

# IMPROVE FOOD SECURITY AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY IN INDIAN COUNTRY

For centuries, diverse Native food systems nourished tribes and Native communities. Colonization and U.S. federal policies sought to break Indigenous peoples' connection to their land and disrupt their relationship with traditional foods and practices, leading to high rates of poverty and food insecurity and diet-related disease in Indigenous communities.

While about **one in four Native Americans participate in SNAP**, and many others participate in a commodity program called the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), many Indigenous people face hunger because the federal government bars tribes from administering critical nutrition programs like SNAP and school meals.

**Tribes and Indigenous communities want to address food insecurity on their own terms, and they need the resources and autonomy for a self-determined, food-secure future.**

The devastation of COVID-19 underscored the importance of the growing tribal food sovereignty movement, which aims to reclaim food systems, protect food traditions, and enable tribes to feed themselves in good times and bad.



## The Farm Bill should:

- ✓ Give tribal nations the option to self-administer SNAP, FDPIR, and The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) using Section 638 authority;
- ✓ Enable more Native-produced and culturally appropriate foods to be purchased as part of the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) and other federal commodity programs, and expand the traditional foods pilot program under FDPIR; and
- ✓ Allow participation in both SNAP and FDPIR at the same time.



NEARLY  
**25%**

of Indigenous communities are food insecure

**68%**

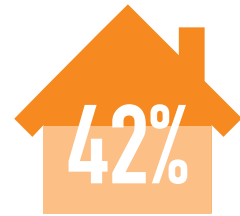
of American Indian and Alaska Native children qualify for free school lunch



THERE ARE OVER 60,000 FARMS WITH NATIVE AMERICAN OR ALASKA NATIVE PRODUCERS.



## FDPIR Households



include people over age 60



have children under the age of 18



**“I’m a descendant of Crazy Horse, and I live in a trailer on our ancestral land in Wounded Knee, raising seven grandchildren. I get food stamps — otherwise I couldn’t feed my family.”**

— Dorothy (Lakota)

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