



FOOD, HUNGER AND AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

Nurturing Prosperity and Nutrition: New Mexico's Route to Economic Growth and Food Security

Economic and Rural Development and Policy Committee

September 4, 2025



Program Mission

To support the intersection of economic development in New Mexico's food and agricultural sector with increased food security for New Mexicans.

The Food, Hunger and Agriculture Program is part of the governor's Food Initiative and prioritizes:

- Financial tools and technical assistance tailored for small and mid-scale food processing and agricultural enterprises
- Access to food for historically under-resourced communities
- Workforce development challenges through the creation and retention of jobs in the food and agricultural supply chain
- Strengthening and diversifying in-state market channel access for small and mid-scale food and agricultural operations
- Food safe storage/ aggregation, distribution and transportation in regional food supply chain networks
- Food production and regenerative agricultural practices



Food, Hunger and Agriculture Program Focus FY 26

Healthy Food Financing Fund

This grant program prioritizes support for food and agricultural enterprises to grow, raise, process, aggregate, distribute and sell local, fresh, healthy food through expanded retail and institutional in -state market channels in rural and underserved communities.

- Applications open this fall
- Pre - production, production, processing, aggregation/distribution, retail
- Grants between \$50 -\$150K



Food, Hunger and Agriculture Program Focus FY 26

NM Food Pathways

New Mexico Food Pathways helps local food businesses take the next step with tailored support to become SNAP -authorized, expand their operations, and increase access to healthy, affordable food in underserved communities.

- **No -Cost Business Consulting**
- **Access to Capital: Grants and Low -Interest Loans**
- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) application support**



Food, Hunger and Agriculture Program Focus FY 26

Resilient Food System Infrastructure

Cooperative agreement between state department of agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service.

- 18 projects statewide
- Program provides financial tools, resources, technical assistance and capacity support for project implementation.
- Address middle -of -the -supply -chain needs for locally and regionally produced food products.
- Supports projects including cold storage, aggregation/transportation and processing.
- Investments are targeted for small and mid -sized operations to grow their capacity to serve emerging markets.



Food, Hunger and Agriculture Program Focus FY 26

Feasibility Study - Sustainable Local Food Transportation Routes in Rural, Frontier, Tribal and Urban Regions of New Mexico

- Assess the current landscape of food distribution systems in New Mexico.
- Evaluate the economic feasibility of establishing or expanding transportation routes that connect rural/frontier communities to urban anchor markets.
- Provide policy, partnership, and investment recommendations and strategies to support long -term route viability.



Food, Hunger and Agriculture Program Focus FY 26

Community of Practice - Food Distribution & Retail

- Establish a productive space for on -going conversations regarding food retail in New Mexico.
- Provide opportunities for networking, mentorship, collaboration and specialized topic focus to support increased access to healthy fresh food.
- Explore strategies to support long -term business viability for food retailers and distributors.

