





New Mexico Food Banks: Challenges, Impacts, and the Path Forward

Jill Dixon, Executive Director, The Food Depot
President, New Mexico Association of Food Banks

Katy Anderson, Vice President, Strategy, Partnerships and Advocacy, Roadrunner Food Bank



ECHO
Empowering Our Community to Thrive!

ROADRUNNER FOOD BANK OF NEW MEXICO

THE FOOD DEPOT
NORTHERN NEW MEXICO'S FOOD BANK

THE Community Pantry & HOPE GARDEN
"No Mother's Child Should Go Hungry"

Food Bank of Eastern New Mexico

NEW MEXICO MILITARY POPULATIONS AND ESSENTIAL LOCATIONS

Active Duty
- 14,303 active-duty service members
- 4,834 active-duty spouses
- 8,031 active-duty children
  - 4,369 children in K-12

National Guard
- 7,458 National Guard and reserve members
- 2,871 National Guard and reserve spouses
- 4,575 National Guard and reserve children
  - 2,931 children in K-12

Veterans
- 133,000 veterans

ECHO, INC.

Region: Northwest New Mexico
Headquartered in Farmington
Distribution: 1.9 million pounds of food

THE COMMUNITY PANTRY

Region: Western New Mexico
Headquartered in Gallup
Distribution: 2.2 million pounds of food

THE FOOD DEPOT

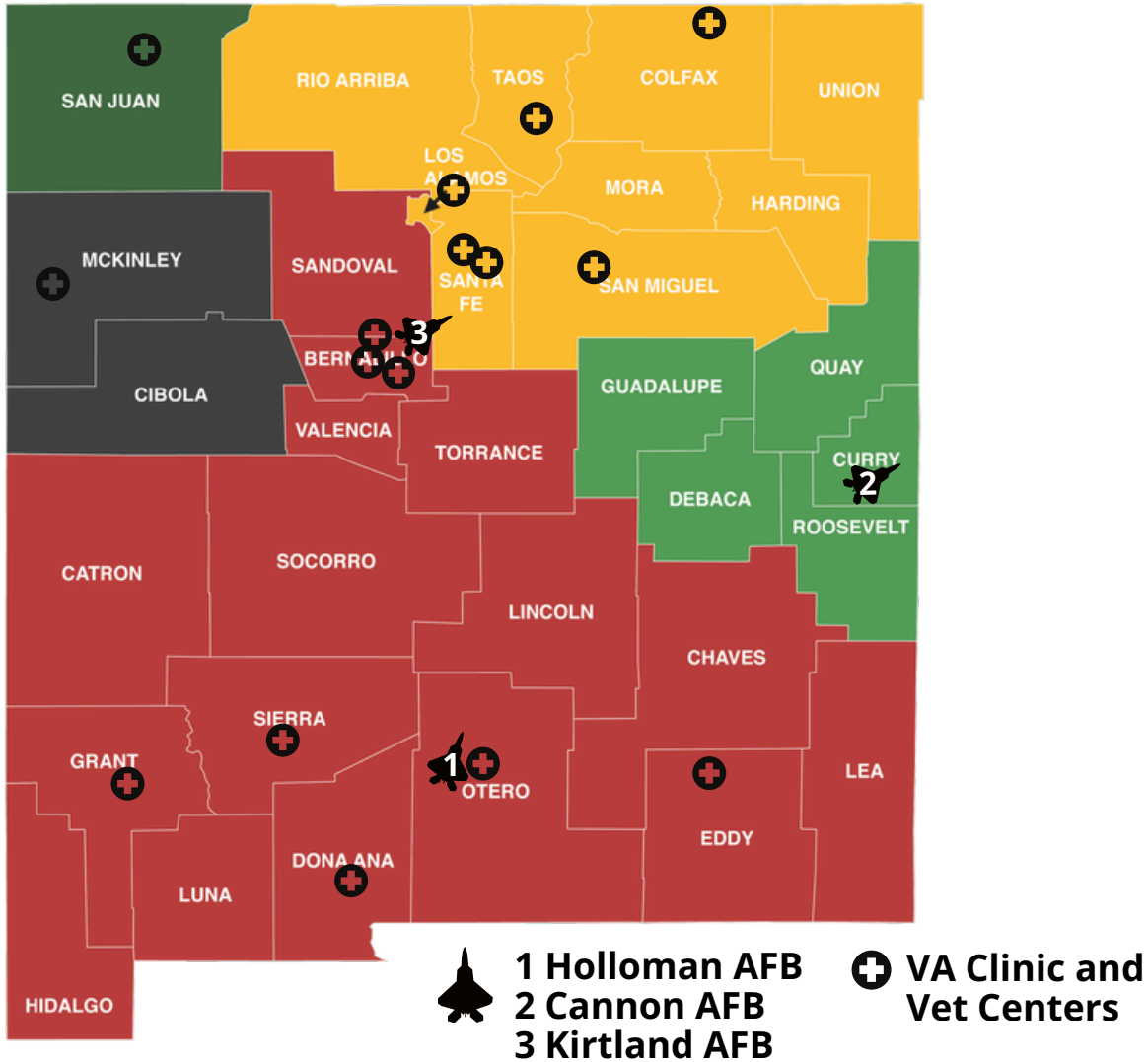
Region: Northern New Mexico
Headquartered in Santa Fe
Distribution: 11.7 million pounds

