

(inaudible) don't have computers.

(inaudible)

Some do, of course, but not (inaudible).

(inaudible) digital world (inaudible).

I was going to (inaudible). It's sort of ridiculous for (inaudible) to have the question that you ask (inaudible). I mean, to a large extent, the reason the FDPIR exists is because if you participated in SNAP you couldn't use that capability because you'd have to go a long way, and the nearest store might be 80, 90 miles away. And conversely, those stores are generally not interested in carting through 90 miles to

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make purchase (inaudible) buying online. Now, having said that, in the Seattle area – so, for example, even in Navajo, in Navajo there are portions of the reservation where it occupies three states, right, some of them are relatively (inaudible), for example, so it's conceivable – what you're talking about is an interesting question to ask. You know, so one part, it would be easy to dismiss and say, well, it's outside of the domain, but I believe as the future goes there will be more and more of what you're describing, there will be more an alternative for food acquisition available in Indian Country. Because an ever-increasing number of enrolled tribal members reside in counties that are contiguous to the reservation here and near urban areas, so I think that will be something that's emerge and it's not too late for us to think about that. But you can see why we didn't think about it right now.

Well, I drove through Yuma from San Diego and saw – while I saw lots of border patrol people going (inaudible), I also saw, you know, UPS delivery trucks, and that really answers – you know, so if you're talking about change from, you know, ten years ago until now, that's a significant change. And what does that mean about the now and the future?

(inaudible) I'm not sure what agency they got it from, a certain amount of dollars to bring tribes in the San Diego area (inaudible) with computers, technology (inaudible).

Maybe I got a skewed view of –

I think we're probably going to steal that idea and think about looking to the (inaudible).

Yeah.

(inaudible)

So I just want to thank you very much for your patience in absorbing all of this information. I know it's a lot to take in. But, as Barbara said, all of this is available on the website so that you can work through looking at the survey, in particular, at another time and get back to us about any kind of changes that might need to be made. But then also to know that our staff at NORC and the rest of the study team is very committed to working with you to ensure that this is done in a way that is respectful, non-burdensome, and done in a way that gets the information that is necessary that it improves and informs the future of the FDPIR program. So thanks for listening. And I'll be in touch with you all at some point in the next month or so after the next consultation. I just want to thank you again.

And Walter's ready to talk about site visits. The question is do we want to take a little break first?

A minute?

That's the last thing we're going to cover is the site visit.

Plenty of food, so.

And please eat more.

I want to just blurt out as we're leaving, so the documents that are available on the website, they're in Acrobat format, right?

Yes.

And that has a virtue, if you want to search, if you use Acrobat, you're not having to plow through everything, if you wanted to search for certain terms or something like that, that's (inaudible). Okay, break time.

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Okay.

[Break]

03:19:51

Okay, ready to be (inaudible) I think to talk about the last component, site visits. I think Walter's going to read us through that part of the presentation.

Okay, come on, Judy. Come on back. You don't want to miss the best part. Okay, so here's the deal. So I'm Walter Hildebrand [ph]. I work at (inaudible). And I wanted to congratulate all of you who are still standing with your eyes open because you've passed the research walk test, right. So, I mean what's happening here? How do you explain all this? And there's multiples. So one of them is you're at the precipice of interest here. People spend a long time in school trying to learn all this stuff that we're going by, and we've spent the last 20 or 30 years of our professional lives doing it, right. So we think it's all really exciting and interesting. So that's one explanation.

But the other one is so there's death by a thousand cuts. Do you think there's such a thing as death by consultation? And another thing that we have to balance is the forest and the trees. So we've had a lot of trees. You know, we have to step back and look at the forest just a little bit. But one of the functions of the earlier thing was something for the researchers, you know, you ought to have some sympathy for us, right. Well this is what we do for a living all the time, and so, so much for that. And the other thing is that we have to balance because the other expression is really true is the devil is in the details, right. So if we just talk at the hybrid levels of a thing you can't be assured that you have a sense of what we're doing. So that's why (inaudible) our presentation.

I think about the big picture so, you know, what's the whole enterprise about? One of the ultimate things that's going to be in the final report, you know, the report's going to say what is the FDPIR, who gets served, how does it work, what kind of problems has it confronted, how has it evolved, what improvements have been made over time, stuff like that. And the other thing, as you can already see, is I like sometimes talking about things that people maybe want to depress, you know. So why us, why are we doing this? Why doesn't USDA/FNS do it? Because they live and breathe this program and know a lot more about it than we will know when we're finished with the study. And one of the reasons for that is that we don't have a dog in the fight. We don't have an axe to grind, you know, so that when all these stakeholders that I talked about before are going to look at this kind of stuff, our only motivation is to do a good, holistic, complete job in an effective and efficient fashion. So I wanted to say that.

