



FOOD, HUNGER AND AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

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

GOVERNOR MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
FOOD INITIATIVE
CULTIVATING A NEW FOOD SYSTEM



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:

- Developing financial tools and technical assistance tailored for small and mid-scale food processing and agricultural enterprises
- Increasing access to food for historically under-resourced communities
- Addressing 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
- Advancing food safe storage/ aggregation, distribution and transportation in regional food supply chain networks
- Supporting producers in the implementation of 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.

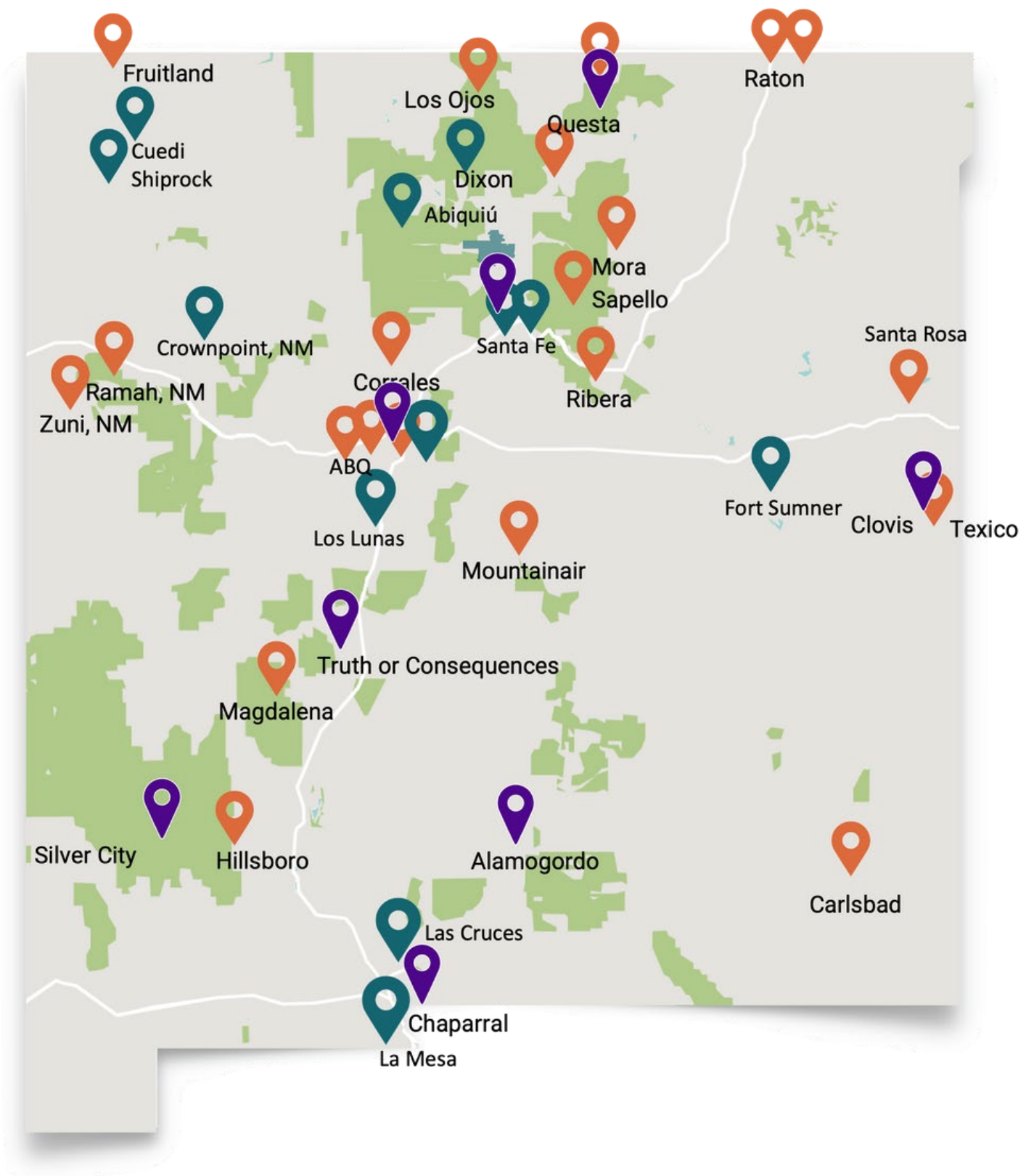


New Mexico Healthy Food Financing Fund:

FY23, FY24 & FY25 Grant Recap

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



Case Study FY24 Awardee

- B Street Market, a woman-owned grocery in Mountainair, NM.
- Primary full-service food source for its rural, historically marginalized community.
- The market expanded its cold storage and display capacity, including installation of a cost-effective CoolBot walk-in cooler.
- Kitchen expansion for value-added food production enabled B Street to purchase larger volumes from 11 local farmers and ranchers —selling over 16,000 pounds of local food, and increasing the variety and quality of fresh, local foods, extended shelf life, and cut produce waste in half.
- This investment strengthened the regional supply chain, retained existing jobs, and funded raises for employees committed to the store's mission.
- Project serves as a model for how rural markets can improve food access, support local producers, and build community resilience.



***THANK
YOU!***



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