FOOD BANK OF EASTERN NEW MEXICO

Region: Eastern New Mexico
Headquartered in Clovis
Distribution: 1.5 million pounds of food

ROADRUNNER FOOD BANK

Central and Southern New Mexico
Headquartered in Albuquerque
Distribution: 46 million pounds of food



DIVERSE, INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS SERVING NEW MEXICANS IN ALL 33 COUNTIES

Native Partnerships



Senior Centers



Military Partnerships



Public & Charter Schools



Hospitals & Clinics



Income-Based Housing



Religious Organizations



Homeless Shelters



Locker Systems



Rural Distributions



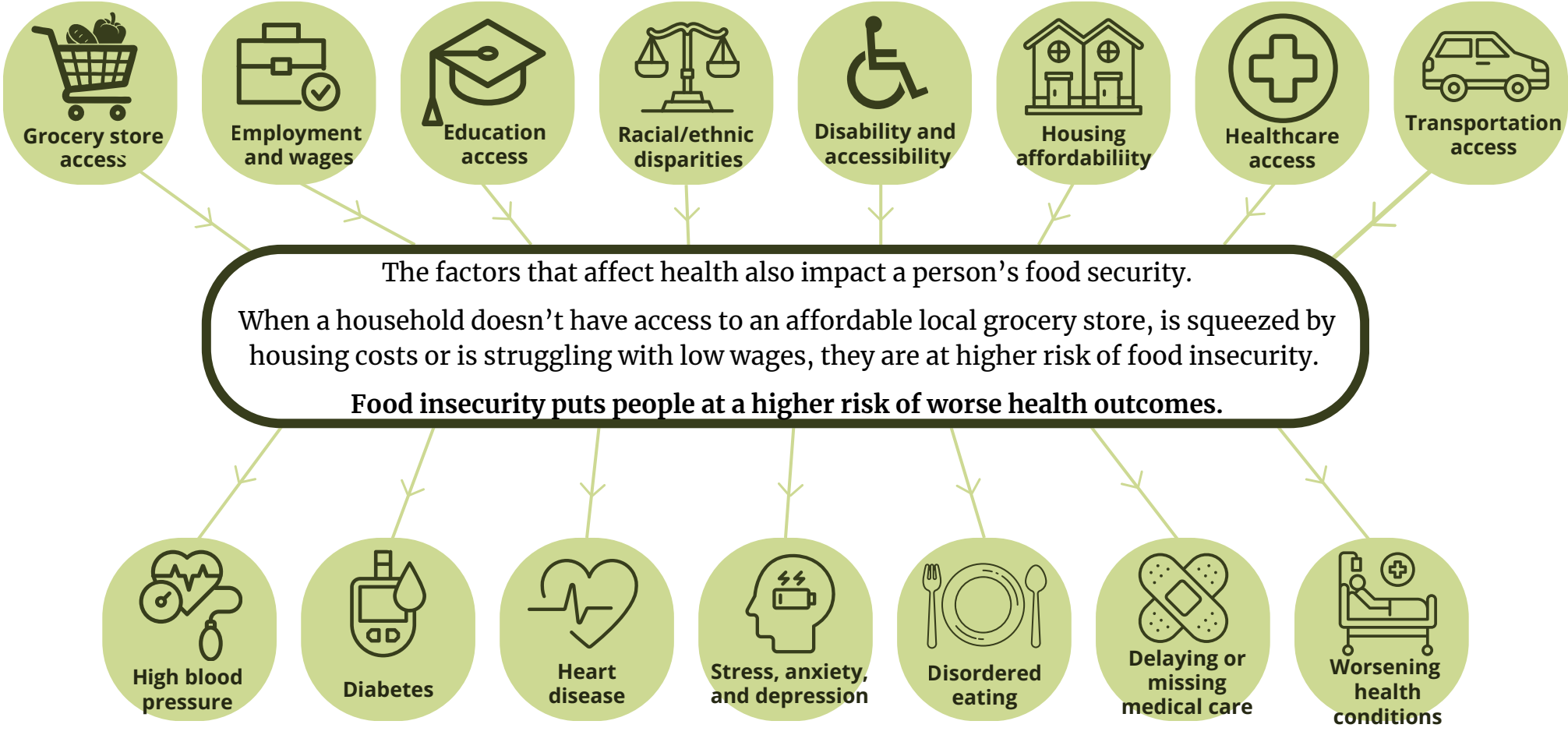
Mobile Grocery Units



Basic Needs



FOOD INSECURITY AND SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH (SDOH)



SDOH are the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age. SDOH have a major impact on people's health, well-being, and quality of life.

Just promoting healthy choices won't eliminate these and other health disparities.
Instead, public health organizations and their partners take action to improve the conditions in people's environments.

WRAPAROUND SERVICES

Creating resource connections

- Community Health Workers/Resource Navigators use a Social Determinants of Health screening process, then create connections to needed resources for individuals and families
- SNAP, WIC, Medicaid, Medicare Advantage, etc.
- Utility assistance, housing, rental assistance, transportation support, education
- Workforce development
- Childcare, diapers, school supplies

ROADRUNNER FOOD BANK

Partnerships supporting military families and veterans

- Partnership with Veterans Integration Services
- Food Pantry on Holloman Air Force Base
- Partnership with NM VA Health Care System
- School-based pantries (campuses w/ military pop.)
  - Emerson Elementary
  - Kirtland Elementary
