

# GREAT LAKES INTERTRIBAL FOOD COALITION

2024 SEASON  
TRIBAL ELDER FOOD BOX  
PROGRAM IMPACT REPORT

March 1, 2025



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*"The mission of the Great Lakes Intertribal Food Coalition is to heal our communities by strengthening our Indigenous food networks."*



## Overview

The Great Lakes Intertribal Food Coalition (GLIFC) is an intertribal partnership of all 11 federally recognized Tribes in WI and 1 in MI. GLIFC aims to address the unique health and economic needs of the Great Lakes Tribes by building a network of Tribal producers and supporting traditional foodways, food access, and economic development within Tribal communities.

GLIFC was formed in 2022 to lead the Tribal Elder Food Box Program (TEFBP) which began in 2021 as a COVID-19 health disparity and response program. The TEFBP purchases healthy, culturally appropriate food from Tribal and local food producers and distributes it twice a month at no cost to Tribal Elders. In doing so, it improves health disparities within Tribal communities and builds stable and consistent markets for Tribal and local Wisconsin producers.

Since the advent of the TEFBP, GLIFC's work continues to focus on efforts to combat food insecurity and promote knowledge about food sovereignty with Tribal Nations in Wisconsin and the broader Great Lakes Region. This report summarizes the TEFBP's 2024 season. For more information about GLIFC and the Coalition's other initiatives, please visit <https://greatlakesintertribalfood.org/>.

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# GLIFC History

## ● 2021

In 2021 Tribal food systems leaders partnered with Feeding Wisconsin to respond to food insecurity exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. They used funding from the Feeding America National Organization (FANO) to begin the Tribal Elder Food Box Program (TEFBP), which purchases healthy food from Native and other local producers and distributes it to Tribal Elders across Wisconsin. These food distributions helped address food insecurity issues and support community health and cultural revival. In its first year, the TEFBP delivered food boxes to Elders of 7 of the 11 federally recognized Tribes in Wisconsin.

## ● 2022

In 2022 members of all 11 federally recognized Tribes in Wisconsin came together to form the Great Lakes Intertribal Food Coalition (GLIFC), which now works with Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin (FAEW) to lead the TEFBP. Together, they successfully applied for funding through FANO and the American Rescue Plan Act to expand the TEFBP to serve all 11 federally recognized tribes in Wisconsin, to more than double the number of food boxes, and to purchase 66% more food from Native producers. GLIFC also started a Native Producer Capacity fund, which awarded working capital to Native producers and enabled many to expand their operations.

## 2024 & Beyond

GLIFC and FAEW secured funding through the State Biennial Budget, along with the LFPA program for the 2024 season. GLIFC plans to incorporate as a non-profit in late 2025, allowing the Coalition to more easily apply for funding and to expand program operations. Future goals include expanding support for producers and exploring Food is Medicine opportunities. GLIFC is also working with researchers and Extension professionals at University of Wisconsin-Madison to support Native producers and coordinate Tribally-led research on crop production, climate adaptation, supply chain infrastructure, and community health.

## ● 2023

In 2023 GLIFC and FAEW expanded program funding through USDA's Intertribal Local Food Purchase Assistance Program (LFPA). They focused on building administrative and organizational capacity within the Coalition, added two additional distribution sites to serve Tribal members located in Milwaukee, expanded the number of Native producers they were working with, and increased the amount of funding for the Native Producer Capacity Fund.

# Tribal Elder Food Box Program

## Program Development 2021-2024

The Tribal Elder Food Box Program (TEFBP) is a food distribution program that provides Tribal Elders from all 11 federally recognized Tribes in Wisconsin with free, locally produced, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food over the course of a 15-week season. The Program has expanded rapidly since its founding in 2021. From its first to fourth year, the TEFBP has nearly tripled the number of food boxes distributed from 10,800 to 31,515 boxes.

	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Total Budget</b>	\$471,400	\$1,413,700	\$1,753,200	\$2,264,600
<b>Boxes per Distribution</b>	900 (10,800 total)	1,650 (24,400 total)	1,875 (28,050 total)	1,900 - 2,000 (31,515 total)
<b>Tribes</b>	3-7	11	11 + community health centers in Milwaukee	11 + 3 community health centers in Milwaukee
<b>Native Producers</b>	4	16	23	38

The Program has created reliable markets for local and Tribal producers. Between 2021 and 2024, the Program went from working with just 4 to 38 Native producers. In 2024, GLIFC purchased \$2.1 million worth of food from local producers, with nearly \$1.17M, or 61%, of the dollars spent on food going directly to Native producers.



