



Working with Feeding America and Its Network of Food Banks Part 2

May 13, 2025

Jackie, Wind River Reservation, WY



Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions**
- **Feeding America – Who we are and What we do**
- **Panel Discussion – Partnerships with Tribes and Collaborations**
- **Q & A**
- **Closing Remarks**

Feeding America Who & What



Feeding America is the Largest Hunger-Relief Organization in the U.S.

In 2024, the Feeding America network:



HELPED

over 53 million of
people in America

1 in 6 adults
experience food
insecurity



REACHED

every county
in the U.S.

1 in 4 Native
Americans
experience food
insecurity



PROVIDED

5.29 billion
meals

9.3 Million
children
experience food
insecurity



RESCUED

4 billion pounds
of groceries from
going to waste

From Retailers,
Growers and
Manufacturers



ENABLED

247 million meals
through SNAP
application
assistance

The Feeding America Network



198

Food banks

+

21

Statewide food
bank associations

+

60,000

Partner agencies, food pantries
and meal programs



Surplus
food



Local
food banks



60,000
meal programs



Tens of millions
of people served

The Feeding America Network

The Feeding America network consists of food banks, food pantries, food distribution centers, faith-based organizations, schools, elder and local meal programs and the Feeding America national organization.

Together, we work alongside communities experiencing food insecurity to get the food and resources people say they need.

Feeding America National Office (FANO):

- 400+ staff
- Offices in Chicago, IL and Washington, DC
- 11 departments that provide support to the mission and work of the Feeding America network and serving those who experience hunger and food insecurity



Caitlin, AZ

Landscape Assessment Report

WHAT WE LEARNED

574 Federally recognized Tribes/Native Nations
65 State recognized Native/Tribal communities
200 + Non-recognized Native/Tribal communities
41 American Indian Urban Centers

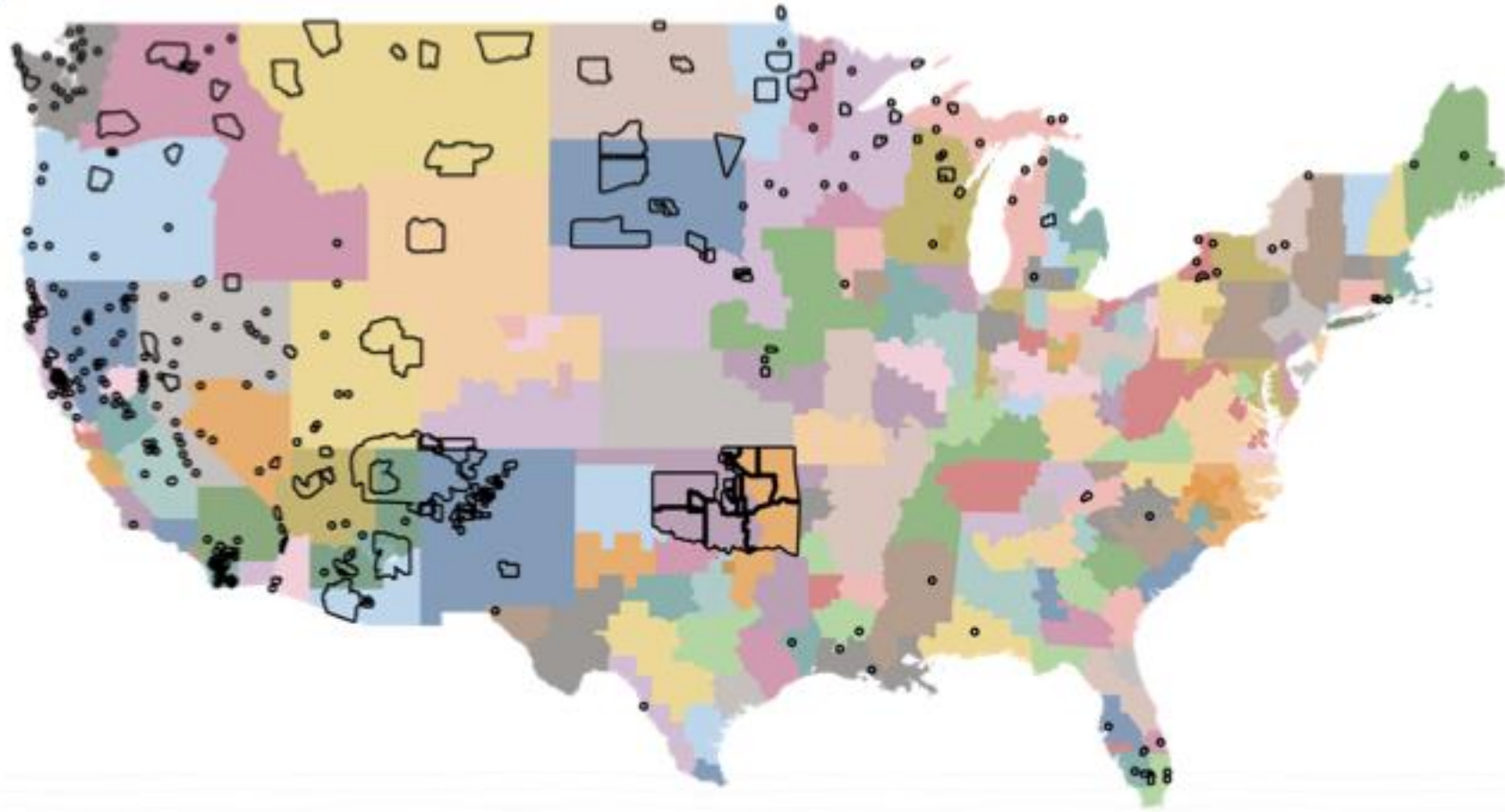
- 84 Food Banks share geography with Native/Tribal communities
- 48 Native/Tribal Nations are served by multiple food banks
- Some food banks serve tribes in entire state: Alaska, Montana, New Mexico, South Dakota, North Dakota, Wyoming, Idaho
- 660 +/- food pantries that exist across Indian Country