Oh, and then, okay, so now let's talk a little bit about site visits, which are slide number 34. So I hope that we've convinced you that before we do anything we communicate (inaudible), right. So we're going to be talking with the FDPIR director. Oh, here's another thing I think I left off final reports. Somebody's reading the final report and they say, "Yeah, you look at this census, and, yeah, maybe we get smarter when we look at the BIA (inaudible) data." And there's another good idea that I got earlier. So when we go to interview the staff, the FDPIR staff, we, in our consultation with the director of the program, we ought to ask and say, well, we're going to the staff and one of the things we might be alert for is that somebody says, "Well, you know, we had a guy who worked in our warehouse for 25 years and he retired, and the new person has only been there for three weeks, so you might want to talk to the older guy who's been there so much." (inaudible) we'll talk about.

But what I'm worried about is somebody says, "Okay, you did this report, you looked at census data, you looked at the BLS data, you talked to the participants, you looked at the participants data records, yeah, but did you ever go there?" And the answer is, "Well, yeah, of course we went there. We had to do that to do the participant interviews." And then somebody says, "Well, did you talk to the staff," which Keith has already asked has been brought up twice. And here's the part, "Yeah, we're going to talk to the staff." But we're not just going to talk to the staff. So one of the things that we want to do, we want to

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start a talk, and so we want to look at the chief executive level so the tribal chairmen or chairwomen or whatever, or their designee to get their perspective at that level, their perspective of the FDPIR program and its role and the panopoly of tribal services and operations, so to do the talking that.

What was that word that you just used?

Panopoly?

Yeah.

Yeah, the full range.

Congratulations, you mentioned a word I never heard of. That's hard to do.

Especially when I'm (inaudible). Okay, and so the site visits, we want to be able to say we've been there, we've done that, we got the doggie bag, so could you be able to actually have a discussion about what are the characteristics of the sites. But we're going to do that in careful (inaudible). So if you notice, this is slide 35, this is (inaudible). There's some negotiation (inaudible). Sometimes they'll say, "Yeah, talk to the tribal council." (Inaudible). Don't bother with them, you know, but we seek to conduct interviews with a tribal executive and tribal council. And then under the FDPIR program itself, obviously – by the way, that's one of the neat things in this meeting, we not only have program directors and managers, but we have -- at this consultation we have tribal executives too. And so then this won't be such a surprise to people when we do that. But we want to look at all the staff at FDPIR who are responsible for involvement, and that goes to interview. How do you do this, how does it work, what do you like about the system? Now, Judy's already said something that was interesting to us, which is she says, in some ways the program – my impression is it's provided free by USDA, the system that you use for enrollment.

There's no choice.

It's not only provided free, but you are required to use it. Anyway, what I thought I heard her say earlier was there's some good parts about it, but there's some other things, there's some capabilities that it lacks that might be valuable to –

It's good for the program, for issuing food, and for keeping our (inaudible) management (inaudible) it's fine. But for addressing data we're lacking.

That's what I'm trying to say.

(inaudible) and there is a wealth of information in there that would be wonderful if we could sort by and run a report on age groups and, you know, whether they live within the res or within the vicinity, those kinds of things, how many people from this tribe actually live off that reservation. We can't do that with it. It's not set up to be flexible that way. It's set up to deliver food and to keep the files together, and that's it, which is fine.

So my point is is we'll be interviewing – I'm 99% -- 95% sure what values going to be in this study because of what was said earlier is that the largest programs are going to be – how many is it, the tenth largest?

Sixth.

The sixth largest programs that are almost a certainty (inaudible). Anyway, my boring point is that the staff interviews are going to elicit the kind of information that I think would be valuable to the report. And so we want to talk to the distribution. We're going to basically talk to everybody, including nutrition education, which may or may not be part of FDPIR. And so to look at the other groups, so we're going to

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go to IHS or the tribally-operated health program and talk to them about nutrition education and behavior modification for that matter. I believe that I think I can never speak for USDA, so everything I say – I can't even speak for the research team, but it's my view that USDA has increasingly, over time, gave more and more attention to the importance of nutrition to overall health and quality of life, as the same thing can be said of the AMA. Physicians have been kind of slow to get on this bandwagon, too. But, everybody, our consciousness is being raised and so we want to hear what IHS says about do they talk with you folks (inaudible) and how do you promote nutrition. And similarly, we want to go to WIC TANF, and they tell us to go someplace else besides them.

But our job is not to describe everything about FDA nutrition. Our focus is the FDPIR program, but we want to put it in a context. Just as an aside on that, there's a historical context. Dare I say – yeah, why not, I'm here. You know, one of the things that I learned when we did the other study -- you know, earlier, much smaller scale study was conducted in the last five years. Most Americans don't have a clue about the Indian households. And if they find out about – so how come Indians get free health care and Hispanics and African Americans and other minority groups don't get it?