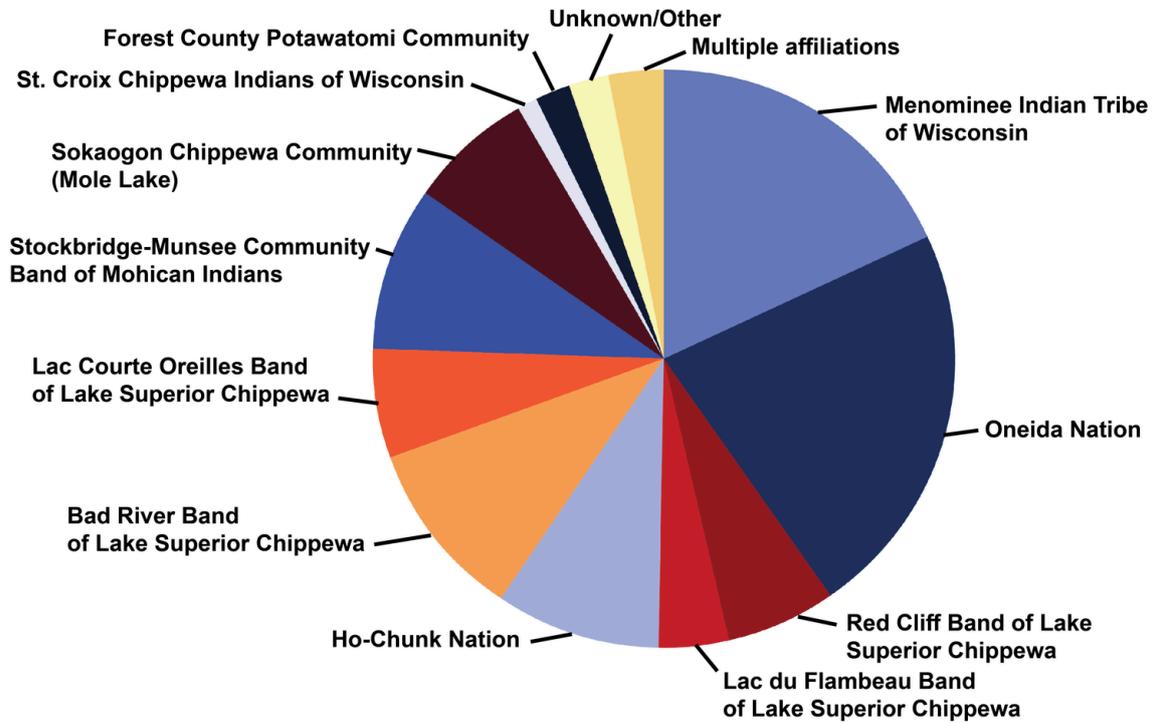
Photo © 2024, JoelAngel Juarez  
Courtesy of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation



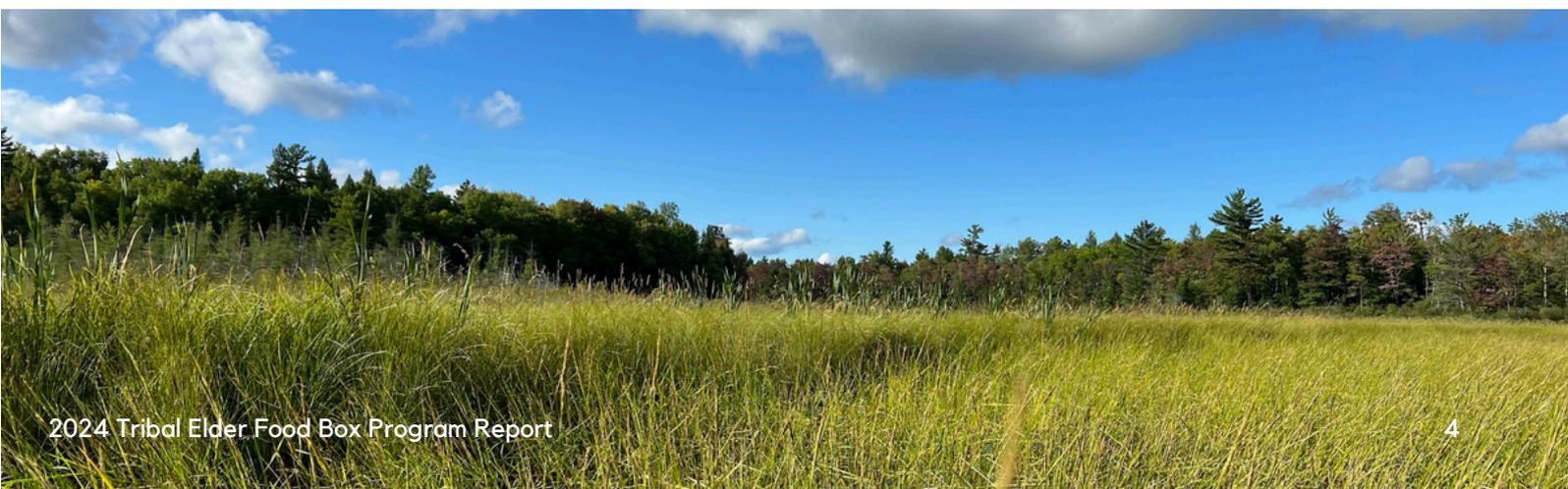
# TEFBP Participant Feedback

In November 2024 the Tribal Elder Food Box Program (TEFBP) distributed annual evaluation surveys to Elders at each distribution site to gain a better understanding of their experience with the Program.

