



New Mexico Food Insecurity Update

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Legislative Health and Human Services Committee
August 19, 2026

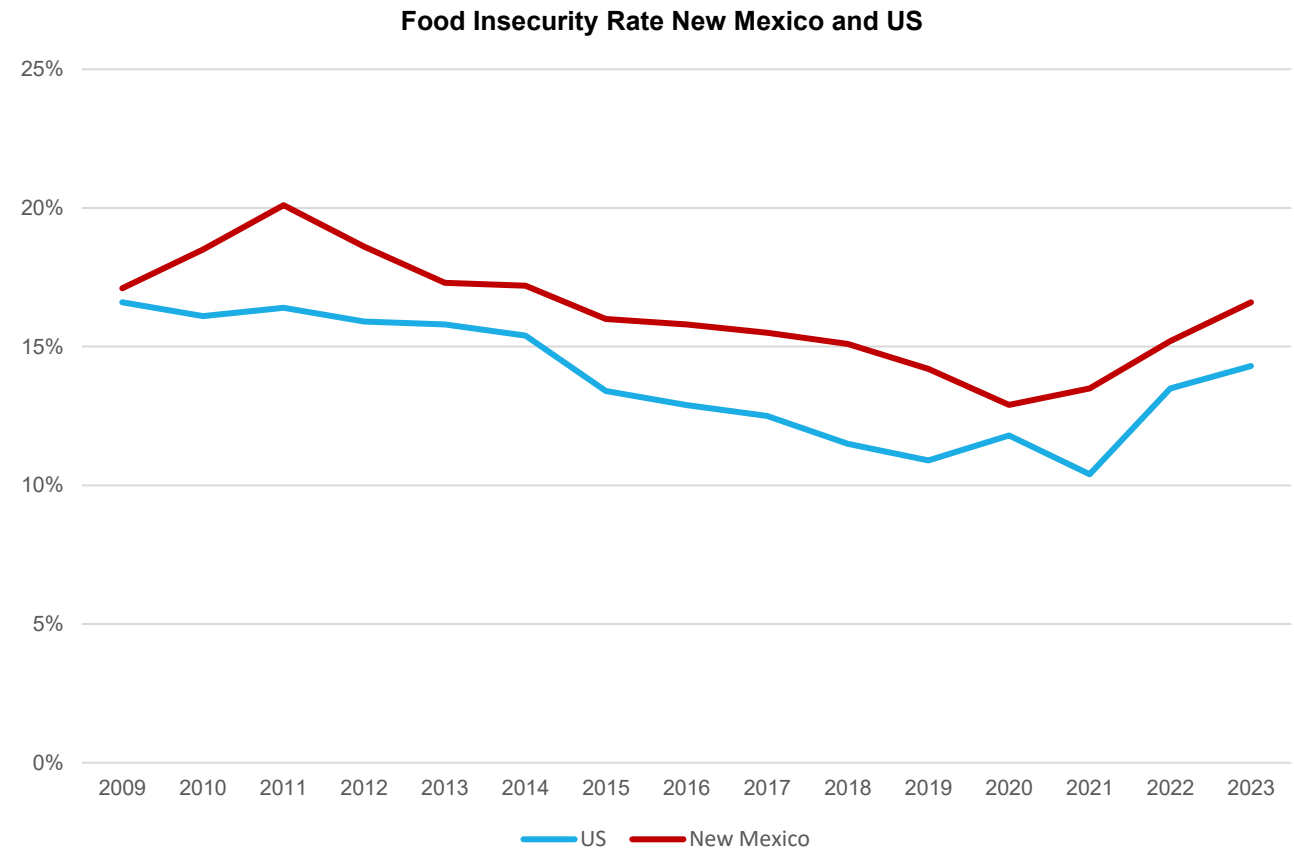
Overview

- Food Security in New Mexico.
- State Funding Investments for Food Security.
- SNAP in New Mexico.
- GRO Investments for New Mexico Food Banks.
- GRO Food Bank Funding Status.
- Food Security Summary.



