



Oglala Sioux Tribe

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Office of the President
Frank Star Comes Out

PRESS RELEASE

June 3, 2024

Oglala Sioux Tribe Awarded over \$15 Million from USDA for Food Sovereignty Initiative

(Pine Ridge, S.D.) The Oglala Sioux Tribe was awarded \$15,300,000.00 from United States Department of Agriculture pursuant to (CFDA#10.182, Local Food Purchase Assistance) for the Oglala Sioux Tribe Food Distribution Program.

The USDA Local Food Purchase Assistance initiative was spearheaded by President Frank Star Comes Out who was made aware of the grant after a visit with USDA officials in Washington DC. Upon returning, President Star Comes Out called a meeting with Oglala Sioux Tribe Program Directors, Courtney Two Lance, Dave Kelly and Jake Little who immediately completed the application within 3 days of the deadline.

The Notice of Award was presented and accepted by President Frank Star Comes Out on March 18, 2024 with the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). The Local Food Purchase Assistance Program period of performance with the Oglala Sioux Tribe will be for 2 years beginning March 18, 2024 through March 27, 2026 to maintain and improve food and agricultural supply chain resilience.

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/selling-food-to-usda/lfpacap/plus/signed-agreements/ogla>

The Unci Maka Etan Uzani Pi Kte Food Sovereignty Initiative a partner with the USDA/Agriculture Marketing Service Local Food Purchasing Agreement Plus program, which encourages the purchase of local food, culturally sourced and minimally processed, to support Tribal Memberships, farmers, gardeners, foragers, ranchers, and other individuals to provide fresh, nutritious food to our community.

Program Goals: The Food Sovereignty Initiative aims to:

- 1. Promote Local Economy:** By purchasing locally sourced, minimally processed food, we aim to stimulate the local economy and create job opportunities.
- 2. Support Sustainable Practices:** Aligning with the OST Buy Local Laws, we are committed to supporting sustainable farming and production practices.
- 3. Improve Community Health:** By providing access to fresh, nutritiously dense food, to include cultural foods, we aim to improve the overall health and wellbeing of our community.
- 4. Achieve Food Sovereignty:** Our ultimate goal is to achieve food sovereignty, where our community has control over the way food is produced, traded, and consumed.

Interested individuals are invited to visit the Food Distribution Office to register and learn more about the program. The Food Distribution Program is particularly interested in purchasing **Timpsila, Ceyaka, Fresh Berries and Dried Berries**,

Wasna, Papa, Fresh Vegetables, Honey, Grass Fed Buffalo, and Grass Fed Beef. This list will be expanded in the coming weeks, providing even more opportunities for local producers.

For more information about the Food Sovereignty Initiative or to learn how you can get involved, please contact the OST Food Distribution Program at 605 867 5511. You can also visit the USDA website <https://www.ams.usda.gov/selling-food-tousda/lfpacap/plus> for a more detailed explanation .

The Oglala Sioux Tribe Food Distribution Program is committed to providing our community with access to healthy, nutritious food. We believe in the power of local food systems to improve health, strengthen the local economy, and build a more sustainable future. We look forward to working together to build a healthier, more sustainable future for our community

For more information contact:

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