**Figure 1. Tribal Affiliation of Survey Respondents**

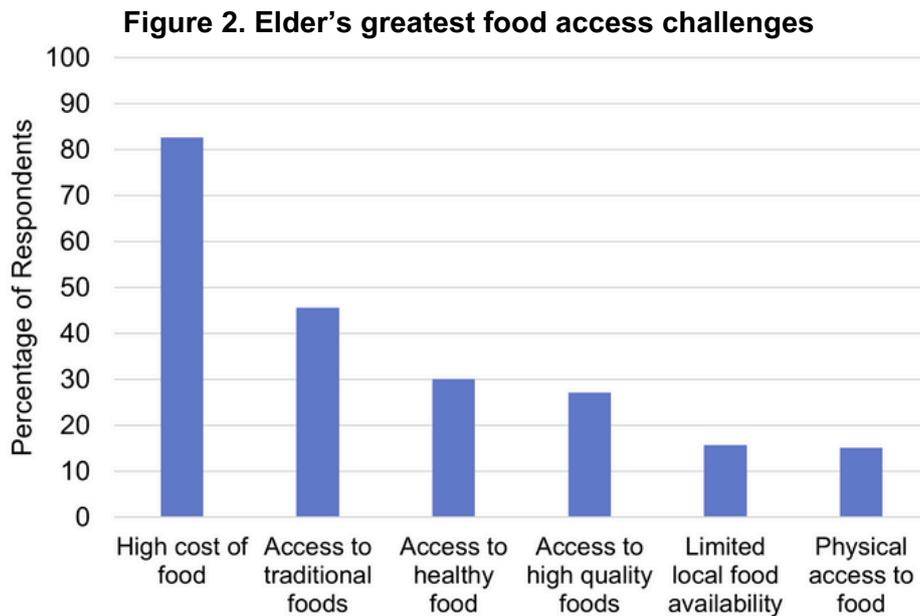


The Program received 483 responses from participants. Forty percent of responses were from Menominee or Oneida Tribal members. The full breakdown of responses by Tribal Nations is represented in Figure 1 above. The overall feedback was extremely positive with Elders expressing that the TEFBP solved many of their specific challenges around accessing healthy and traditional foods, enabled them to incorporate a wider variety of nutritious foods into their diet, and helped them cope with chronic diseases or illness. In open-ended comments, many also expressed how the Program helped them connect with their families, communities, and culture, how it had made them feel cared for and helped them care for others, and how much joy it had brought them to receive the boxes.



# Supporting Food Access

One of the primary aims of the TEFBP is to increase access to healthy, traditional foods. In 2024 the program provided an estimated 415,697 meals from the 31,515 boxes distributed during the 15-week season. Based on the number of people Elders reported they fed with their boxes, we estimate that the Program served ~10,625 people or 18% of the total Tribal population in Wisconsin. For the first time, the Program also offered a single winter food distribution, something Elders had requested in past years. The Program is exploring the feasibility of offering more winter distributions in the future.



High food cost was the most common food access challenge cited by Elders. Eighty-two percent of respondents said that cost of food was an issue. This is nearly double the number of Elders who said they struggled with the next most common access issue, access to traditional foods (46%) (Figure 2). Of those who said they struggled with high food costs, 84% felt that the TEFBP had helped them solve this issue. One Elder said the Program “gave us more food to eat. I cook more often for my family,” Another shared, “It’s like Christmas, fresh food and it’s healthy. Sometimes it comes exactly when we run out and (there’s) no money.”

Beyond food cost, more than half of the Elders who expressed specific food access challenges felt the TEFBP had helped them solve each of these issues. The TEFBP was most effective at supporting Elders who said they had trouble accessing healthy food (93%), closely followed by solving the issues of access to traditional foods (88%), and access to high quality foods (73%)

*“It has helped introduce some traditional foods back into our diet. Now we try to buy more traditional foods.” -2024 TEFBP participant*

(Figure 2). One Elder said that the TEFBP has “Give(n) me the opportunity to have some foods that I normally do not have access to which brought back memories of family dinners from my youth.” Another shared that, because of the Program they “have been able to have extremely healthy meals without the high cost. Many times we could not have this great diet if we would have to buy it.”

More than half the Elders who expressed challenges with accessing food nearby -- including physical access to food due to factors like distance to the store, transportation, or mobility, and limited local food availability -- said that the TEFBP had helped them solve these issues as well. One Elder said one of the big benefits of the Program was “*getting fresh food locally, not having to drive 30 miles to find it,*” while another shared “*I don't drive, so it helped me a lot.*” Overall, the number of Elders who said the Program helped them solve these last two issues was slightly lower than other issues - 63% for physical access, and 57% for limited local food availability (Figure 3). This may be due to the structure of the program. Some Tribes deliver boxes to Elders who are less mobile, but most Elders still need to pick up their boxes or send someone to pick up the boxes for them. To increase accessibility, Tribes have tried to locate distribution sites in convenient locations. Forty percent of respondents traveled 0-5 miles to pick up their boxes and 67% traveled less than 10 miles. While picking up boxes may be a bit of a challenge for some Elders, it was also something that many Elders valued because it gave them the opportunity to connect with friends and family at the distribution site (see page 10).

*“A real blessing! Thank you and all involved with this program, a valuable resource in our isolated Indian community. Stores are far away.” -2024 TEFBP participant*

**Fig. 3. Food access issues solved by the TEFBP**

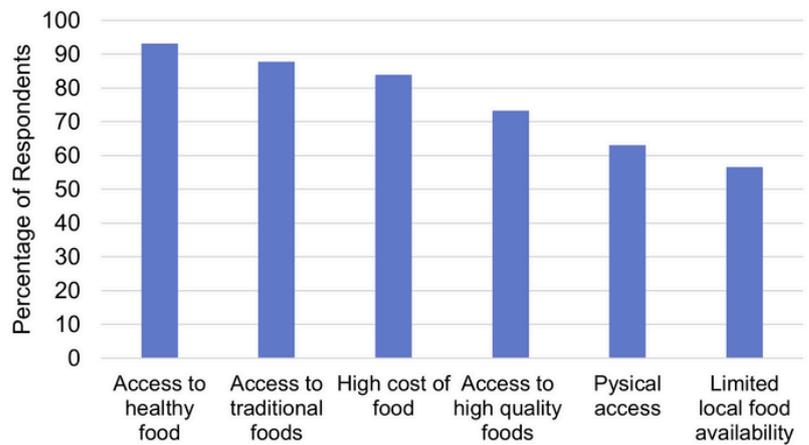


Photo © 2024 Jaida Grey Eagle, courtesy of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

