

The Economic Impact of New Mexico's Food Banks

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A statewide hunger-relief network of food banks and partners

ECHO

Northwest New Mexico, Located in Farmington

The Community Pantry

Western New Mexico, Located in Gallup

The Food Depot

Northern New Mexico, Located in Santa Fe

Food Bank of Eastern New Mexico

Eastern New Mexico, Located in Clovis

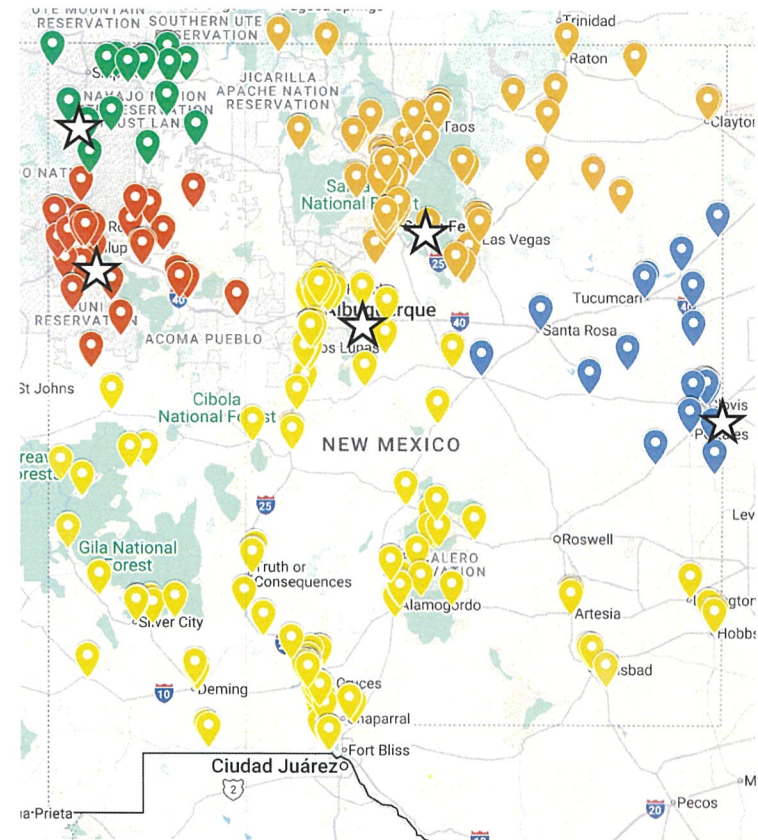
Roadrunner Food Bank

Central and Southern New Mexico, Located in Albuquerque

500+ Partners in Hunger Relief Efforts

- churches, pantries, shelters, schools, community centers, Native communities, etc.

Food banks also partner with 100s of grocery stores (food rescue) and sponsoring businesses to support our work.



Note: Photographs used in this presentation are real photographs of food pantries, food, and distribution sites from the NM hunger-relief network.

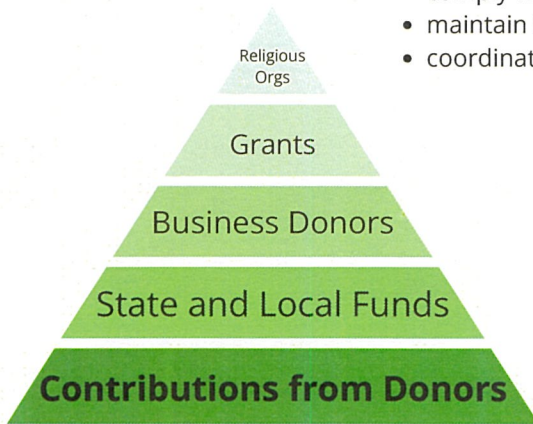
Statewide food bank impact

500+ distribution sites

Food access in all 33 counties

45 million meals distributed to New Mexicans

Food Bank Funding



Federal funding does cover a small percentage of administrative costs for some federal food programs such as USDA TEFAP.

Food banks are complex ecosystems managing large-scale operations.

Food banks:

- administer multi-million-dollar annual operating budgets with yearly audits
- employ hundreds of qualified staff members
- comply with USDA and NMDOT regulations
- maintain large-scale inventories of millions of pounds of product from multiple sources
- coordinate a network of more than 500 nonprofit partners

**NEW MEXICO
FOOD BANKS**



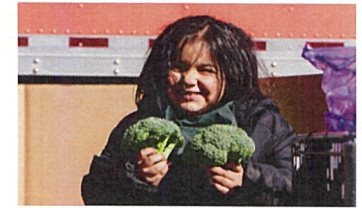
**DOUBLE UP
FOOD BUCKS**



Supplemental
Nutrition
Assistance
Program



**HEALTHY
UNIVERSAL
SCHOOL MEALS**



Thank you for strengthening the network of support.

You have taken meaningful action for
New Mexicans:

2025 Regular Session

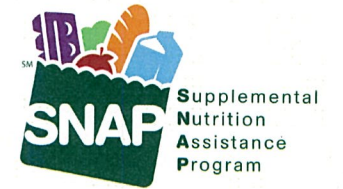
- \$30 million GRO FUNDS over 3 years to food banks (HB2)
- food purchase and capacity building

2025 Special Session

- funded food banks and partner organizations
- invested in education-based pantries
- maintained SNAP for seniors and people with disabilities
- maintained SNAP for lawfully permanent residents
- rescued SNAP-ED
- provided funds to workforce solutions to support new SNAP work requirements
- ensured ISD had adequate staff to address upcoming changes to SNAP
- upgraded technology/equipment at HCA to support people with SNAP and Medicaid requirements



Why is SNAP Essential to New Mexico's Economy?