Most people – even a lot of people in Indian Country don't know the answer. Part of the answer to that is the relationship between the United States of America and tribes is not an ethnic relationship. It's a government to government legal relationship, enshrined in the Constitution of the United States -- I believe it's started Section 8, Article 2 of the Constitution, reinforced by the Non-intercourse Act of 1790, which was right after the constitution. So the relationship's a political relationship, and that's why Indians get free health care through the – or run their own tribal health program with money from (inaudible) is because most of the treaties that the tribes signed with the United States of America involved about four things, right, cessation of hostilities, we stopped killing each other; a reserved area of land, which was supposed to be for the exclusive use -- supposed to be for the exclusive use of tribes; a health-care worker to make up for the germ warfare and the high mortality rate the tribal members suffered (inaudible) contact with Europeans; so somebody providing health, a doctor, a nurse; an education, oftentimes some kind of education person; and, in a lot of case, rations. So one of the things I learned in the prior study was there are at least some tribal people who advocate that FDPIR is not a discretionary program, that it's a requirement by treaties. I don't know if that will make it into their final report, but that's an interesting thing. When you only five things, you like to share.

Okay, so when we come to the site visits, we're going to interview all these people that I talked about. I can say, as a footnote, I just want to say this again, I'm just talking for me, not the research team and certainly not for USDA because I don't believe that's the official position of USDA. I'm just sharing what some tribal leaders say.

Okay, so another big thing we're going to do is have discussion groups. Even though we have the group of participants, we're going to work with FDPIR program to bring together a group of people that hopefully will consist of some people with current participants, some people who are former participants and they are using SNAP now, and people who are -- if we can get people who are eligible. You could be eligible with FDPIR who are not participating. And we sit around the table and we just ask people (inaudible) are you participating in the program, how long have you participated, why not, what do you like about it, what do you not like about it, and that's just another facet of information that overlaps to some degree what participants are (inaudible). But it's good to (inaudible).

And then we ask them (inaudible) what do they know about nutrition education, do they participate in it. So those would be those focus groups. Okay. And let's see what else we – oh, and then the final part of it, we really want to tour the facilities and see how do you do it. I remember vividly -- I have this amnesia for names, how can I remember people's names (inaudible) a lot of time (inaudible). Not only that, but we followed these big trucks that went to remote sites that then offloaded stuff that sometimes went to tailgates and some other circumstances. And so one of the things – if I'm remembering this right, the big truck would stop by the highway patrol on just a routine inspection to be sure that this great big truck, you know, with so many axels complies with state regulation. It was not focused on FDPIR. They're looking

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at all the trucks that went by in this random stop, you know. So it just gave us another insight into issues in distribution and the complexity of distribution. (inaudible) site visit (inaudible).

And so I could imagine the final report including some information like maps, showing some illustrative maps, showing certain (inaudible) the FDPIR programs. And Nancy keeps reminding me, what I loved about our other report is we had these individual sites, we had a lot of photographs showing because a picture really is worth at least a thousand words, of showing what the facilities were like. Since this is a national study, those kinds of photographs, there might be a few that might be illustrative purposes, but it won't be a complete little mini report of each site.

Like I said, this has to got to be the third time we've told you this because somebody's going to come back and say, "You came out to visit us, you talked to all of our staff, you talked to the tribal council and all these people, and you don't have – and what can I use on this for my program?" And the partial answer to that is it's not focused, the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. Everything done here, as we've random sampled to death so it will be representative of the whole big FDPIR program. So whatever nuggets that you can get out of your individual program for that. Okay, so are there any questions at this point? (Inaudible).

One thing to mention, in those files that we keep saying are up on the website (inaudible) copies of are also the site visit discussion guides and the questions that would be covered in the discussion groups with participants and non-participants. So you can look at those, too, see if you have some questions about that.

So can we still come? Can we still do this?

As a sample.

(Inaudible).

I know that you were being a little bit tongue-in-cheek, but I think maybe you were right on the mark when you saying about, you know, (inaudible) more educated people (inaudible) people that are out there in needs of service (inaudible) the regulations and the rulebooks and, you know, title this and title that. They do believe that they're entitled to this food because they're native people and the government basically screwed them forever, and, you know, it's something that they should have. A lot of times they don't understand what we tell them and they don't qualify, and they get upset. A lot of times there's distrust, even with some of the educated and sophisticated native people, you walk in and say, "We want to speak (inaudible)," "What are they trying to do to us now."

Yes, we've seen that.

So with that in mind when you're prefacing any of these documents that you're going to be printing out, I would really strongly recommend that you put (inaudible) part of it. What's in it for me in a basic – I can't say it any more basically than that. Let them know what's in it for them so that they don't have to be on the defensive. They will be anyway, but try to be as focused on that as possible because it is a reality, you know.