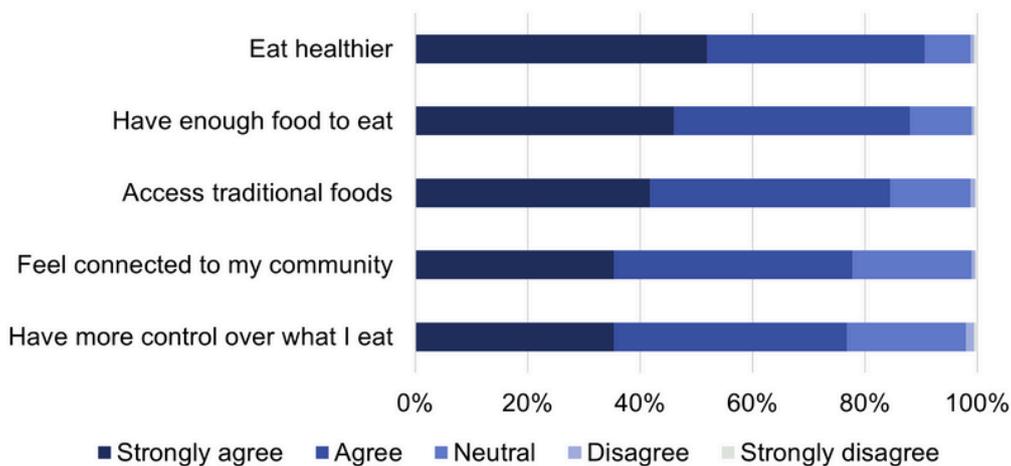
**A Menominee Elder picks up her box**

# Supporting Health & Nutrition

TEFBP Participants felt that the TEFBP helped support their health, ability to access food, and connect with their communities and cultural identities. Eighty-eight percent of survey respondents agreed that the TEFBP had helped them have enough to eat (Figure 4). Eighty-nine percent of respondents said it had helped them eat healthier (Figure 4) and 75% said that receiving the boxes had specifically enabled them to change their diets to improve their health. One Elder shared that the Program has “change(d) how I eat...to eat more healthy foods, I turned into a salad freak,” while another shared that it “Reminded us to prepare meals at home and to eat healthy options (and) reduce carbs for pre-diabetes.”

*“It has been wonderful to eat healthy and traditional food on a regular basis instead of sometimes just on special occasions. Sometimes our entire meals were made from the food box items, such as fish with wild rice and maple glazed carrots.” -2024 TEFBP participant*

**Figure 4. “The TEFBP has helped me...”**



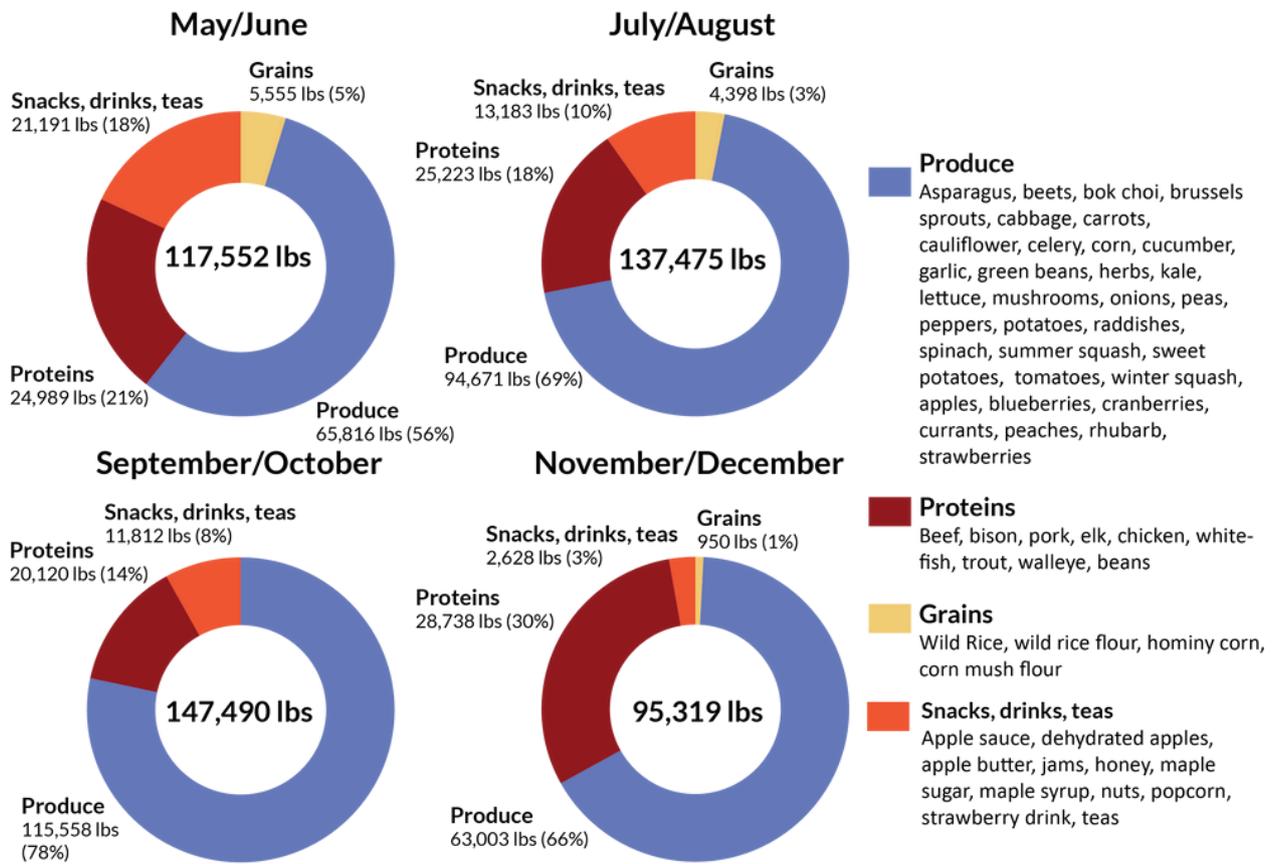
Some Elders also discussed the specific health impacts these changes had made. One Program participant said that the boxes “were helping with A1C and some weight loss” and commented that receiving “Indigenous (foods and the) variety (of foods) are very good for my diabetic diet.” Another Elder shared that the program had helped them fight cancer, while another emphasized that the program had helped them and their partner manage a number of health conditions:

