



A Pandemic and the New Face of Hunger

New Mexico Food Banks Respond



How Food Banks Work

Food is:

- Donated
- Purchased
- Rescued from retailers
- Received through contracts



Food Banks pick up and receive truckloads of food every week.



Food is distributed to each of New Mexico's 33 counties.

Volunteers help:

- Box
- Sort
- Repack
- Relabel



Food is supplied to free food programs including:

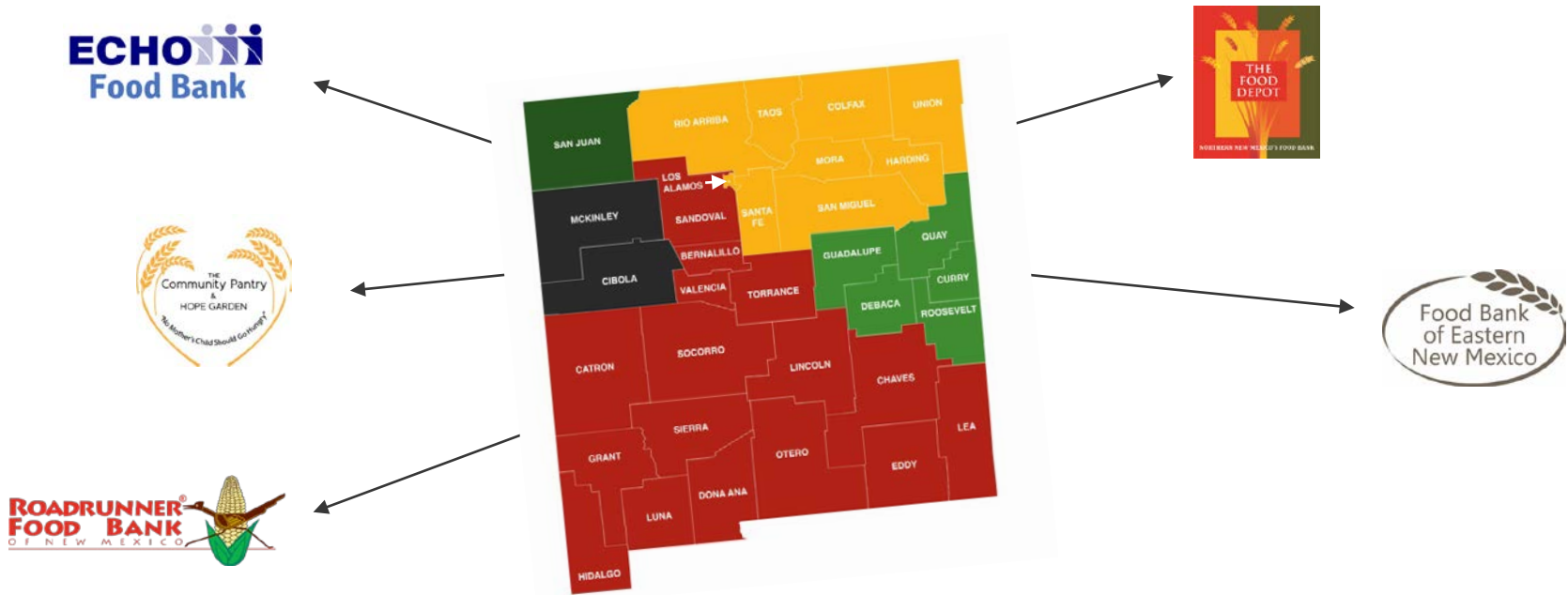
- Food Pantries
- School Partners
- After-school Programs
- Community Kitchens
- Daycare Centers
- Emergency Shelters
- Soup Kitchens
- Senior Meal Sites
- Low-income Housing
- Chapter Houses
- Health Partners