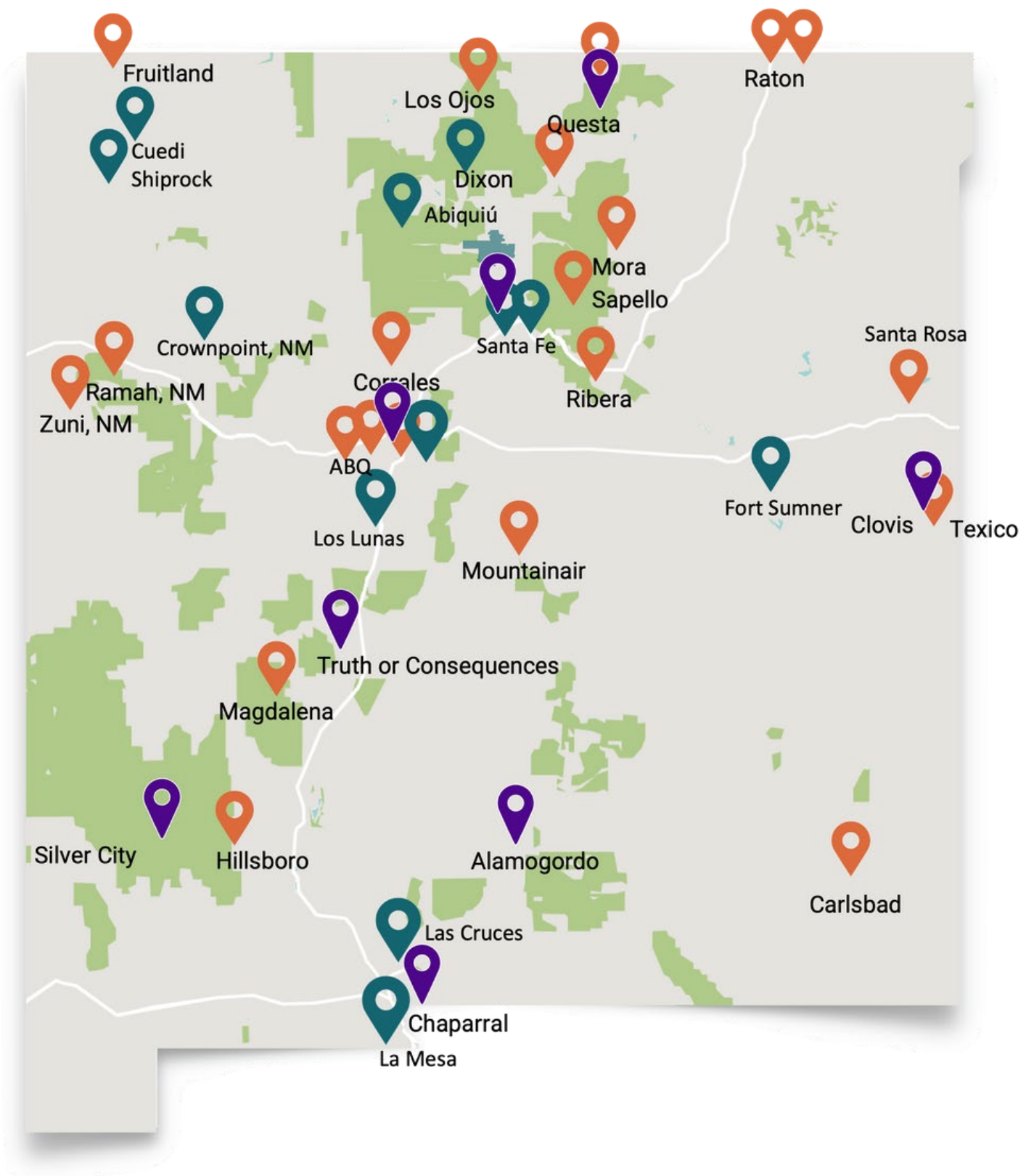


New Mexico Healthy Food Financing Fund:

FY23, FY24 & FY25 Grant Recap

41

A total of 41 grants, totaling nearly \$1,735,000, has been successfully administered through the HFFF grant program.



FY24 Awardee Outcomes

Food Retail, Processing and Aggregation - Distribution

- All beneficiaries reported growth
 - 50 % moderate
 - 16 % significant
- Purchasing from 12 different local vendors on average.
- Expanded product ranges from 5-oz bags to thousands of pounds of produce
- Served over 80,000 clients, improving thousands of lives across New Mexico

Food & Value - added Production

- 80% of beneficiaries established 6 or more new connections
- Average 183% increase in food production
- 80% diversified the range of crops they produced
- 80% reported increased access to food in new communities, made food more affordable, and increased the availability and/or diversity of staple fresh, healthy foods



*From HFFF FY24 Final Reports

Bamboo Micro Farms LLC

- **Family -run operation** in northeast New Mexico's Tri -County region, dedicated to making nutritious microgreens accessible to underrepresented communities.
- **A New Mexico Grown Approved Supplier:** delivers to senior centers, schools, and institutions across San Miguel, Mora, Colfax, Harding, Quay, and Guadalupe Counties
- **FY24 Awardee** for specialized microgreen growing equipment, upgraded cold storage, portable refrigerated coolers, and battery bank for cold chain integrity during deliveries to rural food deserts
 - Doubled production
 - Reduced spoilage
 - Allowed the farm to offer more microgreens at a lower price point while increasing profitability
- **New market development:** Contracts with Ogallala Commons and the creation of the Tesoros Del Valle Farmers Market in Villanueva.

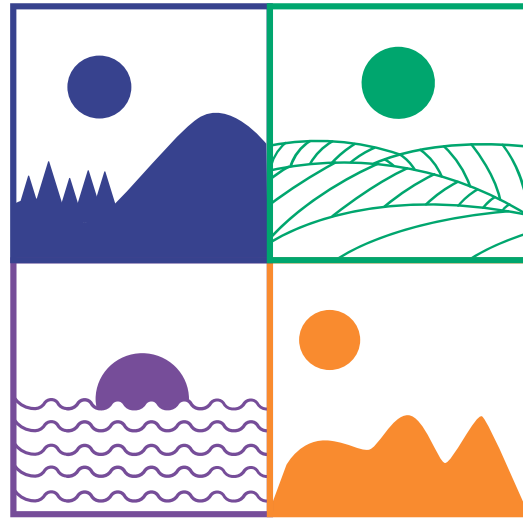


B Street Market

- **A woman -owned grocery** in Mountainair, NM.
- **Primary full -service food source** for its rural, historically marginalized community.
- **Expanded cold storage** and display capacity, including installation of a cost -effective Cool -Bot walk -in cooler.
- **Kitchen expansion for value -added f ood prod uction**
 - Increased purchasing volumes from 11 local farmers and ranchers
 - Sold over 16,000 pounds of local food
 - Increased the variety and quality of fresh, local foods, extended shelf life, and cut produce waste in half.
 - Retained existing jobs, and funded raises for employees committed to the store's mission
 - Strengthened the regional supply chain
- **Project serves as a model** for how rural markets can improve food access, support local producers, and build community resilience.



FY25 Awardee



NATIONAL CENTER FOR FRONTIER COMMUNITIES



- **Distributes food** from over 45 farmers and ranchers to schools, pantries, and underserved communities.
- **Expanding infrastructure** with a larger walk-in cooler, access ramp, electric pallet jack, powered pallet stacker, and a refrigerated box truck.
- **Increasing access** to fresh, affordable microgreens, strengthening the regional food network, and promoting health equity in underserved communities.

***THANK
YOU!***



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