*“(The TEFBP) has helped our diet so much! I have graves disease and husband high blood pressure and high cholesterol. We have learned to be so creative in our diet and eating things we normally would not buy due to expense or not being able to find it.” -2024 TEFBP participant*

Elders also discussed improvements in their mental and overall health. One Elder shared: “I struggle with depression and after losing my husband my interest in cooking was gone. I'm recovering and am regaining interest again.” Another Elder said: “My health has improved! I am more agile and more mobile! I have been more well-traveled and visit relatives and friends! I went out and voted!!!”

The TEFBP also supports nutrition security by providing a variety of foods year round and by helping Elders learn how to incorporate a greater variety of foods into their diets. The Program maintains a stable mix of foods even while purchasing exclusively local and sustainably-produced food items (Figure 5). In response to an open-ended question about how the boxes had benefited them, 40 Elders mentioned specifically that they appreciated the variety of food in the boxes and that it had helped expand their diets and encouraged them to try new things. For example, one Elder said that *“receiving these boxes has gotten me to eat a larger variety of food. More cooking as opposed to already cooked frozen food from grocery store.”* Another shared: *“Helps us to eat better nutritionally and cook thing that are new to us. (I) look forward to receiving the different variety of foods.”*

**Figure 5. TEFBP composition (lbs) by food type and season**



Because many Elders have not had the opportunity to eat such a wide variety of foods in the past, the Program also offers recipes and food preservation techniques in the newsletter that comes with each box. The recipes are specific to the foods in that week’s box so as to offer participants cooking inspiration and teach them how to cook with any foods that may be unfamiliar. One Elder said that they had made some of the recipes and *“shared with my diabetes class and nutrition class. The dietitian took photos of some of the recipes for later use.”*

*“People should be educated...about what they're eating. Most people don't realize that most of the food they're eating isn't real food and is making them sick. The Tribal Elder Food Box Program is AMAZING. This program is helping so many people and improving the health of families in tribal communities. Thank you so much!” -2024 TEFBP participant*

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# Building Connection to Culture & Community

Connecting people to traditional foods and food traditions is a critical means of restoring physical, cultural, and spiritual health,<sup>1</sup> and restoring food culture and access to traditional foods is another key goal of the TEFBP. Eighty-three percent of respondents shared that the program had improved their access traditional foods (Figure 4). As one Elder put it, *“I would not have some of the cultural foods if I didn't get them in the boxes. (I) like them very much.”* Many elders also spoke of how the boxes had enabled them to try traditional foods that were new to them. One Elder shared that *“At 82 years old, I have learned Maple Sugar, Corn Flour and Beans can be fun to use.”* While another said: *“I have eaten elk for the first time in my life and I am 67 years old.”* A few Elders also talked about how the boxes were meaningful because they connected them to food traditions they could no longer participate in: *“The rice and syrup mean a great deal to me. I struggle doing these activities for a variety of reasons.”*

*“Keep the indigenous ingredients coming. They connect me to who I am. I feel it when I cook and eat.”*  
-2024 TEFBP participant

## Bringing Back Memories

*“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 TEFBP Participant

Many Elders also shared stories of how the Program had brought back childhood memories or helped them *“see what our ancestors ate,”* and 79% said that the food they received in the boxes was similar or somewhat similar to the food eaten by their ancestors. One Elder shared that the boxes gave them *“the opportunity to have some foods that I normally do not have access to which brought back memories of family dinners from my youth.”* Others shared how specific ingredients evoked childhood memories: *“I cooked a couple small venison roasts then added the roasting mix to this. As a youngster, I remember doing this with my grandmother. Very good memories.”* Another shared: *“(I) used to get wild rice around Lake Superior...the quality of wild rice was great and (a) nice memory.”*

## Intergenerational Knowledge

In addition to bringing back fond memories from the past, Elders also shared how the Program has helped them pass on food traditions to the future generations. A number of Elders shared stories about how they *“sit together as a family and eat as well as chat about the indigenous ingredients.”* For example:

*“(I) share with my Elders who are grateful for gifts, (I) share with my daughter and her family and talk about where, how, and who these gifts come from. So she learns a little tradition, mother earth, spirit of all living things. Does she listen??? I like to think so.”*

*“My husband likes to use the food box items to make a meal and then invite our grandchildren over to enjoy the meal. Then we tell them what traditional foods were in the supper. And it's introducing the foods into their diet as well.”*

1. Johnson-Jennings et al., 2020, Gurney et al. 2015; Gordon et al. 2018; Ruelle, 2017; Satterfield 2016, Sidiq 2022

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## Connecting with Community

*“My two elder sisters and I enjoyed meals together and using the foods and recipes in the newsletters. It created space for socializing and reminiscing about meals our families had when we were young and how our grandmothers used to make meals stretch.” -2024 TEFBP Participant*

Seventy-seven percent of Elders also agreed that the Program has helped them feel more connected to their communities (Figure 4). Their comments highlighted many different ways this has happened through fostering cultural connection and connection to their Tribal communities, and having more opportunity to interact with friends and family through distributions, cooking, and sharing meals.