Chef Sean Sherman, MN

Native/Tribal Nations and Feeding America Service Regions

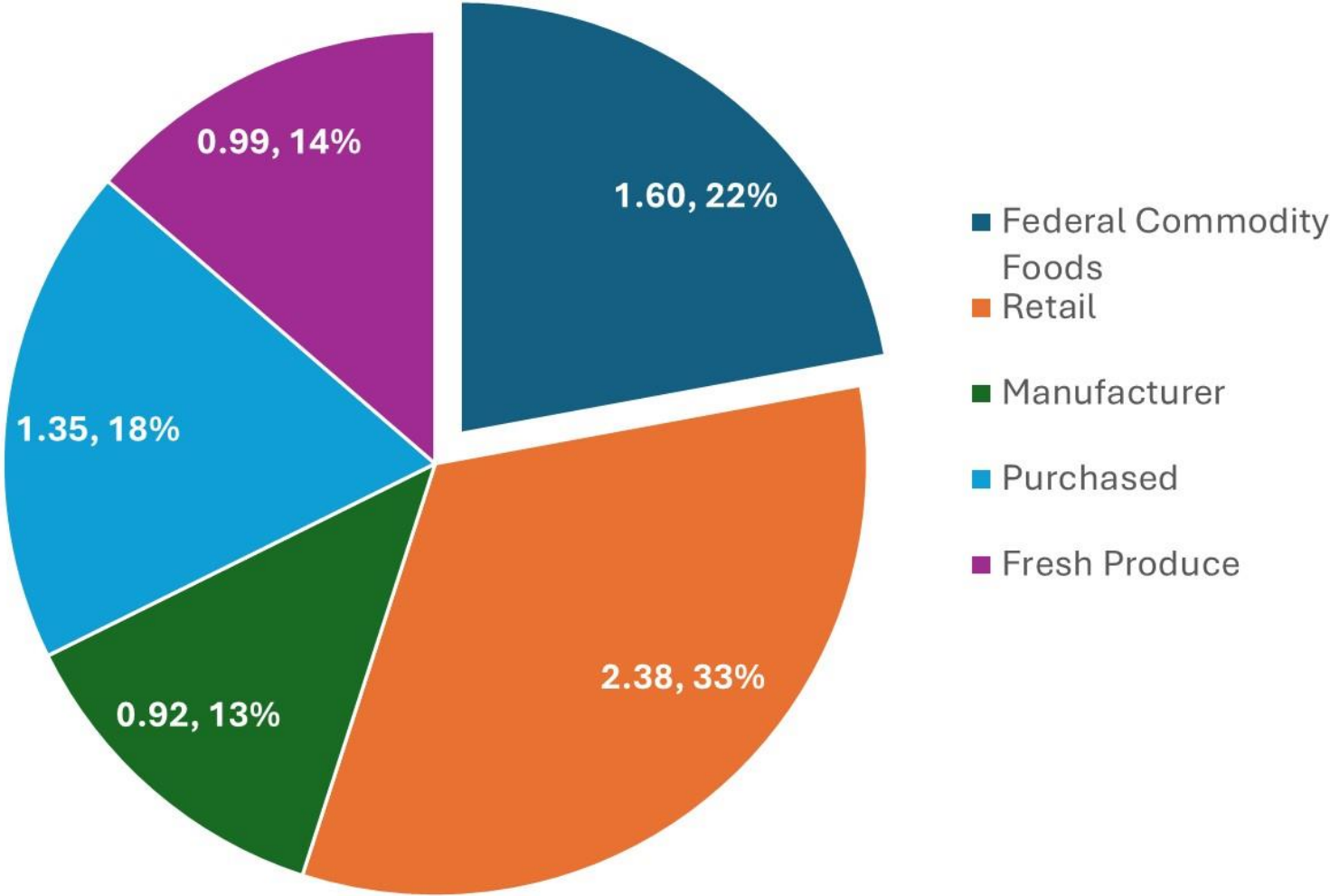
- 84 Feeding America food banks share geography with Native/Tribal communities
- 48 Native/Tribal Nations communities are served by more than one food bank in different areas of their land base