Hunger relief is provided to **tens of thousands of New Mexicans each week.**



Food Bank Service Areas By County

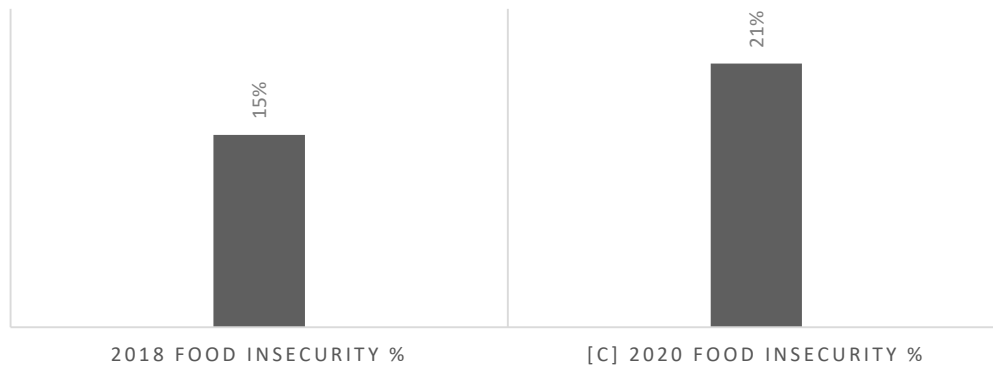


The five food banks impact all 33 counties serving a network of **HUNDREDS** of food distribution partners



Stats – Overall Population

NEW MEXICO- OVERALL HUNGER RATE
IN 2018 AND POTENTIAL HUNGER RATE
IN 2020



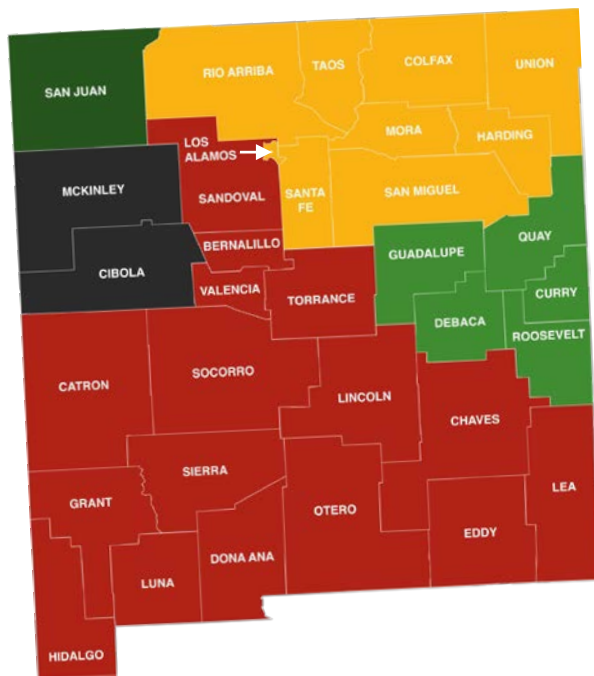
**1 in 5
people**

**1 in 6
pre-pandemic**

A total of 434,540 people food insecure up from 315,990



County Stats—Overall Population



Top Five Counties with Largest Food Insecurity Increases in 2018 to 2020

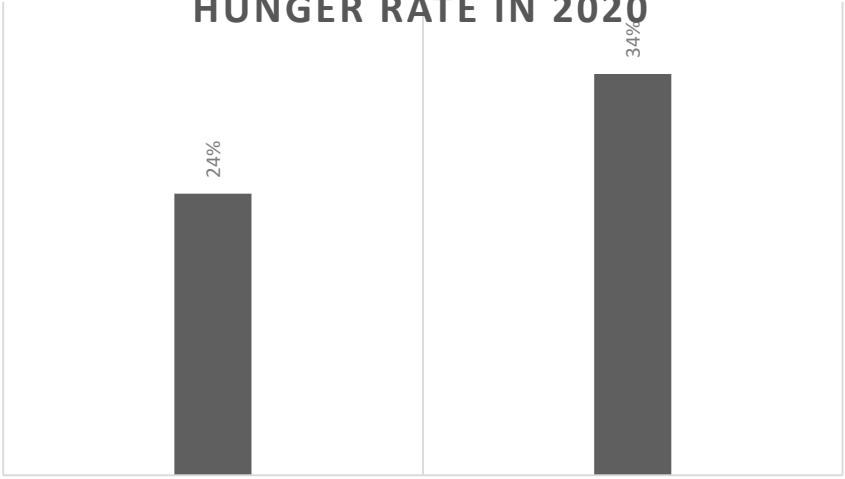
- McKinley County: 22.1 percent to 27.5 percent
- Luna County: 21.8 percent to 27.5 percent
- Cibola County: 19.4 percent to 26.3 percent
- Catron County: 19.2 percent to 26.1 percent
- Sierra County: 19.5 percent to 24.4 percent
- **TWENTY-THREE** counties have overall hunger rates of more than 20 percent. All but one are **rural counties** (Doña Ana)