Two Elders who lived off reservation shared how being a part of the TEFBP had helped them feel more connected to their cultures and communities. One said *“It has helped me connect to my ancestors and my culture. I’m urban so it’s important to find connections to my culture.”* Another shared: *“Living off reservation means we are not able to take advantage of Tribal programs for Elders, so the food box has been a way to be included in a Tribal program.”* Others expressed that the program had made them feel *“connected to my historical foods and community,”* and *“proud to see people out their growing and processing the traditions of our foods.”*

A number of Elders shared how picking up their boxes helped them connect with friends or family. One Elder said: *“I learned about the Elder boxes from my family members. It is a great running into them when we are picking them up. I enjoy talking and laughing with everyone. I appreciate everything about the Tribal Elder Food Box Program. Miigwech!”* Others shared: *“Made contact with some people I worked with about 20 years ago and reconnected with stories (family) we shared!”* and *“The program helps to connect with family and community. On distribution day...I see people...and it creates opportunities to get together in the future more.”*

Many Elders also shared how they enjoyed the ways in which the boxes brought them together through trading food, sharing recipes, and cooking or sharing meals.

*“We exchange recipes and give one another ideas of the preparation we use to make a wonderful meal.”*  
-2024 TEFBP participant

*“Three of us share, trade, swap from our boxes. We also share how to cook or fix different foods.”*  
-2024 TEFBP participant

*““It was kind of fun trading items back and forth that some family members would use and not use.”*  
-2024 TEFBP participant

One Elder drew a connection between community and health, saying *“I feel more connected as I cook dishes to share with others. I am more healthy.”* Another Elder shared:

*“We are excited to see what's going to be in the monthly Tribal Elder Food Box... We invite our grandchildren to join us, and it has introduced them to the traditional foods as well... Their grandpa will say "guess what kind of meat I used in supper tonight?" and the grandkids will be all surprised they ate elk or bison because we don't have access to that food on a regular basis. Our daughter has thrown together a vegetable soup for us with some of the fresh produce. So, we try to make the Tribal Elder Food Box items into a special meal night.”*

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## Community Care

*“It was like getting a box of love.” -2024 TEFBP participant*

In addition to sharing stories of how the food boxes had brought their family together, many Elders talked about how sharing food from the boxes had fostered a connection with others in their communities. A few Elders talked of sharing food at community events. For example, one said: *“I used the wild rice and the pork with some bone broth to make a dish to share at the community gitigaan potluck.”* Two Elders talked about cooking food for people who were homeless: *“Last winter I cooked for some homeless people I know. They were living in a tent with no place to cook. They were very grateful for the food.”* Another shared how they’d cooked for older members of their community: *“Tribal elder Food Box Program is a blessing. When we make a pot of soup we share with other Elders who are in their 80's. It always warms the heart to help others. So thank you very much!”*

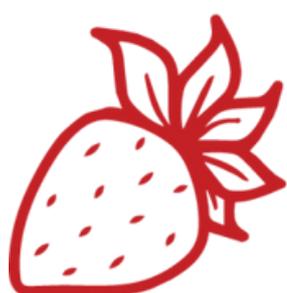
One Elder talked more broadly about how having more healthy food has enabled them to better care for others:

*“We are thankful for the kindness and generosity of everyone involved in the effort to gather, plan and distribute the TEFB's. We are better able to help our family and the community if we are healthy. The Tribal Elder Food Boxes provide us with nutrition to work toward that goal.”*

Another shared that the care they felt from the community because of the TEFBP had reminded them how important it was to care for themself:

*“It has reminded me of the importance of eating well...that the food we receive will help us to be healthy, and that growing older should not cause us to give into being lazy. Because you care enough to help the elders, it makes me care more also.”*

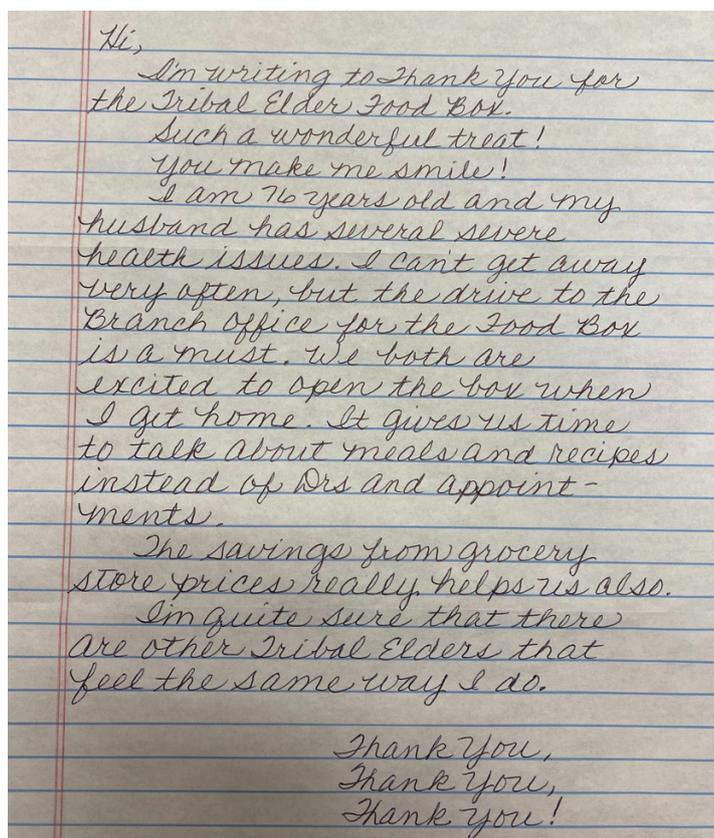
Many others made more general comments about how the TEFBP made them feel cared for. One Elder talked about how the care expressed through the TEFBP made them proud to be a part of the community: *“It makes me feel honored and proud of my heritage and people coming together for supporting the idea of connectedness involved in making sure we all eat.”* Another shared that receiving the TEFBP *“meant fewer trips of 25 miles or more to grocery stores for those items. (It was) emotionally it is reassuring to know others care about Elders and their needs.”* And one participant said simply, *“It is good to be thought of, remembered, and nourished.”*