Food Sourcing



Total Product Sourced - Feeding America Network
FANO FY25 Projection (July-June)
7.24 Billion Pounds



Services Food Banks Provide

- **Sharing food with communities:** Food Banks work with farmers, manufacturers, retailers and government agencies to save unwanted food from landfills and move donated grocery items to where it is needed most. Network food banks collect, sort and distribute these donations to local food pantries and meal programs. Food pantries and meal programs in the network then distribute the food directly to people in their communities.
- **Advocating for Anti-Hunger Policies:** Ending hunger will take more than just food. It's why we support policies that improve food security for all and work to address the root causes of hunger—like health, cost of living and housing.
- **Partner with Community Organizations:** To provide other services like job training, nutrition education and cooking classes or address systemic issues like housing, unemployment, fair wages, health and public safety.



Changing the Approach to Food Banking

- Feeding the Line:



- Shortening the Line:



- Ending the Line:



Panelists

Danielle Antelope – FAST Blackfeet – Executive Director
danielle@fastblackfeet.org

Gayle Carlson – Montana Food Bank Network – President/CEO
gcarlson@mfbn.org

Stephanie Dodge – Menominee Tribal Department of Agriculture and Food Systems and Great Lakes Intertribal Food Coalition – Intertribal Food Systems Coordinator
sldodge@mitw.org

Kara Black – Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin Food Bank
kblack@feedingamericawi.org

Odessa Oldham – Food Bank of Wyoming
ooldham@wyomingfoodbank.org



FAST Blackfeet Food Access & Sustainability Team

Danielle Gervais
Executive Director

5/12/25

Blackfeet Food System Change and the Purpose of FAST Blackfeet

The United States has a horrific history with Native people- from acts of mass genocide of Native people to the tangled webs of systemic racism that still exist today. This timeline provides a brief overview of how this fraught relationship has played out in Native food systems over time - and what is possible as we move forward.

Traditional Food System - Prior to Colonization

- Hunter and Gatherer Lifestyle
- Naturally Nutrient Dense Foods Buffalo, Wild Game & over 200 Plants for Food and Medicines
- Daily Exercise Incorporated to Life for Survival
- Natural Preservation Methods



Loss of Land, Knowledge, and Food Access - Beginning of US Government Rations

- Near Extinction of the Buffalo and Widespread Starvation
- Blackfeet Reservation Boundaries Established in 1855
- Introduction of Forced Reliance on Limited Government Rations that were often Taboo Foods for the Blackfeet, or Rotten and Moldy
- Forced Family Separations Disrupted Maintenance of Traditional Food and Plant Knowledge, including Breastfeeding



Introduction of Commodities and the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

- US Government Created New and Additional Forms of Forced Food Reliance
- Foods such as Flour, Sugar, Oil, Syrup, Beef, Cheese
- Less Nutritious Foods that were High in Sugar, Salt, and Fat



Food Insecurity

- Lack of Access to Healthy and Culturally Relevant Foods
- High Health Disparities like Diabetes, Heart Disease, Obesity

Cultural Reclamation - Establishment of Organizations like FAST Blackfeet

- Returning to Traditional Foods
- Connecting with the Land
- Empowering People through Education and Advocacy
- Creating Sovereign and Sustainable Food Systems



FAST Blackfeet
Food Access and Sustainability Team

FAST Blackfeet: Our vision is a healthy, strong, and food secure Blackfeet Nation.