Food Insecurity Rate

- Food insecurity rising concurrent with state investing substantial funding to address hunger.
- NM has the 4th largest food insecurity rate among states.
 - Rates consistently are 2-3 percent higher than the national average.
- Rate increasing since 2021.
 - Combined effects of inflation, food and transportation costs, end of pandemic funding, end of max SNAP allotments in 2023.

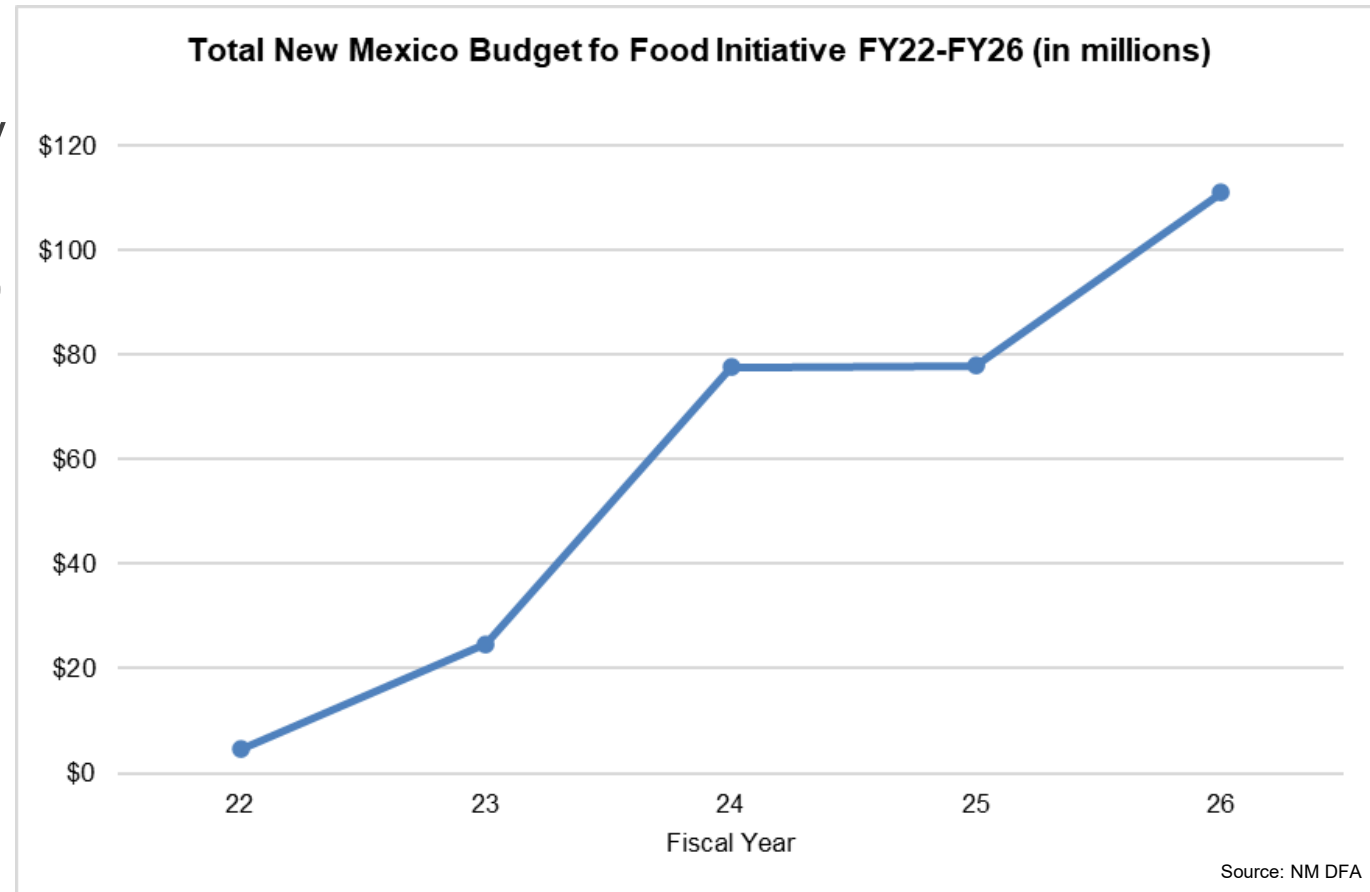


Source: LFC analysis of NM Department of Health Data.