Every SNAP dollar generates

\$1.80

in economic activity.

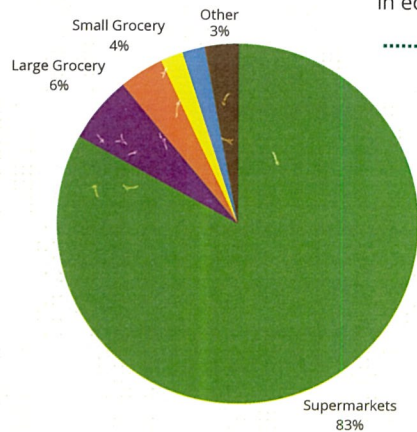


which means

In New Mexico, up to

\$154.5 million

is created by SNAP in monthly economic activity.



SNAP is a public-private partnership.

Where is SNAP spent in New Mexico businesses?

- Supermarkets - 83%
- Large Grocery Stores - 6%
- Small Grocery Stores - 4%
- Convenience Stores - 2%
- Other - 3%

SNAP creates and supports jobs in New Mexico.

The Economic Impact of Food Banks

Food banks make a huge difference in the household budgets of families, but they are also an economic engine for their communities.

Budget Trade-Offs

- Help from the food bank means families have to spend less on food, which means they can spend more on other needs, such as rent, utilities, transportation, clothing and health care. That money is often spent in the community.



If every family that received support from a food bank or partner pantry spent 70 percent of the value of the food received on local goods and services, they'd pump more than \$7 million into their local economy monthly.*



Jobs

- Food banks generate local jobs. **Together, all five NM food banks support over 200 jobs.** Thanks to the additional funds that food bank clients can spend in their communities, local jobs are created. Hundreds of jobs are created through SNAP benefits spent with retailers in NM.

Stability & Lowered Crime

- Food banks are linked to lower crime figures in their surrounding area. If food banks help families make rent or car payments, or free up funding in families' budgets, their housing and employment are more stable.

Environmental Impact & Waste Mitigation

- When grocery stores donate perfectly good and edible food to food banks, less goes to landfills.

*According to a study by Western Washington University's Center for Economic and Business Research / \$3.32 per meal, 42 meals provided on average, \$139 total per family, approx. 80,000 households served monthly

The Economic Impact of Food Banks, cont.

Food banks make a huge difference in the household budgets of families, but they are also an economic engine for their communities.

Strong social return on investment

- Globally, for every \$1 invested, food banks return between \$4-\$7 in long-term social benefits.*

Critical partner for community agencies

- In NM, over 500 partner agencies rely heavily on food banks for food access and important capacity building support.

Significant economic impact for partners

- NM's food bank partner agencies save over \$7.7 million monthly thanks to food bank partnerships, allowing those funds to go toward other organizational budget necessities.**

Provide diverse community services

- Beyond food distribution, agencies offer programs like health services, job training, education, and shelters, addressing both immediate needs and root causes of hunger.

Increase community resilience

- Food banks partner with local organizations to address unique needs, strengthening the entire social safety net.

*Report: [How Food Banks Create Community Impact](#) | The Global FoodBanking Network

7 **Most recent donated product valuation is \$1.93/pound, approximately 4 million pounds of food monthly



Food Banks Invest in the Economic Success of Others

Sponsors and Core Organizers



Purchasing from Local Partners



Collaborations with State Departments



Building on Successful Models

Service Integration Hubs

Service Integration Hubs (Wraparound Services)

Food pantries can and do serve as community hubs.

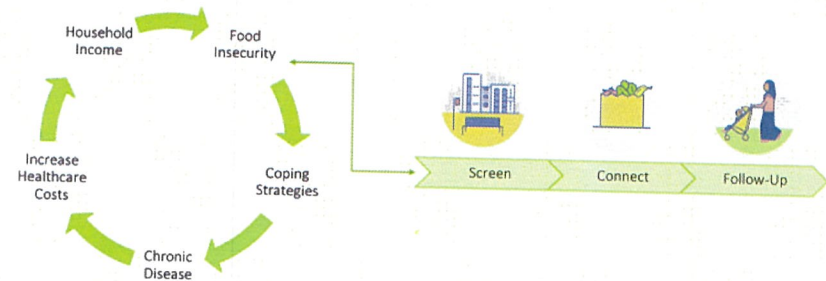
This approach can

- revitalize an area, bringing in food and services
- rehabilitate older/unused buildings
- create local jobs, employment opportunities, and volunteer opportunities

This builds pathways for community and connection where people are actively investing in and caring for their community.



Food Banks and Healthcare



Food banks/food pantries can and do serve as gateways into the healthcare system for the prevention and management of chronic diseases through screening, education, tailored meals, and clinical referrals.

Clinicians in medical settings can and do screen patients for food insecurity and refer them to local food pantries.

In clinics that serve high-risk populations, such as Federally Qualified Health Centers, food pantries may be placed inside the clinic to maximize ease and access.

Possibilities for the Future



Investing in a Healthy Corner Store model

- Exist in communities where convenience stores exist, but healthy food access is a major problem.
- Proven to be successful for stores that have higher SNAP sale volumes.
- Increases the ability to reach a population that a traditional retail setting might struggle to reach.
- Potentially increases profits for small businesses.



City-Owned/Municipality-Owned Grocery Stores

- A promising solution for communities with high rates of hunger and food insecurity.
- Solution for communities existing in food deserts and urban or rural neighborhoods with limited access to healthy and affordable groceries. from the hunger and food insecurity that comes from living in food deserts, urban or rural neighborhoods with limited access to healthy and affordable groceries.

