Santo Domingo Pueblo
Feast for the Future Program

Ventura Lovato, Santo Domingo Pueblo, NM

Senior Hunger in Native Communities
Tuesday, December 15
Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health
Mission

To work in partnership with American Indian and Alaska Native communities to raise AI/AN health status, self-sufficiency and health leadership to the highest possible level.
Feast for the Future Goal and Objectives

- **Overarching goal:** reduce the incidence and prevalence of obesity and obesity-related diseases among our community

- **Strategic objectives:**
  1. Increase access and availability to healthy foods.
  2. Improve gardening and nutrition knowledge, attitudes and practices among youth, families, and the community.
  3. Create a sustainable practice of traditional farming and capacity building
How we began...

- Created a Community Advisory Board (CAB) was developed to create the vision for the FFF Programs.

- CAB Members are compromised of community leaders, stakeholders, tribal members, tribal leaders, youth and elders.
Feast for the Future Approval Process

1. FFF CAB Develops Idea
2. Evaluation Results Belong to the Tribe
3. Approval Request to Tribal Leadership is made
4. The Program is Evaluated
5. Approval is Granted or Denied
   - If denied no further action is taken.
6. Program is Implemented
Feast for the Future Projects

Current FFF Programs

- Edible School Garden Program
- Traditional Foodways Education Program (Community Garden)
- Senior Center Greenhouse
- Farmers Market
- Farmers Workshops
- Garden to Market

Future FFF Projects

- Community Farm Equipment Coop
- Larger Community Garden (10 acres +)
Traditional Foodways Education Program
Traditional Foodways Education Program

This program was started to encourage youth and elders to participate in traditional farming and to share knowledge of land, culture and language of the Santo Domingo people.

The program serves all ages.

Curriculum is 24 lessons but we are also expanding with the cooking lessons.

Guest elders speak to the youth at each session and are participating in the program.

We work closely with the elderly center to recruit elders and farmers to talk to the students.
Santo Domingo Senior Center Greenhouse
Community Garden

Santo Domingo Community Garden

Youth, farmers, and elders growing nutritious food for a healthy community

This garden was created in partnership by the Santo Domingo Tribal Council, Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health, Santo Domingo Natural Resources Program and the Kiwa Health Outreach Program for our youth and families.
Starter Plants from Greenhouse
Traditional Foodways Program
Elders and Youth in the Garden
Program Successes

- The Senior Center has hired a full-time greenhouse manager to for annual greenhouse production.

- Language and traditions are shared by elders.

- The Tribe is working to develop an Agriculture Department to ensure sustainability of FFF Program activities.
FFF Program Evaluation: In-depth Interviews

- **Goal**: collect qualitative data to understand the impact of program activities on community partners’ perceptions and practices related to nutrition and gardening/farming.

- JHU staff conducted interviews using a structured interview guide. Interviews were recorded and JHU staff transcribed all interviews and JHU faculty coded and analyzed the data.

- **Findings**:
  - The majority of respondents felt that farming/gardening was either central to their culture, a part of their cultural traditions, or could be used to instruct cultural values and practices, such as language:

  “…the role that the farming creates in the community is that it’s in a sense who we are. It’s the center of what we believe in, is the crops. Is… it creates the sustenance, it creates the nutrients of um the honor we create to practice our own culture.”

  - Santo Domingo FFF CV Board Member
Next Phase: Sustainability

**2015**
- Develop a strategic plan for sustainability.
- Identifying resources and strengthen partnerships.

**By Summer 2017**
- Finalize the strategic plan and support implementation.
- Package the FFF program for Santo Domingo and other tribal communities
- Develop a Train-the-Trainers Program for interested communities to implement the program
- Develop process evaluation for programs replicating to ensure fidelity
Thank You!
Contact Information

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Feast for the Future Programs
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