To learn more about how you can support the efforts of FAST Blackfeet and other organizations that are working to improve the health and nutrition of Native people, check out our website at www.fastblackfeet.org.



Land Access
=
Food Access



What can we do about it?

BE A REBELLIOUS ADVOCATE

FAST BLACKFEET



FOOD ACCESS AND SUSTAINABILITY TEAM

Our Vision is a healthy, strong, and
food secure Blackfeet Nation.

Ō'yō'•p' Food Pantry

FDPIR

SNAP

(gap)

Ō'yō'•p'
Food
Pantry



Mini Pantries



Nutrition Education Program



Produce & buffalo vouchers, nutrition lessons, cooking classes, pantry samples, recipes, Medical Nutrition Therapy w/registered dietitian

Growing Health Program



Garden workshops, on-the-land harvesting workshops, buffalo harvests, hunters against hunger, Pikuni co-op, tea blending, local producer contracts



2024 Program Achievements



O'yo'p Food Pantry

- 2,897.5 hours worked with a total of 291 workers.
- Served 11,600 families, comprised of Children: 9,300, Adults: 9,500, Elders: 2,300.
- Distributed 445,000 pounds of healthy and culturally relevant foods
- Received 164,000 lbs of Food Rescue.
- Distributed 53,000 lbs of fresh local produce.



Nutrition Education Program

- 87 participants enrolled in the Food Pharmacy Program
- 114 nutrition counseling visits with the registered dietitian
- \$41,970 of fresh fruit and vegetable vouchers distributed
- \$7,800 of Blackfeet Buffalo Product vouchers distributed
- 49 nutrition and cooking classes offered
- 227 people attended one or more cooking classes
- 7 participants completed the Blackfeet Diabetes Prevention Program



Growing Health Program

- 10 new gardeners added to Growing Health for a total of 40 gardens installed on the Blackfeet reservation
- 2 participants sold 27.9 oz of tea plants back to the program
- 15 local volunteers donated 45.5 hours of time to the program
- 2 student interns contributed to the efforts of Growing Health
- 7 Workshops offered to public
- Over 100 Vegetables started with BHS Biology class to be distributed to community
- 130 Pumpkin starter planted distributed to community members
- 5 hunters donated their harvest to the Hunters Against Hunger program
- 2 Bison harvested
- \$15,000 raised at September Fundraiser.

Welcomed Cheryl Ladd as our Pantry Security/Driver



Established three mini-pantries in outlying communities, serving approximately 200 families



The Nutrition Education team released two free recipe books featuring traditional and seasonal foods.



**DREAMS
DO NOT WORK
UNLESS YOU DO**

What is next for FAST?