  - La Mesa Elementary
  - Whittier Elementary
  - Van Buren Middle
  - Wilson Middle
  - Highland High

FOOD BANK OF EASTERN NEW MEXICO

Partnership with Military Family & Readiness Center

- Referral system in partnership with the Military Family and Readiness Center on Cannon Air Force Base
- Families referred to pick up groceries at the food bank
- Creates continuous access to food and resources
- Stigma around food insecurity as asking for help prevents more families from accessing food bank services



UNDERSTANDING THE CURRENT LANDSCAPE

March 2025

LFPA Terminated by USDA.
From 2023-2025, almost 1 million pounds of local food was purchased across NM.

April 2025

TEFAP CCC Cuts Hit NM Food Banks.
Lost over 20 truckloads of food and 2 million dollars worth of food for the food banks.

July 2025

President Trump signs H.R. 1 into law.
(Also known as the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act")

October 1, 2025

The US Government shuts down for 43 days, the longest in US history.

October 1-2, 2025

NM Special Session
$66 million was provided to maintain SNAP benefits and support food access for New Mexicans

November 10, 2025

NM Special Session
Provided weekly payments to help New Mexicans maintain SNAP benefits during the shutdown.

November 12, 2025

Government Shutdown Ends
SNAP payments continue undisrupted.

January 1, 2026

H.R. 1 Goes into Effect, meaning new work requirements affect New Mexicans who recertify or sign up for SNAP

January 2026

HCA provides a one-time payment to eligible lawfully present immigraant households who can no longer be on SNAP

May 1, 2026

HCA implements a new documentation verification process for SNAP with the goal of reducing the state's error rate

May 20, 2026

New Mexico State Budget supports hunger-relief: $2 million for Regional Farm to Food Bank

May 20th, cont.

