

Federal Funding for Nutrition & Agriculture in New Mexico

Thursday, November 6, 2025

Farm
to **Table**

Impact of the Federal Changes on Food and Nutrition in New Mexico

- Federal changes **threaten** New Mexico's food and nutrition programs.
- New Mexico **depends on federal nutrition support** more than almost any other state.
- Changes made by HR 1, funding cuts, and other potential reductions **all jeopardize food access, local economies, and years of progress against hunger and poverty.**
- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), K-12 school meals, programs supporting seniors & people with disabilities, and food assistance for women and young children are all at risk.

From Farms to Families: What's at Stake in New Mexico

NEW MEXICO'S FOOD SYSTEM—from school meals and senior nutrition to Tribal food sovereignty and local agriculture—depends on robust federal investment.

With one of the highest per capita rates of federal funding in the nation, proposed budget cuts would have an outsized and devastating impact across the state.

In Fiscal Year 2024, New Mexico received over in federal funding to support the state's food system.

\$1.3 billion

Note: funding amounts rounded to the nearest million.

\$232 MILLION

NEW MEXICO SCHOOLS, CHILD CARE, & ADULT CARE PROGRAMS

\$224 million
NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH & BREAKFAST PROGRAMS
Lunch: 150,357 students
Breakfast: 108,827 students

\$3.8 million
CHILD & ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM
38,536 children & adults

\$2.6 million
FRESH FRUIT & VEGETABLE PROGRAM
209 schools

\$2 million
SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM
40,864 average daily students

\$1.2 million
EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
437,246 households

\$2 million
COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM
14,373 seniors

\$1 BILLION

NEW MEXICO FAMILIES & HOUSEHOLDS

\$950 million
SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) & SNAP DOUBLE UP FOOD BUCKS
451,200 SNAP participants & 120,000 Double Up participants

\$77 million
SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, & CHILDREN (WIC)
40,797 women, infants, & children

\$2 million
ADMINISTRATION FOR COMMUNITY LIVING
44,384 seniors

\$1 million
FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM
14,866 seniors, women, children, and families

\$43 MILLION

NEW MEXICO PRODUCERS, FOOD HUBS, & DISTRIBUTORS

\$38 million
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM & CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM
293 contracts impacting 1,085,206 acres

\$5 million
LOCAL FOOD PURCHASING AGREEMENT PROGRAM
117 farmers, producers, distributors, and food hubs & over 250 food sites receiving local foods

Cuts to these vital resources threaten not only food access for children, families, and elders, but the **health, resilience, and future** of entire communities.

SNAP

In FY24, NM received roughly **\$950 million** in SNAP federal funding.

- **459,500 participants** (21.5% of NM residents) rely on SNAP—the highest rate in the U.S.
- State costs could reach **\$200 million** annually by FY 29.
- **36,000 people** are at risk of losing benefits due to new rules.
- **\$1.3 billion** in SNAP spending supports **1,700 grocers and markets**.
- Cuts could reverse progress that reduced child poverty from **27% to 8.9%**.



K-12 School Meals

- **295,000 students** served through \$169 million in National School Lunch Program meals.
- **8,800 students** may lose automatic eligibility.
- **80 schools** risk losing full reimbursement.
- **\$35 million** Summer EBT supported **275,000 students** in 2025.
- Cuts to **\$5.6 million Local Food for Schools** programs and **\$777,000 Healthy Kids SNAP-Ed** weaken local food systems.



Seniors & People with Disabilities

- **64,000 seniors** rely on SNAP; caseload growing **81% by FY 27**.
- Minimum benefits could drop from **\$23 to \$18/month**.
- More state funding is needed to maintain a **\$100/month** supplement.



Women, Infants, & Children

- WIC participation is **up 34%** since 2022.
- In the original House federal budget proposal (summer 2025) **included reductions** to the fruit/vegetable benefit:
 - Mothers: **\$52 → \$13/month**
 - Children: **\$26 → \$10/month**



Beyond the Emergency

Building Long-Term Food Security

In October 2025, New Mexico's Governor and Legislature took swift, proactive action to address federal cuts to SNAP, Medicaid, and other nutrition programs. The emergency bill (HB 1) provided **\$162 million** to stabilize the food security network, including:

- **\$16M** to maintain SNAP benefits for elders, people with disabilities, and lawfully present immigrants.
- **\$8M** for food banks, pantries, and regional distribution partners to ensure food access statewide.
- Increased state capacity through Health Care Authority staffing and technology upgrades to help residents navigate new federal rules.

These actions prevented immediate harm—but they are not a permanent solution.

Why Emergency Measures Fall Short

Temporary Relief, Not Structural Change

- State dollars are filling federal gaps that will reappear next year unless federal funding and policies are restored.

Short-Term Aid Doesn't Build Resilience

- One-time grants help meet today's needs but don't strengthen long-term food access or support local producers.

Ongoing Federal Instability

- SNAP and Medicaid rule changes will create administrative burdens, confusion, and uneven access across communities.



Next Steps for a Stronger, More Resilient Food System

Invest in Local Food Infrastructure

- Expand the Approved Supplier Program and NM Grown to strengthen regional supply chains and local farming and ranching economies.

Lead Federal Advocacy Efforts

- Work with New Mexico's congressional delegation to restore and protect equitable nutrition program funding.

Build Data and Evaluation Systems

- Continue to track food insecurity trends and program impacts to inform smart policy decisions through continued support of the Food Initiative Dashboard and other monitoring systems.

Next Steps for a Stronger, More Resilient Food System

Create a State Food Security & Resilience Plan

- Coordinate across agencies to reduce dependency on volatile federal programs and continue investment in NM Grown.

Establish a Permanent Nutrition Stabilization Fund

- Ensure rapid response capacity when federal benefits are cut or delayed.

Invest in a New Mexico Regional Farm to Food Bank Program while supporting federal opportunities like the Local Farmers Feeding Our Communities Act

Federal Impacts on New Mexico Farmers & Ranchers

Socially Disadvantaged Producers

- Roughly **20,300 New Mexico farmers and ranchers** identify as members of socially disadvantaged groups.

Commodity Safety Net

- **New Mexico will receive no new base acres** under the revised formula. The new **\$155,000 payment cap** benefits larger operations, limiting the reach of federal safety nets to small and mid-sized producers.

Conservation Programs

- The removal of the Inflation Reduction Act climate guardrails may weaken their impact by shifting funds away from climate-smart and regenerative practices vital for New Mexico's soil health, water conservation, and drought resilience.

Federal Impacts on New Mexico Farmers & Ranchers

Livestock Programs

- The expanded **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)** now includes unborn livestock losses, and **Livestock Forage Program (LFP)** payments double in D2 droughts. These updates will provide meaningful relief for ranchers contending with worsening droughts and feed shortages across New Mexico's arid regions.

USDA Reorganization

- The pending USDA reorganization could reshape how programs are delivered in rural and tribal areas.

Government Shutdown

- New Mexico farmers and ranchers cannot make loan payments, receive disaster relief payments and more, due to the agency shutdown and worker furloughs.

Next Steps to Protect Farmers & Ranchers

Strong state and federal advocacy will be essential to ensure that small, tribal, and socially disadvantaged producers are not left behind and that they can use and expand practices to improve soil, biodiversity, and climate resilience—benefitting people and the environment.

- Continue the state match for the Technical Service Providers program, along with other training and technical assistance programs that hire local workers.
- Protect the Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund to support farmers and ranchers who use regenerative practices.
- Safeguard USDA programs including the Natural Resource Conservation Service's Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), and the Farm Service Agency (FSA).