Stats – Child Population

**1 in 3
children**

**1 in 4
pre-pandemic**

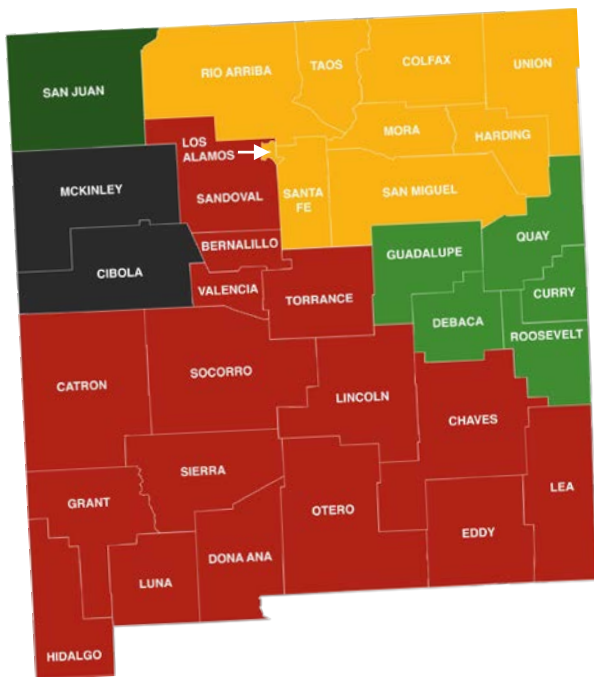
NEW MEXICO CHILD HUNGER RATE IN 2018 AND POTENTIAL HUNGER RATE IN 2020



2018 CHILD FOOD INSECURITY % [C] 2020 CHILD FOOD INSECURITY %

A total of 162,960 children food insecure up from 114,180

County Stats–Child Population



Top Five Counties with Largest Increases in 2018 to 2020

- Catron County: 34.8 percent to 47.4 percent
- Luna County: 33.9 percent to 44.1 percent
- McKinley County: 34.5 percent to 44 percent
- Cibola County: 31.1 percent to 43.8 percent
- Sierra County: 33.7 percent to 42.4 percent
- **EIGHT** Counties have childhood hunger rates over 40 percent!
- An additional **EIGHTEEN** Counties have childhood hunger rates over 30 percent. All, but two counties are rural (Bernalillo and Doña Ana counties).

Since March and Into the Future



- Significant alterations in food distribution models required changes immediately. It also required lots of training for our food distribution partners downstream of the food banks.
- Decreases in available volunteers – many seniors who would be impacted by the virus during the health crisis cancelled volunteer appts.
- 20 percent of our statewide hunger relief network closed.
- Food banks had to “start up” mobile, contactless distributions in MANY counties some of which included: Bernalillo, Luna, McKinley, Otero, Rio Arriba, San Juan, Santa Fe and Socorro
- Tribal communities heavily impacted by the virus. Started up new or expanded distributions with many new or existing tribal partners.
- Immediate supply chain issues for food availability with run on grocery stores. Decreases in large-scale food donations.

