



A LISTENING SESSION FOR CHILD NUTRITION REAUTHORIZATION & TRIBAL NUTRITION

Dear Tribal Leaders and Stakeholders,

With Child Nutrition Reauthorization (the process by which Congress makes improvements to child nutrition programs) on the horizon, opportunities are arising to improve the Federal Child Nutrition Programs and the way they work in Indian Country. Join us for this listening session to provide us with your suggestions and feedback on potential improvements to Nutrition Programs in Schools and Child Care, to ensure that it is serving your communities.

Our listening session will begin with a short 10-minute presentation during which time we will share some of the issues and solutions we have identified through our work. The remainder of this hour-long session will be dedicated to listening to you, your questions, your concerns, and your ideas.

Q: What is Child Nutrition Reauthorization (CNR)?

A: Child Nutrition Reauthorization (CNR) is the process by which Congress makes improvements and updates to the Federal Child Nutrition Programs, which include the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), the School Breakfast Program (SBP), the Special Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). Normally passed every 5 years, the last CNR bill passed was the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010. Congress is set to take up CNR after the passage of the budget reconciliation and infrastructure packages, so now is our opportunity to advocate for changes and improvements to these programs to make them work for Tribal communities.

Some of the possible solutions we would like to present center around:



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Cross-Program Improvements

- Increase reimbursement rates for schools and childcare on Tribal lands
- Allow Tribes to administer programs themselves
- Meal pattern flexibility to include culturally relevant foods
- Farm to School grant funding for Tribal communities

National School Lunch Program & School Breakfast Program

- Categorical eligibility for all children enrolled and eligible to be enrolled in federally recognized Tribes
- Free breakfast and lunch to all students attending schools in Tribal communities
- Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program expansion

Summer Food Service Program

- Make Summer EBT program permanent
- Expand access to Summer EBT in Tribal Communities

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children

- Supporting current Tribal WIC sites/participants and making additional improvements

Child and Adult Care Food Program

- Meal reimbursement at the free rate for all children enrolled and eligible to be enrolled in federally recognized Tribes

As this is a listening session focused on your experience and knowledge as Tribal leaders, please see these possible policy solutions as jumping-off points. We are here to listen to you. If there is interest in doing so, we may make expand this session to a series of sessions, and we may launch a working group of Tribal leaders who are dedicated to reducing childhood hunger in their communities.

We hope that you will join us for this listening session taking place on Thursday, October 7th at 4 pm ET. To register for the event, please visit bit.ly/ChildCareListeningSession. Thank you to the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) and New Mexico Appleseed for co-sponsoring this event with the Intertribal Agriculture Council.

For any questions you have in the meantime, please email the IAC's Associate Director of Policy & Government Relations, Lexie Holden, at lexie@indianag.org.