Expansion of Double Up Food Bucks, Senior Meal Programs, WIC, Universal School Meals, Approved Supplier Program

October 2026

SNAP Administration cost-shift goes into effect, a $37 million dollar expense for New Mexico

October 2028/2029

SNAP Benefit cost-shift goes into effect, requiring the state to pay 15% of benefits ($173 million)

FOOD INSECURITY RATES IN VETERAN AND ACTIVE-DUTY POPULATIONS

2025			
	Food Secure	Low Food Security	Very Low Food Security
Full Sample	58.8%	18.8%	22.4%
Currently Serving Families*	52.8%	21.6%	25.6%
*Active Duty Families	53.4%	21.3%	25.3%
*National Guard and Reserve Families	49.2%	23.3%	27.5%
*Officer Families	86.3%	6.4%	7.3%
*Enlisted Families	43.0%	26.1%	30.9%
*Junior Enlisted Families (E1-E3)	25.9%	25.2%	48.9%
Families Who Recently PCS'd (Within the Past Year)	49.9%	24.0%	26.1%
*Active Duty Single Service Members w/o Children	54.8%	19.2%	26.0%
Families with Children in the Home	52.3%	22.2%	25.5%
Veteran and Retiree Families	74.8%	11.8%	13.4%
Families in Rural Areas	59.2%	17.8%	23.0%
Families in Suburban Areas	60.7%	19.5%	19.8%
Families in Urban Areas	55.6%	16.6%	27.8%
Families with Annual Household Income Below $75,000	37.3%	27.2%	35.5%

Note: The asterisk denotes populations that are also considered "currently serving military families."

SERVICE MEMBERS AND SNAP ELIGIBILITY – BASIC PAY

The SNAP income limit in New Mexico is **200% of the Federal Poverty Level.** If **basic pay alone** were used to determine SNAP eligibility for enlisted service members, the highlighted pay grades would be eligible based on these household sizes and income limits:

One-person household: $2,660

Two-person household: $3,608

Three-person household: $4,554

Four-person household: $5,500

Basic Pay – Enlisted Effective January 1, 2026

DoD FMR, Vol. 7A, Chapter 1

	Cumulative Years of Service **(Note 1)**										
Pay Grade	2 or less	Over 2	Over 3	Over 4	Over 6	Over 8	Over 10	Over 12	Over 14	Over 16	Over 18
E-9 (Notes 2 & 3)							6,910.20	7,066.50	7,263.60	7,496.10	7,730.70
E-8						5,656.50	5,907.00	6,061.80	6,247.20	6,448.20	6,811.20
E-7	3,932.10	4,291.50	4,456.20	4,673.10	4,843.80	5,135.70	5,300.40	5,591.70	5,835.00	6,000.90	6,177.30
E-6	3,401.10	3,743.10	3,908.10	4,068.90	4,235.70	4,612.80	4,759.50	5,043.30	5,130.30	5,193.60	5,267.70
E-5	3,342.90	3,598.20	3,775.80	3,946.80	4,110.00	4,299.90	4,395.30	4,421.70	4,421.70	4,421.70	4,421.70
E-4	3,142.20	3,303.00	3,482.40	3,658.50	3,815.40	3,815.40	3,815.40	3,815.40	3,815.40	3,815.40	3,815.40
E-3	2,836.80	3,015.00	3,198.00	3,198.00	3,198.00	3,198.00	3,198.00	3,198.00	3,198.00	3,198.00	3,198.00
E-2	2,697.90	2,697.90	2,697.90	2,697.90	2,697.90	2,697.90	2,697.90	2,697.90	2,697.90	2,697.90	2,697.90
E-1 (Notes 4 & 5)	2,407.20	2,407.20	2,407.20	2,407.20	2,407.20	2,407.20	2,407.20	2,407.20	2,407.20	2,407.20	2,407.20

CHALLENGE:
SNAP, THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

BY THE NUMBERS



In 2025, 41.2% of active-duty and veteran families in the U.S. reported experiencing food insecurity. Junior Enlisted families (E1-E3) are at the highest risk for food insecurity.