Food Banks Serving Tribal Communities

ECHO Food Bank

- Portion of Navajo Nation

The Food Depot

- 1 Apache Tribe
- 8 Pueblos

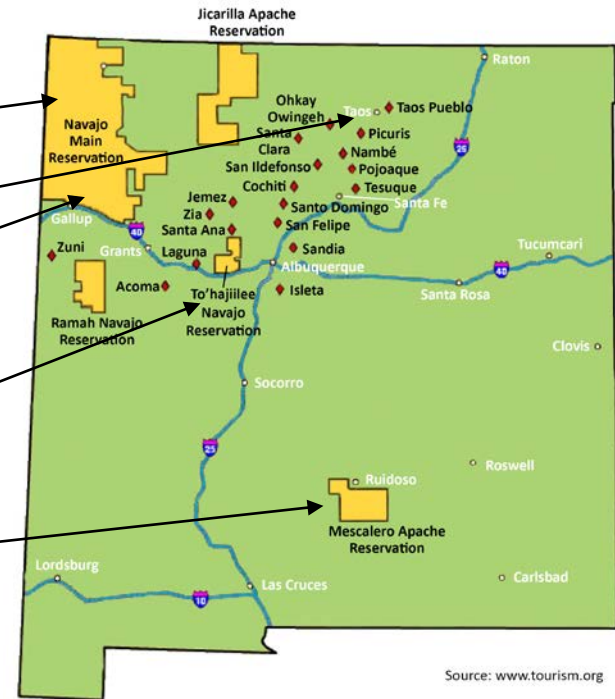
Community Pantry

- Portion of Navajo Nation
- 3 Pueblos

Roadrunner Food Bank

- 2 Apache Tribes
- 8 Pueblos
- 3 Chapters of Navajo Nation

Pueblos and Reservations in New Mexico



Source: www.tourism.org

Four of the state's five food banks serve tribal communities.



Expanded Food Bank Services to Native Communities

- Coronavirus increased opportunities to help expand existing services.
- **24 percent INCREASE** of food into tribal areas
 - From 13.7 million pounds
 - To 17.6 million pounds (updated Oct. 7)
- More work to do in supporting tribal areas
 - Commercial vehicle access due to poor roads.
 - Lack of cold storage space in tribal areas.
 - Additional relationship building to maintain/expand services year after year.
 - Need for more culturally appropriate foods.



- HUGE increases as many New Mexicans face under employment or unemployment and visit emergency food distributions for the first time in their lives.
- Larger need and expansion of food purchases for the statewide hunger relief network and the materials to support the expanded food emergency needs. It also impacts the following costs:
 - Capital Needs – box trucks/trailers/forklifts/pallet jacks, etc.
 - Materials like large scale orders of boxes for contactless distributions, plastic for wrapping/shipping needs
 - Fuel/maintenance costs for increased/expanded New Mexico routes
 - Increase Need for Personnel – drivers, warehouse staff, etc.
- Continuous engagement and support for our statewide hunger relief network. It is critical the network stay OPEN!
- Expect continued delays/disruptions of food supply chain from our suppliers. Will continue to monitor to keep the flow of food coming in.
- Expect:
 - Lower availability of commodities.
 - No additional food from the new Farmers to Food Bank program. So far there has been no additional federal funding to maintain this boxed food program model. Funded through October 2020.
 - Lower availability of donated food sources from food industry donors.
 - We will need to complement our food availability with more purchased food items.
- Continued elevated costs in food purchases – see next slide.
- **Overall - LESS FOOD** at a time when we don't believe we have hit the basement in terms of need by New Mexicans facing un/under employment as the virus continues to place pressure on the economy.