## Joy

*“I’m a widow in my 80th year. The sealed grocery box feels like a wonderful gift with surprises inside. Everything is so fresh and delicious. Sometimes there is something unusual to try which is fun to sample. I always eat at home. I have written thank you notes to some of the donating farms.” -2024 TEFBP participant*

It is clear from survey comments that receiving the boxes brings many Elders joy. Many expressed how much they look forward to picking up their boxes, that receiving the boxes feel like Christmas or a holiday, and how they love the surprise of opening it and seeing what’s inside. One Elder said: *“I’m so thankful. These boxes are great. It gets me out of the house and excited to look forward to something.”* Another shared, *“I get excited about receiving the box. It’s like a gift! It is a gift! Thank you. I’m learning how to make bean soup.”* While a third said, *“I feel like I’ve received a special gift of beautiful food that I love. I feel loved and honored. I love all of it. Migwech.”*



Hi,  
I'm writing to thank you for  
the Tribal Elder Food Box.  
Such a wonderful treat!  
You make me smile!  
I am 76 years old and my  
husband has several severe  
health issues. I can't get away  
very often, but the drive to the  
Branch Office for the Food Box  
is a must. We both are  
excited to open the box when  
I get home. It gives us time  
to talk about meals and recipes  
instead of Drs and appoint-  
ments.  
The savings from grocery  
store prices really helps us also.  
I'm quite sure that there  
are other Tribal Elders that  
feel the same way I do.  
Thank You,  
Thank you,  
Thank you!

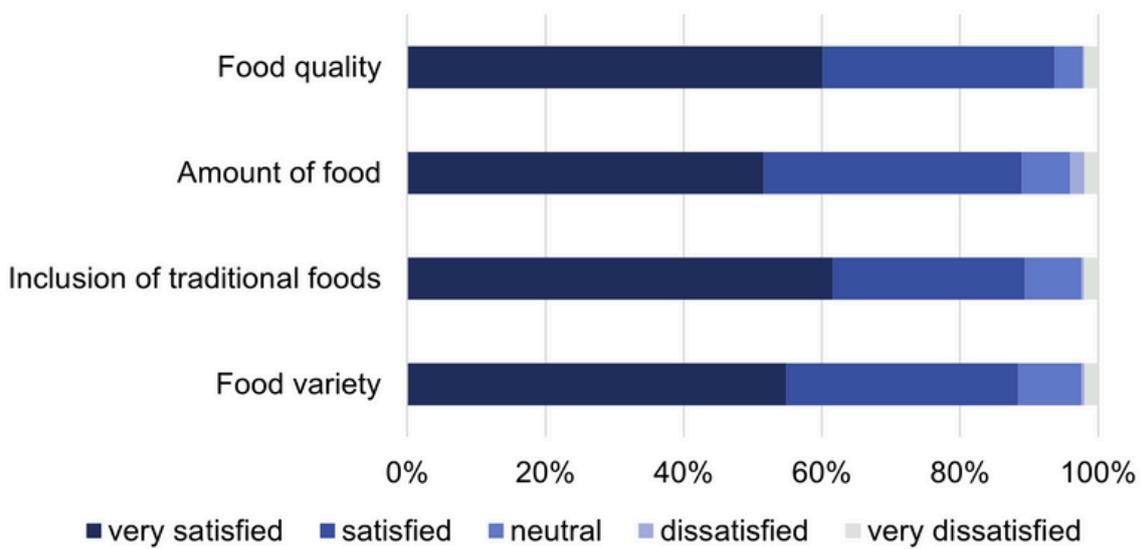


Photo © 2024 Jaida Grey Eagle, courtesy of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

# Overall Satisfaction

*“One of the biggest reasons I was looking forward to becoming an Elder was because of the Elder Box Program. It is very important to feed my family and myself with the medicinal foods of our ancestors and not the foods that make our bodies weak such as processed foods and those with too much sugars.” -2024 TEFBP participant*

**Figure 6. Participants’ Level of Satisfaction with the Food Provided in Elder Boxes**



Respondents of the survey were generally very satisfied with the food provided by the Program. As shown in Figure 6, 92% of respondents were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the quality of food, 88% with the amount of food, and 87% with the variety of foods and inclusion of traditional foods.



*“I don’t know that I have the words to express how appreciative I am with everything that you and the programs you work with are doing for Indian Country. The impacts are so meaningful and go beyond just feeding Tribal elders, or supporting Tribal producers, which are certainly worthy causes in themselves. My observations from residing within a Tribal community and knowing many fellow Tribal members from other surrounding Tribal communities is that the Tribal Elder Food Box Program has been a catalyst that has inspired additional efforts from Tribal communities to invest in and strengthen their own food sovereignty and food security initiatives. I definitely see it within my own Tribal community and others I know are seeing it within there Tribal Communities.” -2024 TEFBP Producer*

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# Farm Business Growth & Producer Support

*“The program offers support, information, and a predictable market. Nothing else has allowed us to grow our business in this way with this support.” -2024 TEFBP Producer*

The Program also aims to support economic opportunities for regional, sustainable producers. In November 2024, the TEFBP distributed annual evaluation surveys to producers who had worked with the Program to gain a better understanding of their experience. The Program received 15 responses, 8 from Native producers and 7 from non-Native producers. Respondents included 8 women, 5 men, 1 veteran, and 5 beginning farmers. Their farm sizes ranged from 1-3 acres (3 respondents), to 4-7 acres (4 respondents), to 15+ acres (5 respondents).