The Team ♡

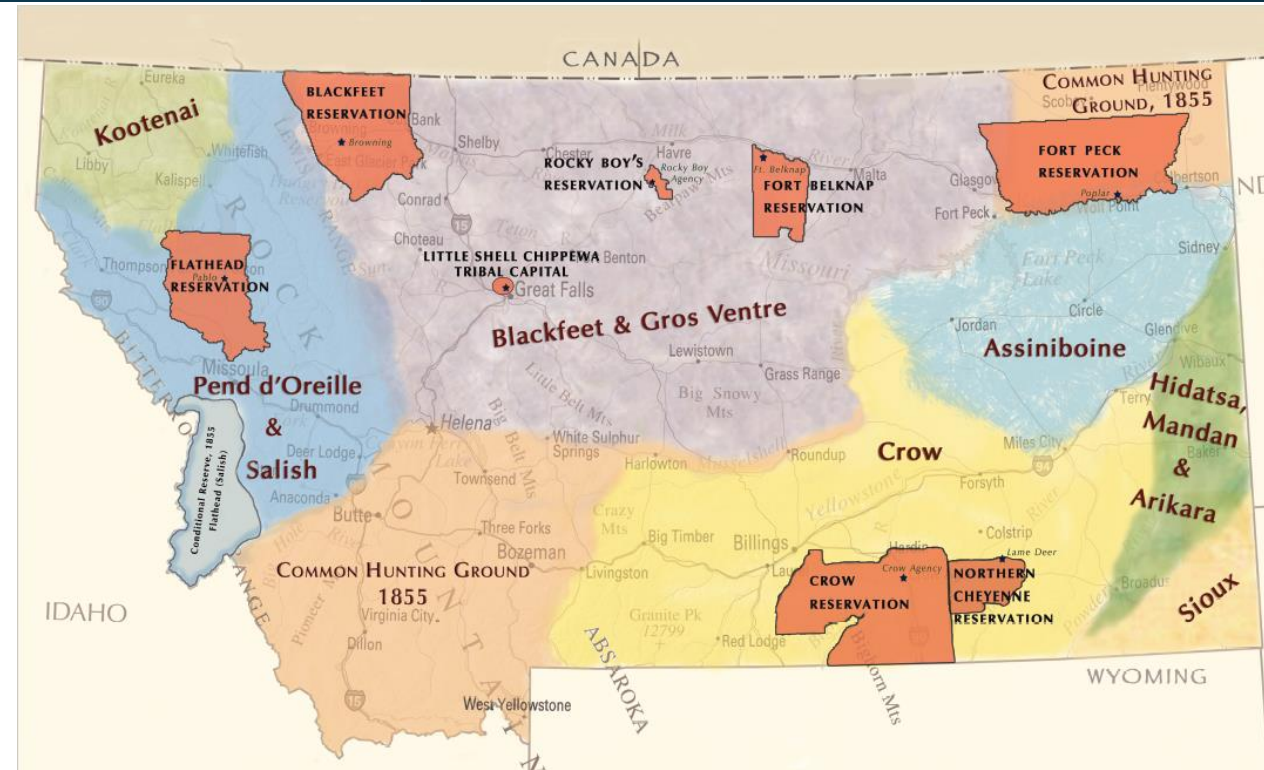


***Kyin. Kit-a-kit-a-mat-sin!
Thank You!***

***Learn more at
fastblackfeet.org
@FAST Blackfeet***

Montana Tribal Territories

Reservation	Tribes Native Names	In English
Blackfeet	Amskap Pikuni	Blackfeet
Crow	Apsaalooke	Crow
Flathead	Selis, Qlispe, Ksanka	Salish, Pend d'Orielle, Kootenai
Fort Belknap	Aaniiih, Nakoda	Gros Ventre, Assiniboiné
Fort Peck	Dakota, Nakoda	Sioux, Assiniboiné
Northern Cheyenne	Tsetsêhesêstâhase/So'taahe	Northern Cheyenne
Rocky Boy's	Annishinabe, Ne-i-yah-wahk	Chippewa (Ojibwa), Cree
Little Shell (Great Falls)	Anishinaabe	Chippewa (Ojibwa)



Tribal Territories in Montana

Boundaries as defined by the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851, and the Flathead and Blackfeet Treaties of 1855.*

Reservations today shown in red. ★ Star indicates location of tribal capital.

Names Tribes Call Themselves: A Key

Salish / Sélîsh	Blackfeet / Niitsitapi (Pikuni)	Gros Ventre / A'aninin	Northern Cheyenne / Tsetsêhesêstâhase and So'taa'eo'o
Pend d'Oreille / Qlîspé	Chippewa (Ojibwe) / Annishinabe	Assiniboiné / Nakoda, Nakona	Crow / Apsaalooke
Kootenai / Ksanka	Plains Cree / Ne-i-yah-wahk	Sioux / Lakota, Dakota	Little Shell Chippewa / Annishinabe and Métis

Reservation Lands in Montana, and American Indian Tribes based on those lands

Blackfeet Reservation: Blackfeet	Crow Reservation: Crow	Flathead Reservation: Salish, Pend d'Oreille, Kootenai
Fort Belknap Reservation: Gros Ventre and Assiniboiné	Fort Peck Reservation: Assiniboiné and Sioux	Northern Cheyenne Reservation: Northern Cheyenne
Rocky Boy's Reservation: Chippewa Cree	Landless, but headquartered in Cascade County: Little Shell Band of Chippewa	

* Boundaries shown on this map reflect the demarcation of territories by non-Indian officials at treaty time, and do not necessarily accurately represent tribal territories occupied in the 1850s.