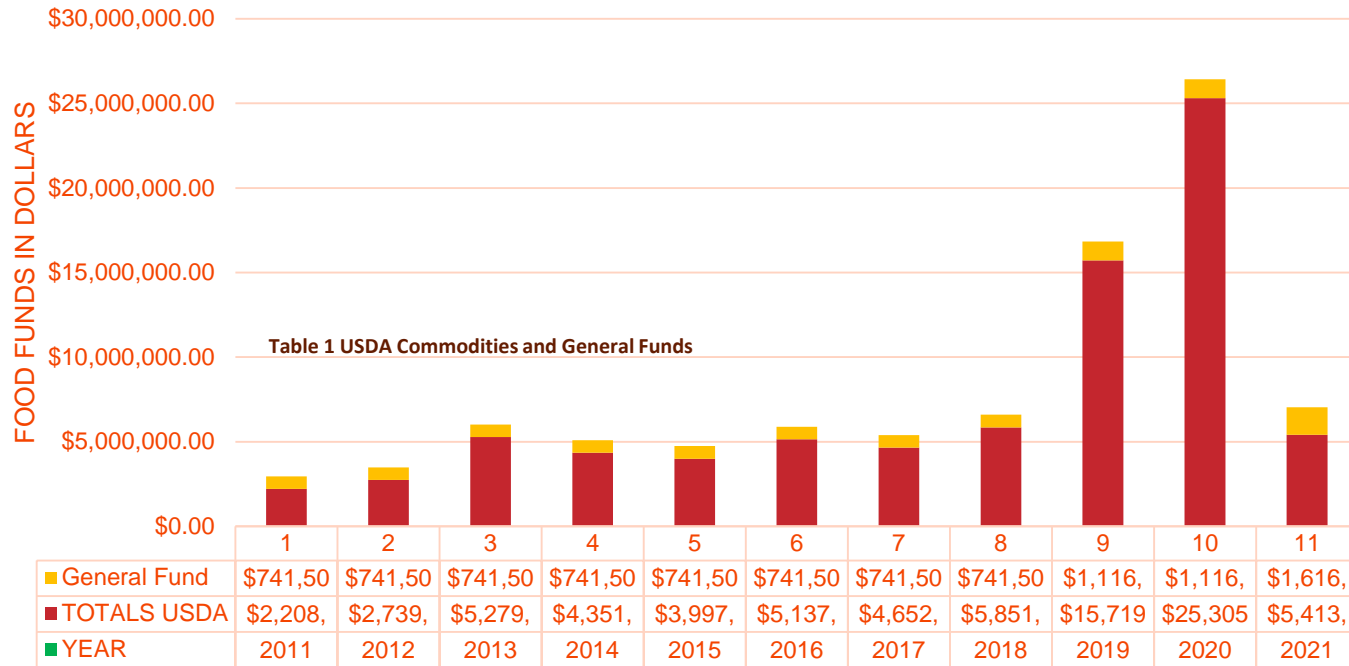


Clients pick up food at a contactless food distribution this spring.

Example: Food Cost Increase in 2020 per Case



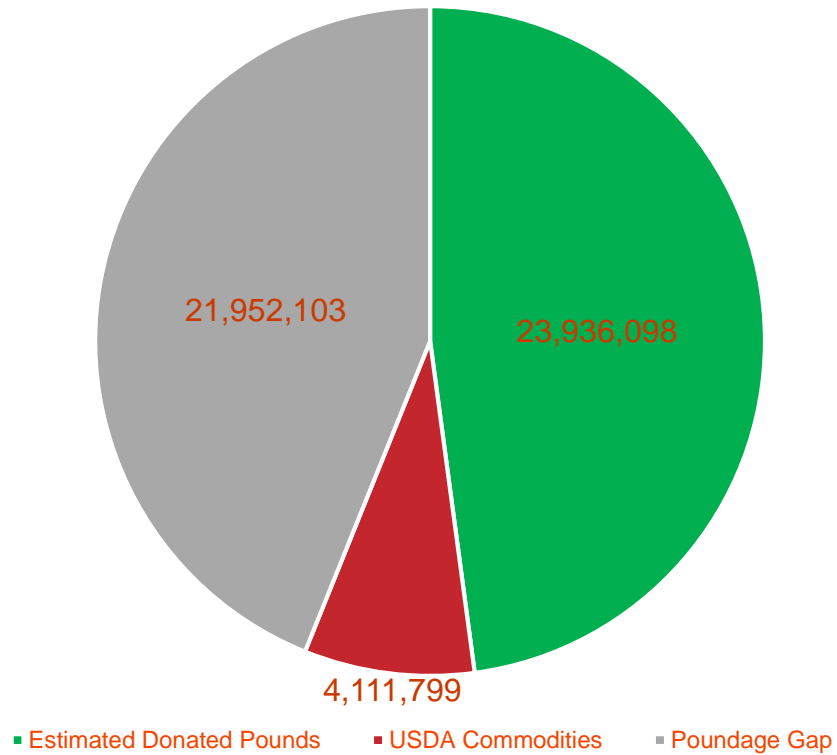
USDA Commodities & General Fund Food Dollars



Including Years 2011 through 2021



Food Banks Poundage Forecast for CY 2021



Journal Article

- July 2020 Albuquerque Journal article featured local economic expert opinions on state economy and state's anticipated return of jobs. Experts believe it will take **FOUR** years to recover.*
- The realities of unemployment/underemployment:
 - Increasing eviction rates as people can't afford housing without a paying job.
 - Increasing food insecurity/hunger as our neighbors select other expenses (like meds, bills, etc.) over purchasing food.
 - Increasing healthcare costs as more are forced to go on COBRA benefits or go without benefits exhausting additional monies they MAY have. Research shows that food insecure households pay \$1,452 additional dollars in healthcare costs per food insecure individual in NM.**
 - Increases in poverty as more families are financially devastated even if they had a savings to utilize during the pandemic.
 - Less availability of unemployment insurance to cover all a family's needs.
 - Low income jobs significantly impacted. These represent the working poor who rely on services from food banks and will fall further into poverty with fewer job prospects.