FY22-FY26 Funding for Food Initiatives

- NM invested over \$111 million in general fund revenue for food security in FY26, according to the Department of Finance and Administration's (DFA) Food Initiative Dashboard.
- Increases in FY22, FY24, and FY26 are largely attributed to PED's expansion of universal school meals for all children regardless of income, and other food initiatives.



Array of Food Programs

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps) is the largest food program. NM is at 200% federal poverty level for SNAP and also supplements senior SNAP.
- Other federal programs include the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), surplus agriculture, Commodity Credit Corp, Thrifty Food Plan.
- School Lunch and Breakfast programs, Sun Bucks/Summer EBT.
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).
- Meals on Wheels and Commodity Supplemental Food Program for seniors.
- NM Grown Regional Farm to Food Bank Program; Farmers Market Nutrition; Food, Hunger and Nutrition Program; Double Up Food Bucks; network of food banks.

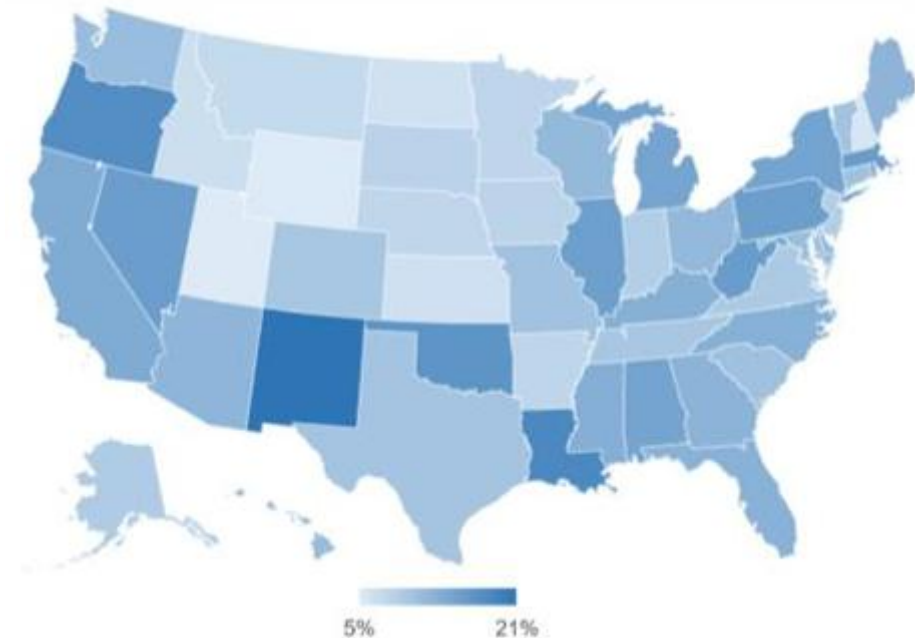


New Mexico and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

- According to the 2026 *LFC SNAP Administration and Performance Program Evaluation*, New Mexico has the highest rate of SNAP participation in the country with roughly one in five people in the state receiving SNAP.
- SNAP is a federally-funded program that requires income and asset verification to determine if lower income individuals and households qualify for food assistance benefits.

SNAP by State, FFY24

(U.S. Average = 12 percent)



