

Appendix D4.1.
Federal Register 60-Day Notice FNS'
Response to Public Comment 1

From: White, Akua - FNS
To: [Hamdan, Samia - FNS](#)
Cc: [Skolmowski, Julie - FNS](#); [Molly Matthews-Ewald, PhD, MS](#); [Johnston, Janis - FNS](#); [White, Akua - FNS](#)
Subject: FDPIR Nutrition Paraprofessional Training Assessment - Response to Comments Submitted - 60-Day Notice
Date: Tuesday, November 1, 2016 12:33:11 PM

To: Samia Hamdan, MPH, RDN
Senior Nutritionist, Special Nutrition Programs
USDA Food and Nutrition Services Agency
77 W. Jackson Blvd.,
Suite 2000
Chicago, IL 60604
Email: Samia.Hamdan@fns.usda.gov
Telephone: 312-353-1902

Subject: U. S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS),
Food Distribution Division
Response to Comments:
60-Day Federal Register Notice of Intent to Collect
Information
FDPIR Nutrition Paraprofessional Training Assessment for Indian
Tribal Organizations (OMB Control Number: 0584—NEW)
Comment Period End Date September 19, 2016

Dear Ms. Hamdan:

We received the insightful comments developed by the Midwest Region Nutrition Advisory Committee (MWRNAC) on August 29. Thank you for the email submission of September 15, 2016. We agree that the points raised by the MWRNAC are helpful with finalizing the assessment questions and moving towards development of a pilot training project. We appreciate the expression of support for this project. Please see below for our responses to the concerns and issues raised by the committee.

- **COMMENT # 1:** How will the interviews be conducted? Onsite? By phone? Will gain more knowledge if interviews are done onsite.
RESPONSE: We recognize the value of onsite interviews; however, our plan is to conduct the interviews by telephone. The resources available to us at this time do not allow for onsite interviewing. Based on past experience with interviewing FDPIR staff by telephone, we expect to obtain good feedback.
- **COMMENT # 2:** Cooking skills – many clients, including single adults and young parents, do not know how to cook. This is one of the major issues impacting the program.
RESPONSE: Thank you for this insightful comment. This topic will be considered along with other topics identified by FDPIR stakeholders, directors, and staff during the assessment interview process.
- **COMMENT # 3:** Tribes would really like a certificate when completing the program – this increases their credibility. Can USDA offer a certificate of some kind to

paraprofessionals who complete the program?

RESPONSE: Should we move forward in implementing a paraprofessional program, we will consider providing a certificate of completion.

- **COMMENT # 4:** Need to consider special nutritional needs for elders.

RESPONSE: FNS agrees and will keep this in mind while developing nutrition topics for training.

- **COMMENT# 5:** Paraprofessionals should be from the Native community – they relate more to their own audience.

RESPONSE: We understand the importance of paraprofessionals having ties to their communities.

- **COMMENT# 6:** Utilize community colleges in paraprofessional training program, extension agencies

RESPONSE: We agree that utilizing the experience of well-established USDA nutrition paraprofessional programs such as Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension may make sense. Our intent is to take advantage of these resources as much as possible.

- **COMMENT # 7:** Consider recruitment – it's very hard to get people attend nutrition ed/cooking classes without an incentive.

RESPONSE: Thank you. We are aware that recruiting people to attend nutrition education classes may be challenging for some programs and will work on addressing this obstacle should we implement the paraprofessional project.

- **COMMENT # 8:** Consider technology –what are community members and paraprofessionals' comfort levels with technology? Is this a way to provide nutrition education to clients? Social media? Websites?

RESPONSE: The assessment interview questions include a query regarding preference for in-person, conference call, video conference, online training module, or combination of these formats.

- **COMMENT #9:** Consider the special demographics when doing the assessment – elders, single parents, single people, etc.

RESPONSE: This is a good point. We will consider an interview question that requests feedback on demographics.

Regards,

Akua White

Akua White, MS, RDN
Nutritionist
USDA, Food and Nutrition Service
Food Distribution Division

Nutrition Services and Access Branch
3101 Park Center Drive, Room 508
Alexandria, VA 22302-1500
(Voice) 703-305-1126
E-mail: Akua.White@fns.usda.gov



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