

## TRIBAL CONSULTATION AND LISTENING SESSION

### **REMINDER: USDA Seeks Feedback on New Funding Opportunities to Create Fairer Access to Meat, Poultry and Seafood Processing Infrastructure in Tribal Communities**

**WASHINGTON, Jan. 26, 2022** – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will host a virtual Tribal consultation and listening session on Jan. 27 for elected leaders of federally recognized Tribes or their proxies to discuss expanding meat, poultry and seafood processing infrastructure on Tribal lands. This notification follows the “Dear Tribal Leader” communication that USDA’s Office of Tribal Relations distributed on Jan. 5.

USDA is seeking recommendations from Tribal leaders and enterprises on new funding opportunities [recently announced](#) by the Biden-Harris Administration to expand independent processing capacity and support workers and the independent processor industry. Of the approximately \$800 million available at USDA, a significant investment could be made to help develop and expand meat, poultry and seafood processing infrastructure in Indian Country.

USDA will seek feedback from Tribal leaders and enterprises on the following questions:

- What might a nationwide integrated Tribal processing infrastructure look like?
- What is your experience with bottlenecks to meat, poultry, seafood and other food processing?
- What types of meat, poultry or seafood processing is your nation pursuing or seeking to pursue?
- Where is your Tribe at in developing or managing a meat, poultry or seafood processing facility?
- What technical assistance and workforce training would be helpful to facilitate these processing activities?
- What workforce challenges and benefits have you experienced in this arena?
- How is the USDA inspection process working for you?
- Would your Tribe and Tribal producers most benefit from a fixed location or mobile processing facility?
- What are the main areas in which you need funding to be successful in meat, poultry, seafood and other food processing?
- What types of financing, including loans or grants, would best support your operation’s need and management structure?

The consultation and listening session will be held virtually on Thursday, Jan. 27, 2022, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time. To register, visit [www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsceiqrzMtHnxftGM--uqrajqoTUEcVyc](http://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsceiqrzMtHnxftGM--uqrajqoTUEcVyc).

For additional details, visit: [Consultation and Listening Session: Creating a Tribal Action Plan for Fairer Meat, Poultry, and Seafood Processing \(usda.gov\)](#).

This announcement follows the [July 2021 Executive Order on Promoting Competition in the American Economy](#) to create a fairer, more resilient, and more dynamic economy.

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