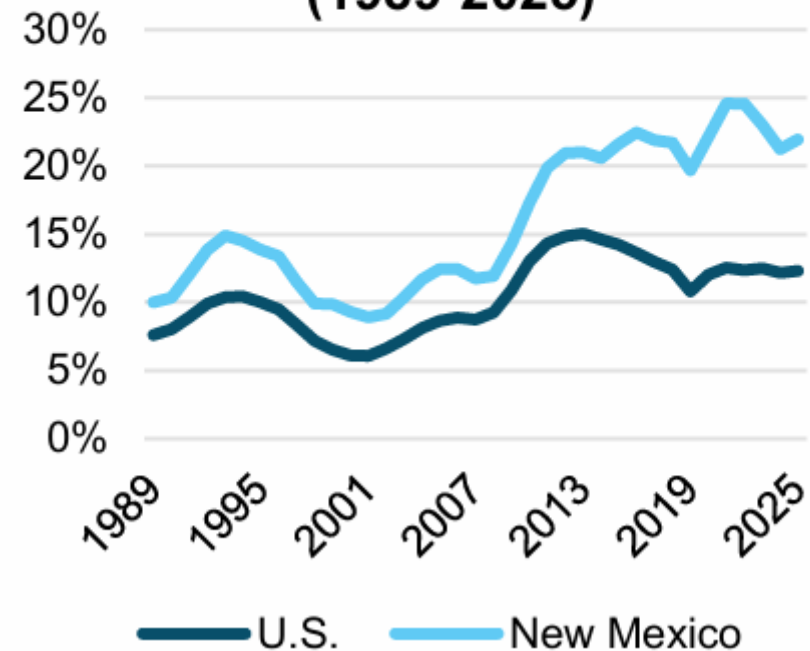
Source: LFC analysis of USDA Data.



New Mexicans Receiving SNAP

- According to the *LFC SNAP Administration and Performance Program Evaluation*, New Mexico's participation and spending in SNAP have grown faster than the nation and 21% of the state's population is enrolled in SNAP, nearly double the national average of 12.3%.