Of those households, only 8.8% reported using SNAP Benefits.

SNAP helps 1.2 million veterans in the U.S., including 15,000 veterans in New Mexico (11% of the state's veteran population).

THE CHALLENGE

Military and veteran families face challenges accessing SNAP, including:

- The BAH counting as income
- Asset limit requirements
- Recent legislative changes

An estimated 56,000 veteran households nationally are expected to lose all or part of their SNAP Benefits due to H.R. 1.

Veterans are no longer exempt from time-limited work requirements (unless they have another exemption). They must work or volunteer 80 hours a month to keep their benefits.

FOOD BANK CONNECTION



For every meal a food bank provides, SNAP provides nine.

When a household's SNAP benefits decrease, or they lose assistance entirely, they turn to food banks and food pantries to fill the gap.

One client shared that his SNAP benefits only cover the equivalent of about two bags of groceries each month. "It's hard. I need the extra help, which is why I attend your distributions," he said.

CHALLENGE: USDA FEDERAL FOOD PROGRAMS

BY THE NUMBERS



Veteran and active-duty households must meet the same requirements as civilians

- **TEFAP:** Based on income and household size, unless already eligible for other federal nutrition assistance
- **CSFP:** Must be at least 60 years old, meet income, household size, and county residency requirements
- **FDPIR:** Income-eligible households that include at least one person who is a federally recognized Tribe member
- **WIC:** Income-eligible women, infants and children up to 5 years old
- **Free and Reduced School Meals:** Based on income and household size; however, many military families are ineligible because of BAH. Sen. Heinrich has co-sponsored a bill to exclude BAH from income calculations.



FOOD BANK CONNECTION



Food banks across the country have experienced a 30% decline in TEFAP food, with an additional 25% decrease projected for FY27.

In New Mexico, The Community Pantry has received 70% less TEFAP food since 2024.

Roadrunner Food Bank's TEFAP food is down almost 50% from two years ago.

The Food Depot received 33% less TEFAP food in FY26.

CHALLENGE: FOOD ACCESS

BY THE NUMBERS



Nationally, veteran and active-duty households purchase most of their groceries from:

- Supercenters/club stores (31.8%)
- Grocery stores (26.3%)
- Commissaries
  - 77.1% on-base
  - 53.1% off-base

More than 1 in 5 households (civilian and military) live in a food desert in counties that have AFBs in New Mexico:

- 21% in Bernalillo County
- 47% in Otero County
- 35% in Curry County

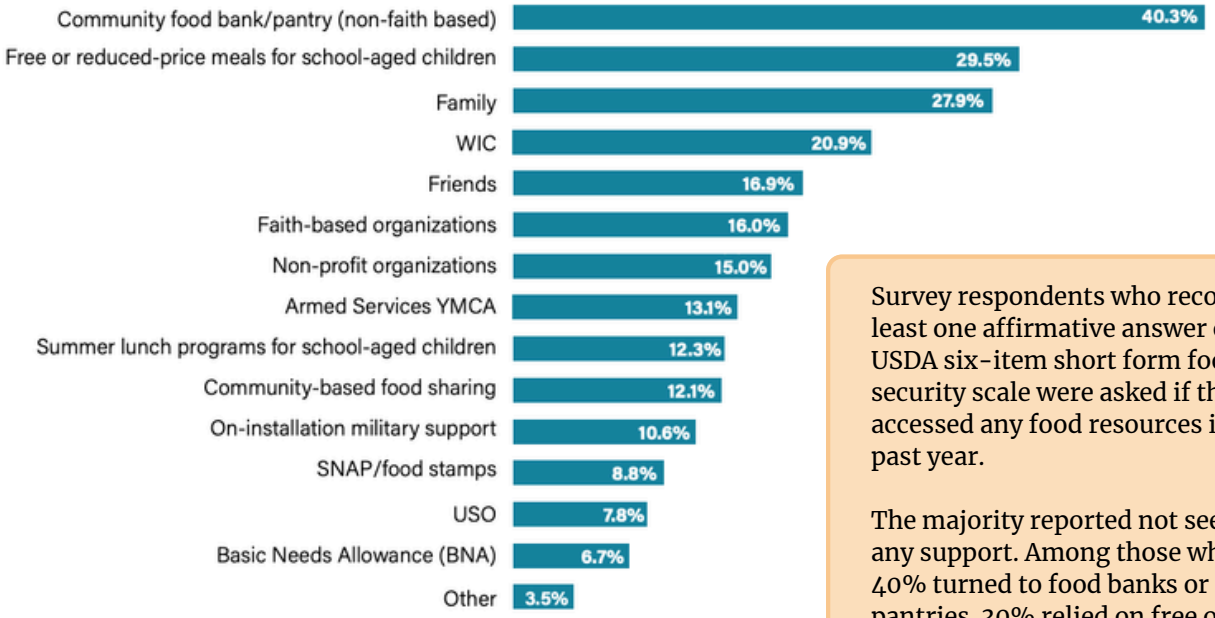
USDA Food Desert definition: More than 1 mile to a grocery store in urban areas and more than 10 miles in rural areas.

