



MEDIA ALERT

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Food Distribution for Tribal Elders Hosts Virtual Press Conference with Government Officials, Community Organizations and Academic Partners

Press conference will touch on several recent efforts to improve nutrition security of Tribal members and support Tribal agricultural and economic development.

Oneida, WI (August 11, 2021) – Government officials, community organizations and academic partners will be coming together virtually on August 13, 2021, to discuss the importance and impact of several recent efforts to improve nutrition security of Tribal members and support Tribal agricultural and economic development.

Through a partnership with Feeding Wisconsin, Intertribal Agriculture Council, WI DATCP, and many others, a cooperative pilot project launched that provides food boxes to 900 Tribal Elders via 12 distributions July through early December. The fresh, minimally processed produce and proteins included in the boxes are sourced through Indigenous and local Wisconsin producers. This effort is funded through a \$427,800 Feeding America National Regional Agricultural Food Distribution Grant.

In addition, Oneida and Menominee Nation's USDA Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) 638 Self-Determination Demonstration Joint Project proposal was awarded. This will allow for Tribal control in selecting local and regional Tribally grown foods to be purchased and included in FDPIR commodity distributions to Tribal Citizens. There were seven Tribal projects awarded nationally for this pilot program and \$497,800 was awarded to the Oneida and Menominee Nation for this joint project.

The virtual press conference will include comments from the below speakers.

WHO:

- Cristina Danforth, Oneida Nation Tribal Treasurer
- Chairman Gunner Peters, Menominee Nation
- Councilman Butch Bresette, Red Cliff
- Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes
- Gary Besaw, Menominee Nation
- Latashia Redhouse, Intertribal Ag Council

- Eric Ebersberger, DATCP Assistant Deputy Secretary
- Joe Van Alstine, Midwest Region FDPIR President
- Stephanie Dorfman, Feeding Wisconsin Executive Director
- Dean Daniel Tokaji, Law School/UW-Madison
- Sarah Lloyd, Wisconsin Food Hub Cooperative

WHAT:

- Virtual press conference via zoom

VISUALS:

- B-roll of Tribal elder food box distribution can be sampled here: <https://youtu.be/Q9iJqbJak2o>

WHEN: Friday, August 13 at 9 a.m.

WHERE: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85265263533>

For more information on the program, visit <https://www.feedingwi.org/programs/tribalfoodsecurity/>.

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