**Population Receiving SNAP
Monthly Benefits,
New Mexico vs. U.S.
(1989-2025)**

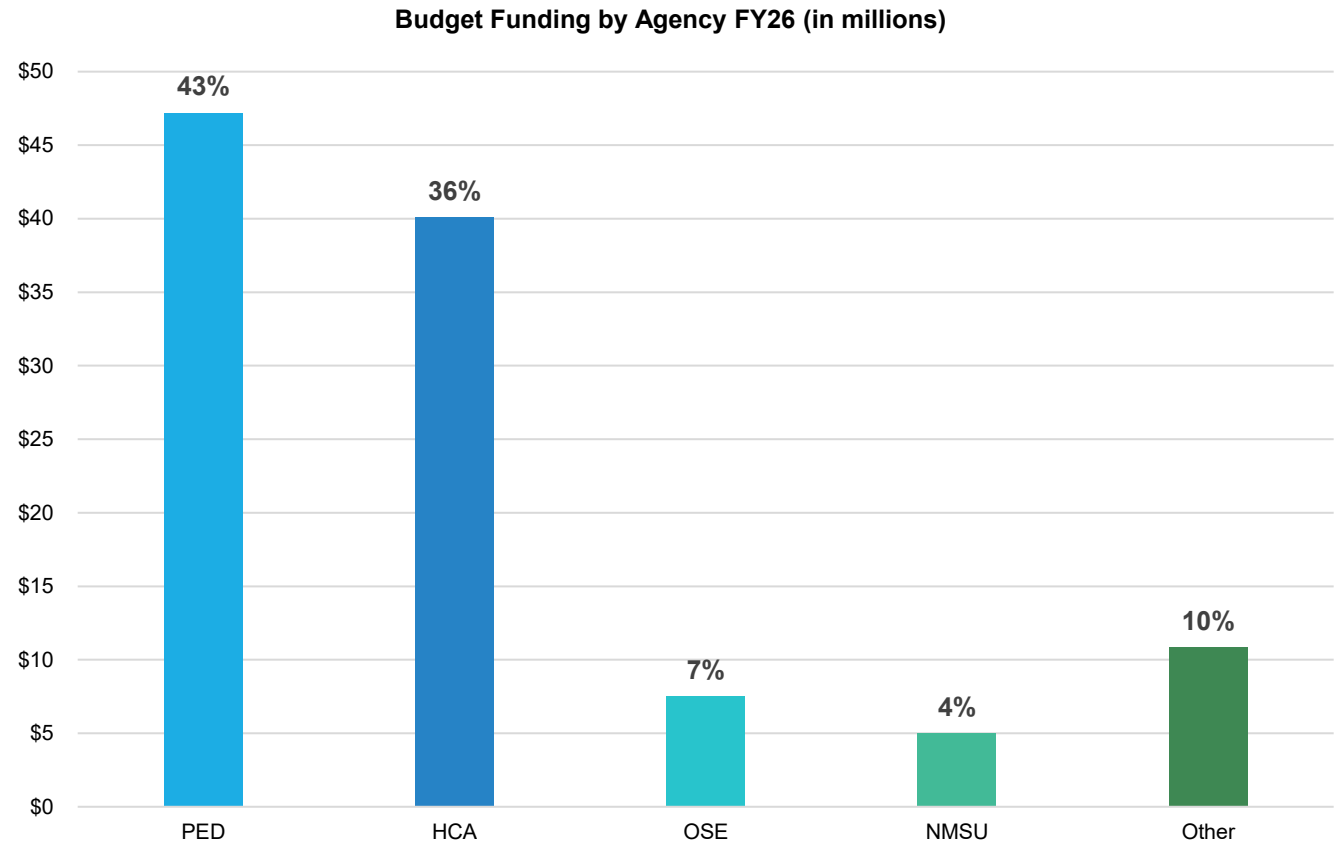


Source: LFC analysis of USDA Data.



State Agency Spending

- The Public Education Department (PED) oversees the Universal School Meals program for all children.
- The Health Care Authority (HCA) administers the largest food program, the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP (formerly food stamps).



Note: Other includes NMDA, EDD, ECECD, HED, ALTSD, DOH, DFA



Government Results and Opportunity (GRO) Funding

- 2025 Legislature appropriated Government Results and Opportunity (GRO) funding totaling \$30 million from FY26-FY28 to support food banks statewide and ensure access to nutritious food by expanding capacity and purchasing food.
- For FY26, HCA and DFA approved \$5 million for food purchases and \$5 million for infrastructure, including establishing a centralized hub warehouse in Rio Arriba County and purchasing mobile food trailers.
- For FY26, HCA and the food banks expended all but one dollars of the first of three tranches of \$10 million.



GRO FY26 Food Bank Funding Distribution

State Food Bank Funding	GRO Capacity	GRO Food	Total GRO
ECHO Food Bank	\$605,000.00	\$304,000.00	\$909,000.00
The Community Pantry	\$605,000.00	\$317,000.00	\$922,000.00
Roadrunner Food Bank	\$2,405,000.00	\$3,521,000.00	\$5,926,000.00
The Food Depot	\$810,000.00	\$651,500.00	\$1,461,500.00
Food Bank of Eastern NM	\$575,000.00	\$206,500.00	\$781,500.00
TOTAL	\$5,000,000.00	\$5,000,000.00	\$10,000,000.00



2025-2026 (FY26-FY27) GRO Funding Outcomes Rubric

	5	4	3	2	1
Is there a logic model for the project?	Yes, all elements clearly defined.	Most elements clearly defined.	Only activities and outputs defined, no outcomes.	Some activities and outputs defined, no outcomes.	No logic model.
What are the performance measures?	Clearly defined, mixture of outputs and outcomes	Most are clearly defined, mixture of outputs and outcomes.	Only output performance measures, no outcomes	Performance measures <u>written</u> , but not clearly defined.	No performance measures.
What is the independent impact evaluation plan?	Independent RCT/quasi-experimental evaluation with high level of rigor	RCT/Quasi-experimental but not independent or not rigorous	Evaluation plan, but not independent nor rigorous.	Outputs collected, but no evaluation plan.	No impact evaluation plan or anecdotal evidence.
How will the results of the project be communicated?	Public report	Report to DFA/LFC	Memo to DFA/LFC	Internal Memo/Report	No plan for communicating results.



Food Security Summary

- New Mexico continues to perform poorly on food security metrics.
- Changes in federal SNAP funding impact food security in New Mexico for lower income individuals.
- The Legislature and Executive have made significant investments from the general fund to address food security at all income levels, yet food security outcomes remain challenging.





NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU!

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