*<https://www.abqjournal.com/1476227/experts-nm-to-face-long-lasting-economic-pain.html>

**https://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2019/18_0549.htm

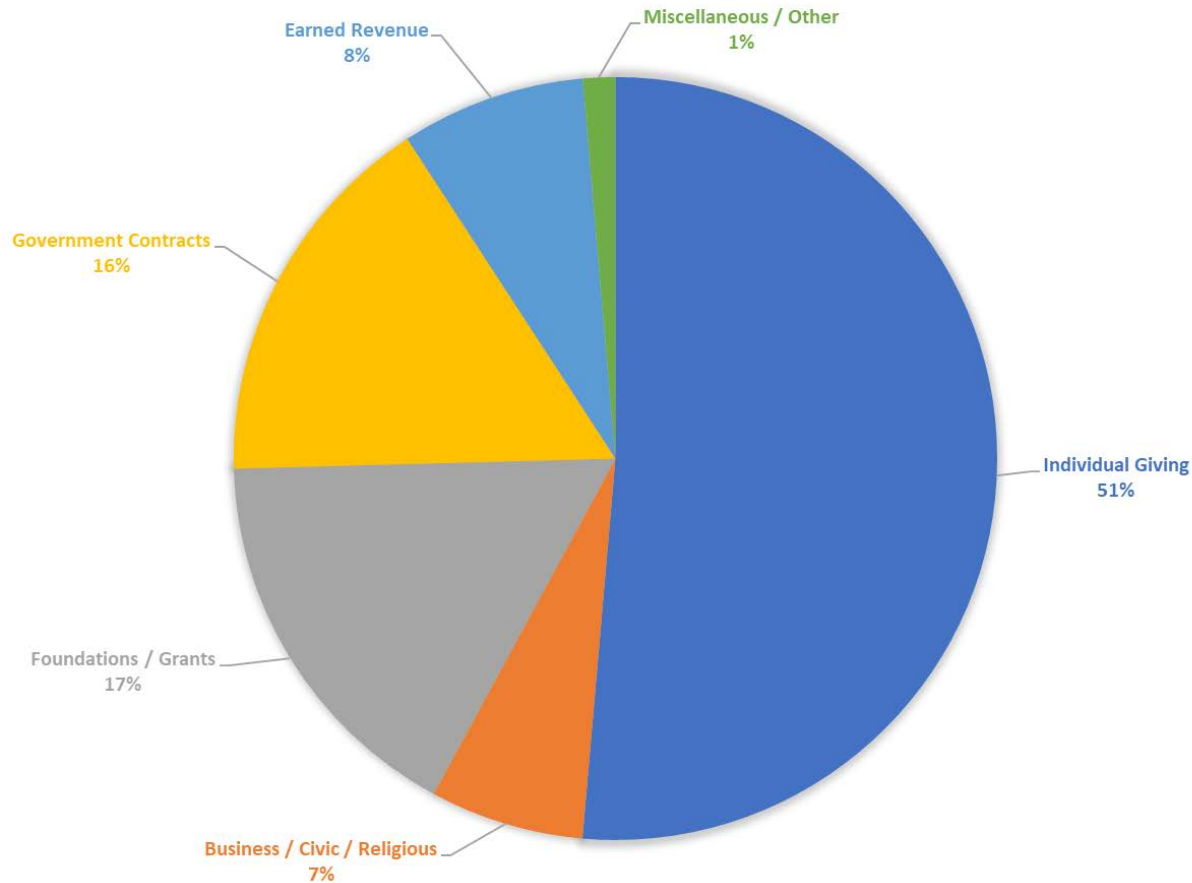
** <https://public.tableau.com/profile/feeding.america.research#!/vizhome/TheHealthcareCostsofFoodInsecurity/HealthcareCosts>

*According to the Journal article,
"Both university researchers said some jobs
will survive better than others. Higher-paid
professionals who can work from home are
better protected from the economic pain, they
said, while lower-paid frontline workers in
retail or at small business are most at risk."*

*In July 2020, Jeff Mitchell, director of the
Bureau of Business and Economic Research
at UNM said, "What we're seeing
now may not be the worst."*



PRIMARY FOOD BANK REVENUE SOURCES



- Non-Profits Require a Diversified Funding Model
- Primary Source = Individual Donors
- Food Banks can't do this work alone.
- Food banks need continual investment to maintain aging capital, support for consistent food purchases and
- Strong partners across the state to keep the flow of food moving throughout the year.

