



## **NATIONAL INDIAN COUNCIL ON AGING**

### **Resolution #2016 –01**

#### **TITLE: NICOA Elders Support Implementation of the Service of Traditional Food in Public Facilities**

WHEREAS, we the members of the National Indian Council on Aging, Inc. (NICOA) of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the issues and needs of American Indian and Alaska Native Elders, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of our Elders, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, NICOA was established in 1976 by Tribal Leaders to advocate for improved comprehensive health, social services and economic wellbeing for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Elders. NICOA submits to the National Indian Congress of American Indians (NCAI) this resolution passed by its members at their biennial meeting on September 14, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Section 4033 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79) (Farm Bill) directs the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Food and Drug Administration to allow donations and serving of traditional food through food service programs at public and nonprofit facilities, including those operated by Indian tribes and facilities operated by tribal organizations, that primarily serve Indians. The donated foods can include food caught or harvested locally to be given to programs serving tribal Elders living in hospitals, clinics, long term care facilities, and senior meal programs with the understanding that safe food practices are ensured; and

WHEREAS, we support the following methods to accomplish this Elder centered approach: community food donations, use of local vendors, effective tribal food code procedures, development of traditional food councils within Long Term Care facilities which receive support from tribal leadership and federal, state and local regulatory agencies. Healthy, traditional food choices lead to better health outcomes including: improved diabetic management, reduced renal disease, improved cardiovascular disease management, prevention of unintended weight loss, improved mood, and the assurance of independence and self-control; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NICOA Elders support implementation of Section 4033, Service of Traditional Foods in Public Places as a Best Practice in hospitals, clinics, Long Term Care facilities, and senior meal programs which will benefit tribal Elders because Elder's quality of life and overall satisfaction is impacted by the opportunity to eat foods most meaningful to them

#### **CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the above resolution was passed before a duly called meeting of the National Indian Council on Aging.