THE CHALLENGE

The primary factors driving food insecurity among active-duty households were financial security and pay grade. ***A 2026 study found no difference in food insecurity levels versus commissary use.***

This is consistent with research on civilian populations, which finds that proximity to grocery stores does not increase food security if household income is low. Food availability does not offset low wages, transportation access, or other barriers.

FOOD RESOURCE UTILIZATION



Survey respondents who recorded at least one affirmative answer on the USDA six-item short form food security scale were asked if they had accessed any food resources in the past year.

The majority reported not seeking any support. Among those who did, 40% turned to food banks or pantries. 30% relied on free or reduced school meals.

CHALLENGE
COST OF LIVING: FOOD AND FUEL

BY THE NUMBERS



In 2025, 57.7% of military and veteran families said rising grocery prices were the top barrier their households faced when trying to save money over the past two years.

Over 40% of families said it was difficult to afford healthy meals.

Gasoline prices have increased by 32.4% over the past year. This increase impacts trips to the grocery store and doctor's office. **For our veterans, the VA's mileage reimbursement rate has been stuck at 41.5 cents per mile since 2008.**

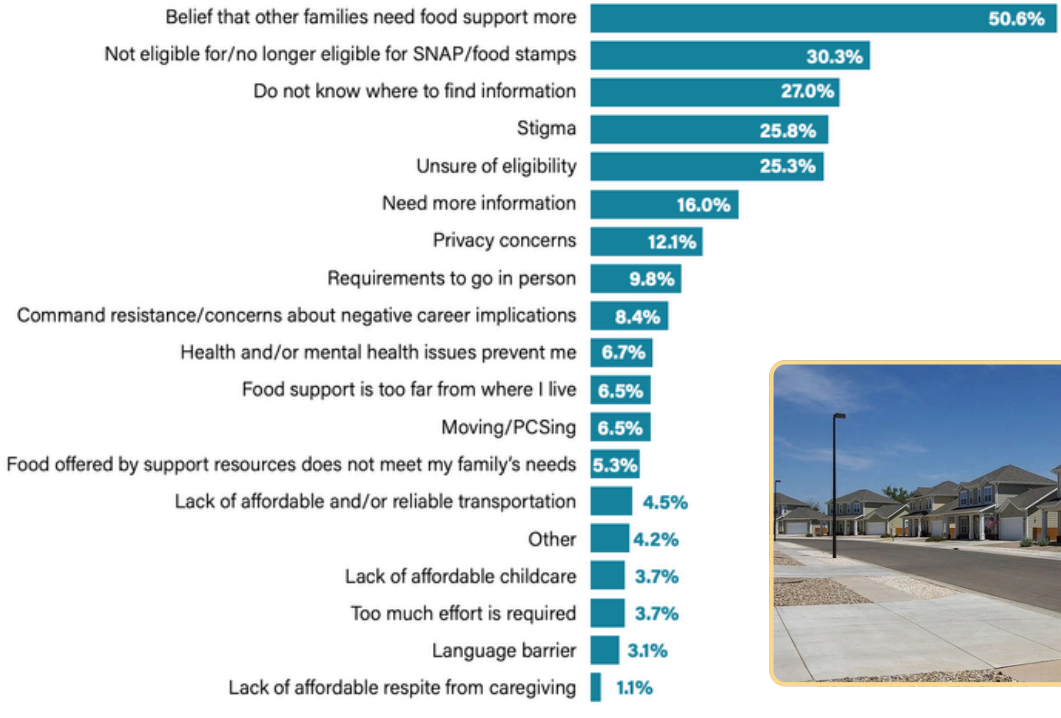
FOOD BANK CONNECTION

Trucks for Roadrunner Food Bank and The Food Depot log over 1 million miles each year.