How You Can Help

Do No Harm:

Do not reinstitute the Gross Receipts Tax (GRT) on any food items.

- 25 percent of our fellow New Mexicans are poor, unemployed and do not qualify for ANY Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (food stamp) benefits.
- Already they face hunger, and a tax on food purchases will further strain their finances and reduce their ability to obtain all the necessary nutrition needed to sustain a healthy life. Even current SNAP recipients only receive tax-exempt SNAP benefits sufficient to cover A PORTION of the food they need, and they would have to pay tax on all other food they purchase.
- If the GRT is applied to ANY food items, all New Mexicans whose family incomes are below 200% of poverty MUST be exempted from paying the tax on their food purchases, regardless of their eligibility for SNAP. But there are many other places the state can and should look instead for new revenue it needs."

Do not tax the purchase nonprofits make.

- Food banks and many nonprofits in our state provide core emergency services that government cannot replace.
- Requiring nonprofits to pay the GRT on their purchases will diminish their ability to provide badly needed assistance; food banks and food pantries will be able to provide less food to hungry New Mexicans at a time when the need is greater than ever before, and when hard pressed state and local governments cannot afford to fill that need.

Do not cut budgets for State agencies providing and administering critical services during upcoming legislative session.

- Be thoughtful about where cuts in the budget happen in what agencies. It is crucial that great care be taken in reducing the budgets of state agencies that provide direct human services, administer federal and state financial or nutrition assistance programs, or contract for such services. Needy New Mexicans must not be subjected to a situation where federal or state assistance available to help them does not reach them because state agency personnel and resources needed to administer and deliver that assistance are insufficient to do the job.
- Several agencies responsible for various human services programs already are stretched to the breaking point given the sharply increased need for the services and assistance they provide. Impoverished New Mexicans will be further hurt if the agencies cannot deliver the services and assistance to all who are eligible and do so on a timely basis.



How You Can Help

Keep Funding Support for Food Banks at Current Levels:

Hunger is at an all-time high and will remain high as the Coronavirus crisis continues and impacts employment. Prevent cuts to state funds that help food banks source and acquire food distributed in all 33 counties. Stable funding for food purchases will help food banks keep a continual flow of food – and nutritious food – coming into food bank warehouses.

- ✓ Preserve – **do not cut** – FY2021 appropriation for food banks to source and purchase millions of pounds of fresh produce.
 - ✓ FY '20 – **10.9 cents** a pound, distributed **6.18 million pounds** of produce – onions, potatoes, apricots, melons, apples, pears, cabbage, carrots, celery, kiwis, tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, oranges, lettuce, eggplant and peppers.
 - ✓ FY '19 – **7.9 cents** a pound, distributed **6.98 million** pounds of a variety of produce

- ✓ Preserve – **do not cut** – FY2021 appropriation for food banks to source and purchase shelf-stable foods.

- ✓ Join Representatives Ferrary and Stansbury and other statewide policy makers by joining the Hunger Caucus or Hunger Council!





Alice Perez, The Community Pantry

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Serving: Cibola and McKinley Counties

Nannette Pinckney, ECHO Food Bank

505.325.7466 or npinckney@echoinc.org

Serving: San Juan County

Dianna Sprague, Food Bank of Eastern New Mexico

575.763.6130 or foodbank@plateautel.net

Serving: Curry, DeBaca, Guadalupe, Quay and Roosevelt Counties

Sherry Hooper, The Food Depot

505.471.1633 ext. 110 or shooper@thefooddepot.org

Serving: Colfax, Harding, Los Alamos, Mora, Rio Arriba, San Miguel, Santa Fe, Taos, and Union Counties

Mag Strittmatter, Roadrunner Food Bank of New Mexico

505.349.8666 or mag.strittmatter@rffb.org

Serving: Bernalillo, Catron, Chaves, Doña Ana, Eddy, Grant, Hidalgo, Lea, Lincoln, Luna, Otero, Sandoval, Sierra, Socorro, Torrance, and Valencia Counties

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