All but one returning producer reported expanding their farm business in 2024 as a result of the TEFBP, and 73% said they plan to expand in 2025 because of the program as well. One producer shared that they more than doubled their applesauce production because of the Program. While another said that *“Working with TEFBP has positively impacted our business. We live in a rural area and it has been an opportunity for us to develop a stable source of income.”*

*“By supplying lake trout, we were able to support the growth of fish processing at our farm and support two other tribal fishing businesses. Our fishery is in rough shape and at least one fisher reported being able to pay his bills as a direct result of this program.”*

-2024 TEFBP Producer

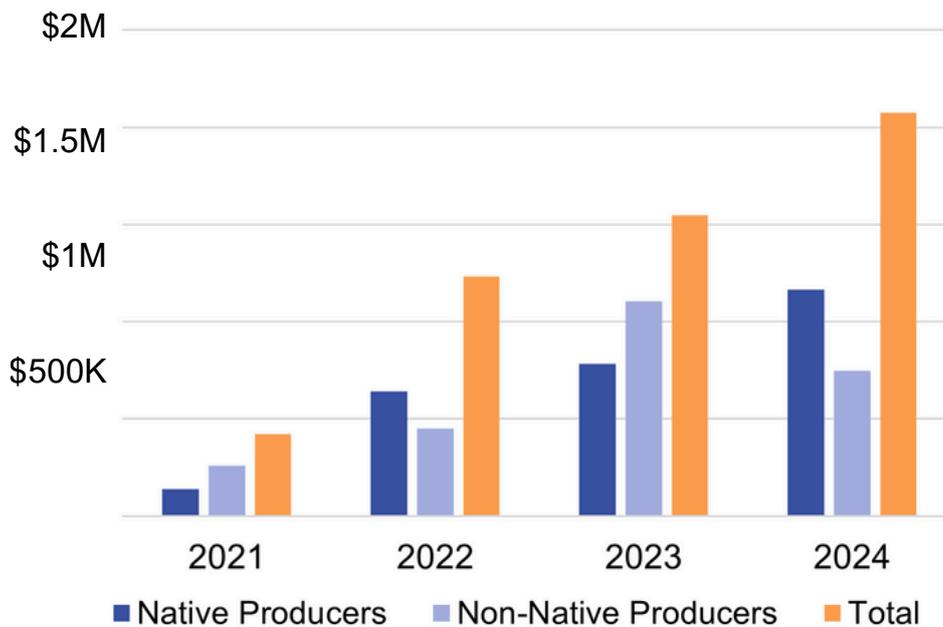
*“We feel that this partnership has been incredibly beneficial to our farm, has helped our small farm team train to produce for larger wholesale and also we feel incredibly good about this program on an ideological level. Providing food for Tribal Elders across the nations and helping Indigenous growers build their capacity by being back up for their orders is in line with our larger goals around food sovereignty and treating food as a basic right especially for Elders and children.”*

-2024 TEFBP Producer



Over the course of four years, the TEFBP has expanded its purchasing power and ability to support local food economies. It has more than quadrupled its food budget from just \$421K in the first year, to \$2M in 2024. One of the Program’s goals is to increase the number of Native farmers and help beginning and smaller farmers expand their food businesses. To this end, GLIFC has provided technical and capital support to Program producers. Capital support has come primarily through a Producer Capacity Fund, which has distributed a total of \$367,200 to Program producers. This funding and TA has been critical to helping producers scale their operations. One producer shared that through the Capacity fund, *“We purchased a refrigerated truck and were able to ship our own products at volumes far beyond what we were capable of in the past.”* In part because of this grant fund, the number of Native producers capable of producing at the scale needed to sell into the program has increased dramatically, going from working with just 4 Native producers in the first year to 38 in 2024. In 2024, the TEFBP purchased \$1.2M worth of food from Native producers, about 61% of the total funds spent on food. In 2025 or 2026, GLIFC will open applications for a \$3.2M Producer Capital Fund, which will provide both larger grants and technical support for producers around business planning and capital access.

**Figure 6. Food purchased from regional food producers for the TEFBP**



The program works with a large number of small producers as well as producer groups including the Wisconsin Pork Association, AJ produce, and the Wisconsin Food Hub Cooperative. In addition to providing a reliable market, a number of producers said that the TEFBP had also connected them with *“a new network of people to work with,”* or opened additional markets. Some producers shared that Elders who had received their products through the TEFBP had inquired about how they could purchase more. Beyond the significant market and economic impacts of the TEFBP, producers also expressed how nice it was for them to connect with Tribal Elders through the Program. Several mentioned that Elders had reached out to thank them directly:

*“A Ho-Chunk elder woman honored me for my contribution to the program and took a selfie with me to put on social media.”*

*“We received a card from an elderly tribal member thanking us for the product and sharing a story with us.”*

# Sustaining & Expanding Program Funding

In addition to expanding the Program’s budget over its 4 years, GLIFC and FAEW have worked together to identify new funding sources that can promote long-term Program sustainability. For the first year of the Program, the majority of funding came from Feeding America. By 2023, funding sources were far more diversified than in 2024 and the Program was written into state biennial budget funding. Due to ever shifting economic development policies GLIFC is actively working to identify alternative funding streams.