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FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS

- Lack of consistent, accessible food resources
- Build trust relationships
- Schools serve as a critical food access point
- Pandemic disruption
- Preferred foods are quick, familiar and easy to prepare
- More fresh and traditional foods
- Transportation barriers
- Lack of home-based storage and kitchen facilities
- Continuity of services imperative



Great Lakes
Intertribal
Food Coalition



Tribal Elder Food Box Program: Another Partnership Model

Stephanie Dodge
Intertribal Food Systems Coordinator
Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin/Great
Lakes Intertribal Food Coalition
sldodge@mitw.org

Karaline Black
Procurement and Programs Manager
Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin
kblack@feedingamericawi.org

History of Great Lakes Intertribal Food Coalition and Partnership with Feeding America

From



To



The mission of Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin is “together we can solve hunger” - which we know we can’t do alone

We have committed to leveraging...

- Our physical infrastructure (i.e. trucks, warehouses, volunteers)
- Our staff (i.e. Procurement Manager, Program Manager, Volunteer Coordinator, and Finance Team)
- Our name (i.e. fundraising for GLIFC and TEFBP with Feeding America name)

To support our partners in building a resilient and localized food system.

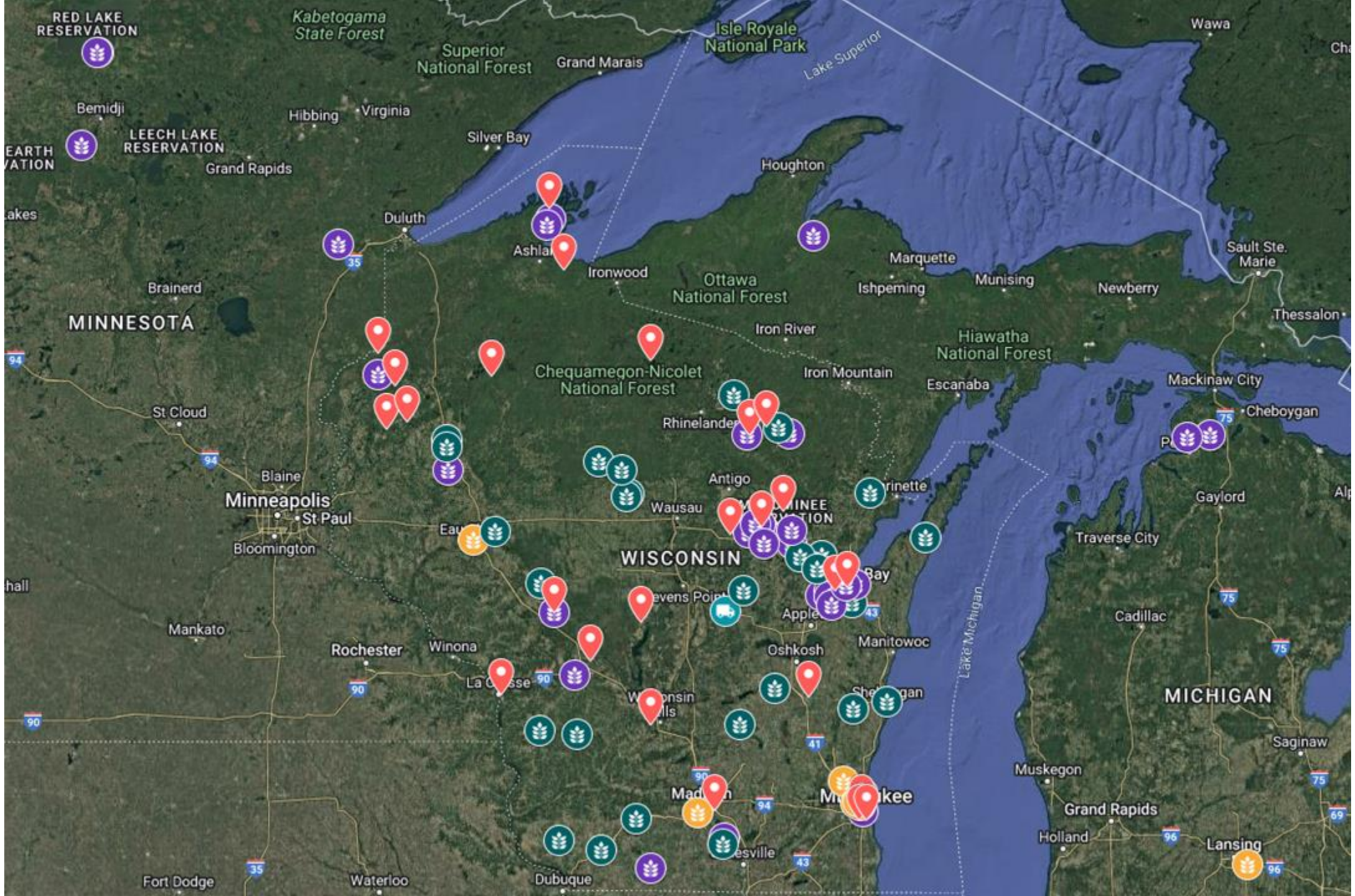


The mission of Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin is “together we can solve hunger” - which we know we can’t do alone

We agreed to...

- Be a **partner**, not an owner of the Tribal Elder Food Box Program
- Be a fiscal sponsor
- Be “short-term”: knowing GLIFC had a long-term vision of establishing it’s own operational Intertribal Food Hub/non-profit organization
- Be trainers and teachers on how to run/operate a warehouse and food distribution program





"These boxes have helped me reconnect to the traditional foods of my childhood. They make me feel secure and have become some of my comfort foods." - 2024 Participant

TRIBAL ELDER FOOD BOX ACCOMPLISHMENTS			
2021 (pilot)	2022	2023	2024
10,800 boxes 7 Tribes in WI & MI	24,400 boxes 11 Tribes in WI	28,050 boxes 11 tribes in WI + Milwaukee	31,515 boxes 11 tribes in WI + Milwaukee
