

Arizona SNAP-Ed

Tribal Collaboration Guidance

This guidance aims to describe Arizona's SNAP-Ed tribal-related program implementation and our collaboration with Tribes, tribal members, and tribal partners across the state of Arizona.

For Tribal Reporting requirements please review the FY2026 Arizona SNAP-Ed Mini-Guide. Local agencies are required to submit bi-annual reports detailing their engagement with Tribal Communities. Reports will be due March 31st and August 31st.

The ADHS SNAP-Ed team and the Local Agencies uniquely complete work; however, combined work contributes to a stronger and more supportive statewide SNAP-Ed program available to eligible participants, their families, and the community.

It is important to note that this work strives to benefit reservation-based tribal communities and tribal members residing off the reservation in urban locations. Additionally, as Arizona SNAP-Ed works to be a responsive program by doing so, the program needs to consider community-specific aspects that uniquely define the program audience beyond being an eligible household or participant. These considerations ensure that various components of SNAP-Ed programs are tailored for each community

USDA Coordination and Collaboration

Arizona SNAP-Ed recognizes its shared responsibility with USDA, ADHS, and many external state partners to uphold a respectful, trusting, and responsive working relationship with Arizona's 22 federally-recognized tribes and nations. Arizona SNAP-Ed's unique commitment to interpersonal practices and teamwork allows the program to honor tribal voice, self-governance, culture, language, history, and customs as emphasized and described in various Laws, Acts, Constitutions, Treaties, and other official commitments.

USDA Management has established a unique request for active collaboration, involvement, and consultation between SNAP-Ed and Arizona tribes and nations to strengthen reach and efficacy. The Tribal Coordination and Collaboration for SNAP-Ed Programming (Table 1) ensures and promotes appropriate and effective collaboration and partnering with tribal leadership, partners, and communities. USDA FNS has different expectations and requirements regarding State SNAP-Ed programming. The tribal coordination and collaboration outline the key distinctions specific to tribes and nations (see the [USDA FNS SNAP-ED Guidance](#)).

It is important to note that although Arizona SNAP-Ed is obligated to remain in compliance with the USDA FNS federal guidance in its entirety, the program also has a responsibility to comply with the tribal guidance specific to tribes and nations participating in USDA SNAP-Ed programming. USDA FNS requires the ADHS SNAP-Ed team to fulfill and maintain compliance. Local Agencies are strongly encouraged to consider and apply such tribal guidance appropriately to tailor their programming efforts; the ADHS SNAP-Ed team will provide supportive recommendations, technical assistance, and considerations. To uphold a respectful and responsive working relationship with Arizona's tribes and nations, ADHS SNAP-Ed team and Local Agencies need to engage and honor details in Table 1.

Arizona SNAP-Ed

Table 1: Tribal Coordination and Collaboration for SNAP-Ed Programming
Consult with Tribes and Nations about the SNAP-Ed State Plan of Operations and the SNAP-Ed Plan
Actively engage in Tribal consultations with Tribal leadership and their designees
Consider the needs and strengths of Tribal populations in conducting SNAP-Ed needs assessments
Consult and coordinate with State and local operators of Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
Develop culturally relevant and relevant materials
Provide technical assistance and training to Tribes applying for funding

*Note: The above information is condensed. Please visit the [USDA Guidance](#) document for more detailed information.

Action Steps for Responsiveness and Intentionality

To be a responsive program with intentional efforts, Arizona SNAP-Ed recognizes that strong collaboration, communication, and coordination help tribal leadership, community members, and/or partners. The involvement of such individuals in programming and operations (at the state and local agency level) is monumental to the program's efforts to align with non-Western approaches, culture, and identity.

Programming and operations between Arizona tribes and SNAP-Ed require a format and foundation that is non-linear, culturally-based, and community-centered and applies a whole-person and community lens. Additionally, SNAP-Ed programming and operations must and should strive to benefit the health and well-being of tribal members. The following four actions will assist in responsive and intentional tribal coordination and collaboration (Table 1) efforts with tribal leadership, community members, partners, and/or appropriate stakeholders:

- **Consult**
 - Arizona SNAP-Ed will continue utilizing this form of communication (whether informal or formal) to ensure an open exchange of information, opinions, and thoughts regarding the SNAP-Ed programming and operations.
- **Support**
 - Arizona SNAP-Ed will continue to consider what support is being offered, needed, and/or currently available as the program strives not to reinvent but to strengthen.
- **Relate**
 - Arizona SNAP-Ed will continue to consider the relevancy of program content and materials to ensure eligible participants can relate.

Arizona SNAP-Ed

- **Collaborate**

- Arizona SNAP-Ed will continue to seek advice, support, and guidance from internal and external colleagues and partners (such as tribal liaisons, cultural department staff, tribal council, etc.) and involve appropriate individuals. Arizona SNAP-Ed recognizes that collaboration is most appropriate during the initial phases of programming and operations and should be ongoing.

Practical Application

Since each Tribe is unique and has unique community-specific needs, programming between Arizona Tribes and Arizona SNAP-Ed requires a format and foundation that is culturally based and community-centered. Practical application of the tribal guidance in programming includes (but is not limited to):

- **Enhancements** of programming materials to be focused on culture, language, history, representation, or traditions
- **Involvement** in decision-making, planning, implementation, and design of program implementation
- **Incorporating** community and traditional knowledge and materials into programming upon approval, such as stories or traditional tools
- **Honoring** self-determining needs, expertise, and solutions as part of SNAP-Ed programming sustainability while remaining within the program guidelines
- **Reframing** values, frameworks, and systems to focus on tribal perspectives/ approaches

Examples of activities and efforts that are provided and supported by SNAP-Ed Local Agencies in urban and rural tribal areas include (but not limited to):

- Invite Tribes and tribal partners in writing and planning of community action plans
- Recipes with traditional food(s) as ingredients
- Developing education materials in Tribal languages
- Development of food demonstrations or cooking classes of culturally relevant recipes or that incorporate cultural storytelling and knowledge
- Engaging with Indian Health Services and local health clinics to discuss and create system changes
- Develop brief interactive education interventions that foster cultural values
- Incorporate traditional gardening methods into the development, upkeep, or planning of a garden
- Work with Tribes to enhance curriculum or programming materials
- Seek guidance from certified language translators or knowledgeable community members to translate materials to tribal languages or interpret cultural concepts
- Seeking opportunities to support current or proposed tribally-operated community projects already in place in the community, such as physical activity events or construction of a new walking path

Ultimately, Tribes should be actively engaged in programming efforts and planning.

Arizona SNAP-Ed

Tribal Resources

[Executive Order 13175 Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments](#)

[Office on Tribal Relations - Arizona Revised Statutes, section](#)

[41-2051\(A\) Arizona Department of Health Services Tribal](#)

[Specific Content](#)

[SAMHSA Cultural Card: A Guide to Build Cultural Awareness - American Indian and](#)

[Alaska Native Inter Tribal Council of Arizona](#)

[Urban Indian Health Institute - Indigenous Health Equity By Abigail Echo-Hawk](#)

[TEDx Talk - Building Resilient Communities: A Moral Responsibility By Nick Tilson](#)