Can I say in response that one. I thought one of the many excellent things that Carol did in her presentation is I thought she did that to death. We really do get that.

Having the right language to say it in I think is important.

(Inaudible) and if we have specific, I guess, issues and all that, (inaudible) how are we supposed to get those across? I appreciate the survey here and (inaudible). If they don't, in fact, really answer (inaudible)

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provide solutions or just kind of glossing over, at what point can a tribe sort of really try and make some national changes. I mean I hope that's what the whole (inaudible).

(Inaudible).

Do you want to answer? So just to make sure I understand your question, is it after you review the actual documents and you have your tribal leadership has additional questions about what the study is at large and details within it?

Well, I guess maybe two things. So the food distribution program, you know, we are now part of the study. We're now included in it and participate, no doubt. But aside from that, there's the program and the specific concerns that we may have and issues that we have related to what maybe the tribes have (inaudible). We prefer to be in a setting of government to government, if that is consultation (inaudible).

Right, so that would be separate from the research teams. Yeah, it would be outside of it. It would be on that government-to-government relationship with USDA/FNS. And we have different – we have a few venues for that, you know, some are not as ideal. We do have quarterly sessions where we actively consult. They're, again, once a quarter. They are conference call-based. I'd be happy to share that information with you as well. But if you wanted more of a one-to-one consultation, then – and I don't believe we received one recently, but you could also submit that request on behalf of your leadership to consult with us, absolutely.

(Inaudible) my question relates to --

Can I just make another pass at that, because I want to be really clear?

Sure.

Let me try this. Questions about consultation we have almost zero voice on. That's a government-to-government thing, and we're just hired hands, the contractors. We have a commitment, we have a contract, and our commitment is to tell it as we learn it as best we can, and that's what our mission is. And so that's (inaudible).

I appreciate that. Just one other question on the recent MOU that was signed between USDA and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, I don't know if anybody knows.

I know a little bit about it. It wasn't with USDA-wide, it was with two specific USDA agencies, one is Rural Development and the other one is Natural Resources Conservation Services. I believe those are the two MOUs that I'm aware of directly with the BIA.

(inaudible) farm service.

Oh, that's right. You're right..

(inaudible) USDA.

At large?

Yeah.

Okay, I wasn't aware of that.

Maybe not at this point, but certainly tribes are –

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Interpreting it that way?

We're hoping to become sort of, yeah.

Okay. If I can, I'd like to follow-up on that just –

I don't want to take away from the sort of –

No. No. No, it's a good –

(inaudible)

Yeah, that's a great question, because I believe the premise under those three MOUs was to be able to engage more collaboratively with BIA, correct?

(Inaudible). I mean maybe for some tribes it would be BIA, but for self-governed tribes it would be directly with tribes.

Okay. And, again, my understanding was that it was with those three specific agencies, but let me go back and look and consult our travel affairs to make sure.

(Inaudible) the reason I bring it up, but I don't want to take away from what they –

(Inaudible).

Great question. Thank you.

So, quick, we'll just wrap up with the next steps here. Slide 39, so it's just best how to provide additional information. So you can e-mail tribal affairs at FNS/USDA. You can email any of us, our e-mails are on the very last slide in this packet. I know FNS has plans to send out copies of the instruments, so, in addition to the website, you'll actually be getting a copy. Expect to hear from us, someone on our team, to discuss the study and how to conduct it on your reservation starting some time later this winter. There will be a letter, an official letter from FNS, and then there will be further contact from us. And then that will start the process for getting you to actually come onsite to do the study at your program. FNS has a template letter that's included in the packet, it's just a sample. If that helps you to use it, please use it. If it doesn't and you already have some other procedure or a letter of your own that you use, that's fine too. So it's just there to be helpful. And we will be providing an update at the June Conference and the FDPIR. And we're hoping -- you know, things vary depending on Management and Budget, but we are hoping to begin our data collection in August. Anything else, Barbara?

I think you captured it all. I'll go ahead and include all of that in an email so that you all have that information, along with the contact information. We'll also send contact information (inaudible). Do you have a question?

Excuse me. Just a comment. And so the previous studies with the field offices, when you assign your study teams, are they going to go out on the tailgate distributions that the tribes do?

Most certainly, yeah. (Inaudible)

(Inaudible).

Follow-up on this, make sure to know whether –

(Inaudible).

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Thank god that we think (inaudible) data collection will be going on (inaudible) in fall, which in some places is still tough, but it beats January. But we really appreciate that point.

We've got eight inches on the ground right now (inaudible).

Any other questions or comments?

Okay.

Thank you so much. I really appreciate this. I think this will make a big difference in the FDPIR (inaudible) very, very valuable to help us in the program.

(Inaudible)

Thank you.

Thank you, everyone.

I look forward to visiting with you soon.