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California—Rural Housing Service

Regional Food Systems

New Truck Improves Tribe's Food Distribution Program

Outline Of Need:

For the past 28 years, the Hoopa Valley Tribe Food Distribution Program has been providing meals to Native Americans and low-income families in northern California. The distribution center, located in Humboldt County, serves a vast geographic region encompassing 13 rural, rugged counties.

Whereas some of the program's clients drive to the Distribution Center in Hoopa to pick-up their food, many participants rely on deliveries. However, delivery service was limited. The Tribe had been using an unreliable 15-year-old, 24-foot refrigerated Freightliner truck to take food from the Distribution Center to a single pick-up location. But for many of the clients that are either without vehicles, do not drive, or have other difficulties finding a ride, they still had trouble getting the food they needed.

Even staff would assist and drive personal vehicles to help make deliveries when the truck failed to.

How Rural Development Helped:

USDA Rural Development provided Hoopa Valley Tribe with a \$20,775 Community Facilities grant made possible through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The grant was used to help purchase an F-250 truck and camper shell to assist with food deliveries.

The Results:

With the new truck the tribe expects to have more reliable deliveries, as well as the ability to expand services to clients such as home deliveries. The Hoopa Valley Tribe Food Distribution Program serves 1,200 clients a month, primarily Native Americans.



Above - Clients pick up food at the Distribution Center in Hoopa, CA. Below - State Director Glenda Humiston inspects the new vehicle purchased to help with deliveries.



Fast Facts

Program: Community Facilities

Investment: \$20,775 Community Facilities Grant

Congressional District: CA-01

Demographics

Serves 13 county region throughout northern California
1,200 clients a month