NM Food Banks are spending 70% more on fuel in 2026.

GRO Funding has helped New Mexico's food banks purchase more food as costs continue to rise.

BARRIERS TO SEEKING FOOD SUPPORT SERVICES





Jill Dixon, The Food Depot
Executive Director
jdixon@thefooddepot.org
505-452-6318

Katy Anderson, Roadrunner Food Bank
Vice President, Strategy, Partnerships and Advocacy
katy.anderson@rrfb.org
505-349-5344

Appendix

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GRO Funds Year ONE
Roadrunner Food Bank

- Sourced 9,092,602 pounds of food, 70% of which was produce
- Added 10,557 cubic feet of refrigerated space and 7,557 cubic feet of freezer space to their partner agency network
- Purchased eight vehicles for food rescue and home delivery for partner agencies
- Added six semi-tractors and 14 semi-trailers to launch and support the Fresh Stop Mobile Market program (92 new sites)
- Upgraded a cargo van for a street feeding program in southern NM
- Added 600 square feet of dry storage space in Carlsbad, a 500-square-foot cooler with pallet racking and electrical infrastructure in Mescalero, and nearly 150 square feet of walk-in freezer space and pallet racking in Albuquerque
- Launched a refrigerated locker pilot program in Albuquerque
- Purchased produce, protein, and eggs from the Frontier Communities Frontier Food Hub to provide to partner agencies in Catron, Luna, and Grant counties
- Purchased a refrigerated cargo van and a refrigerated box truck for Frontier Food Hub





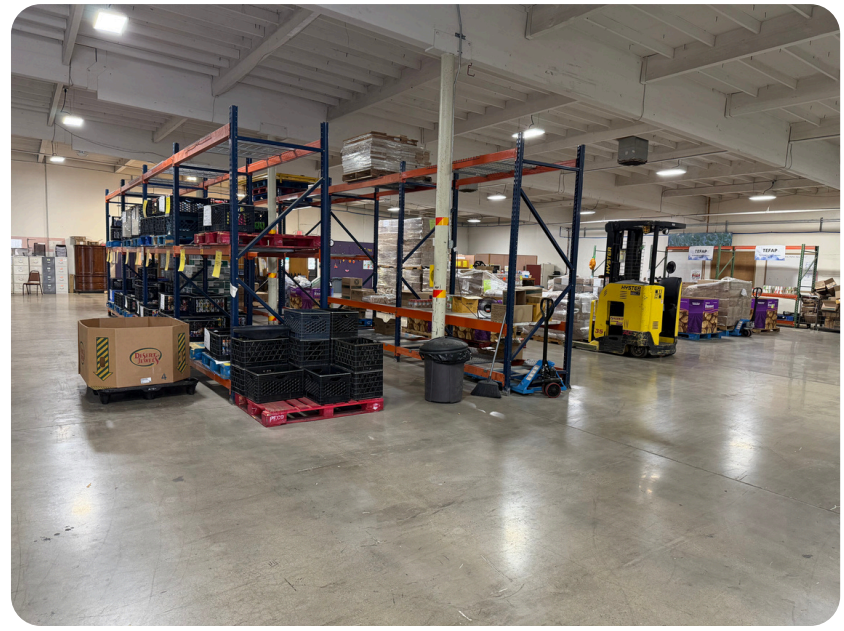




GRO CAPACITY FUNDS	GRO FOOD FUNDS
$2,405,000	$3,521,000

GRO Funds Year ONE
ECHO, Inc.