7 Indigenous producers	16 Indigenous producers	23 Indigenous producers/producer groups	40+ Indigenous producers 75+ total producers
35.20% of \$ to Native Producers	58.50% of \$ to Native Producers	52.80% of \$ to Native Producers	Over 60% of \$ to Native Producers

Native Producer Capacity and Investment Fund Opportunities		
2022-2023 (Pilot)	2023-2024	2024-2025
\$47,000 Grant Funds	\$120,000 Grant Funds + Independent Donor	\$200,000 Independent Donor
10 Awardees	21 Awardees	24 Awardees



The mission of GLIFC is to “heal our communities strengthening our Indigenous food networks”



Great Lakes
Intertribal
Food Coalition

- All 11 federally recognized Tribes in WI and one in MI.
- GLIFC aims to address the unique health and economic needs of the Great Lakes Tribes by;
 - Establishing a network of Tribal food producers
 - Supporting traditional foodways
 - Increasing food access
 - Building economic development in Tribal communities
- For more information visit <https://greatlakesintertribalfood.org>



MITW/GLIFC Partnerships



Great Lakes
Intertribal
Food Coalition





OF LAKE SUPERIOR CHIPPEWAS



SOKAOGON
CHIPPEWA
COMMUNITY
Mole Lake Band





March 2024 GLIFC was awarded Marbleseed's "Changemaker of the Year Award"

October 2024 GLIFC was awarded the "Non-Profit of the Year Award" at the Annual Biz Con Conference.





What's Next

- GLIFC Incorporation to a 501(c)3
- Advocacy/support for continued funding toward food system initiatives.
- Hire staff
- Explore new programming eg: Tribal First Foods Program
- Food is Medicine prescription boxes
- Mini Food Hubs
- Regional Food Business Center Business Builder Awards

2024 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Prize Winners!

We are thrilled to share that The Tribes of the Great Lakes Region have been named one of the 2024 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Prize winners!

Tribes in the Great Lakes Region 2024 RWJF Culture of Health Prize Winner





Q & A



Hill Family – Wind River Reservation, WY

Thank you!

Toni Stanger-McLaughlin

Executive Director –
Native American Agriculture Fund

tstanger@nativeamericanagriculturefund.org

Mark Ford

Director of Community Engagement,
Native/Tribal Partnerships
Feeding America

mford@feedingamerica.org

Feeding America: www.feedingamerica.org/

Find a Food Bank: www.feedingamerica.org/find-your-local-foodbank