- Added 840 cubic feet of refrigerated space, 840 cubic feet of freezer space, and 6,400 cubic feet of dry storage space to the Farmington warehouse
- Added 2 refrigerated cargo vans to serve rural and tribal communities
- Provided six partner agencies with additional equipment, including refrigerators
- Purchased more produce and proteins to increase healthy options for clients









GRO CAPACITY FUNDS	GRO FOOD FUNDS
$605,000	$304,000

GRO Funds Year ONE
The Food Depot

- Expanded the capacity of its Food Mobile program with the purchase of three custom food distribution trailers
- Renovation of The Food Depot's no-cost market in Española
- Purchased a refrigerated semi-trailer, adding 22 pallets of space
- Increased its investment in local food by 518%, with over $420,000 in local food purchased over the course of the fiscal year, through a combination of GRO funding and privately raised dollars
- Purchased culturally familiar foods at distributions, including foods for the Food Mobile specifically requested by partners in the northern Pueblos
- Established new partnerships with NM Highlands University, Tesuque Pueblo, and Casa Milagro, extending food access to college students, Native communities, and adults with mental health challenges
- Purchased more food as demand surged more than 20% in fall 2025









GRO CAPACITY FUNDS	GRO FOOD FUNDS
$810,000	$651,500

GRO Funds Year ONE
Food Bank of Eastern New Mexico

- Modernized operations, including expanding their warehouse to include 64 additional pallet racks
- Increased storage capacity to support larger food purchases and more effecient inventory management
- Allowed FBENM to leverage additional public and private investments to create Eastern New Mexico's first refrigerated mobile market, expanding food access in rural and underserved areas. The "Mobile Mercado" will launch in 2027
- Purchased nutritious food to supplement donated and USDA foods, including 33,477 pounds of local beef and eggs
- Site improvements for the "La Puerta Pantry Pickup" area where the food bank will install it's self-service food locker system in Fy27













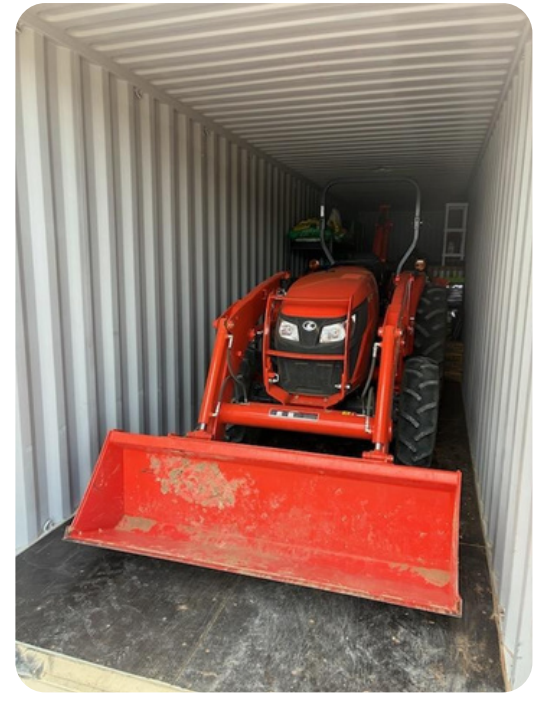
GRO CAPACITY FUNDS	GRO FOOD FUNDS
$575,000	$206,500

GRO Funds Year ONE
The Community Pantry

- Expanded operational capacity at their Gallup and Grants locations for mobile distributions to rural and tribal communities
- Increased partner agency capacity through cold and hot storage, food safety and food preparation equipment
- Purchased equipment for the farm that helped clear land, construct raised beds and a hoop house, and create opportunities for community engagement in hands-on agricultural activities
- Increased nutritional value and variety of distributed food















GRO CAPACITY FUNDS	GRO FOOD FUNDS
$605,000	$317,000

FY2027 State GRO Food Bank Funding	GRO Capacity Building 25% of Funds	GRO Food Purchase 75% of Funds	Total for FY027
The Community Pantry	$158,500	$475,500	$634,000
Roadrunner Food Bank	$1,760,750	$5,282,250	$7,043,000
The Food Depot	$325,750	$977,250	$1,303,000
Food Bank of Eastern New Mexico	$103,000	$309,000	$412,000
ECHO, Inc.	$152,000	$456,000	$608,000
Totals	$2,500,000	$7,500,000	$10,000,000