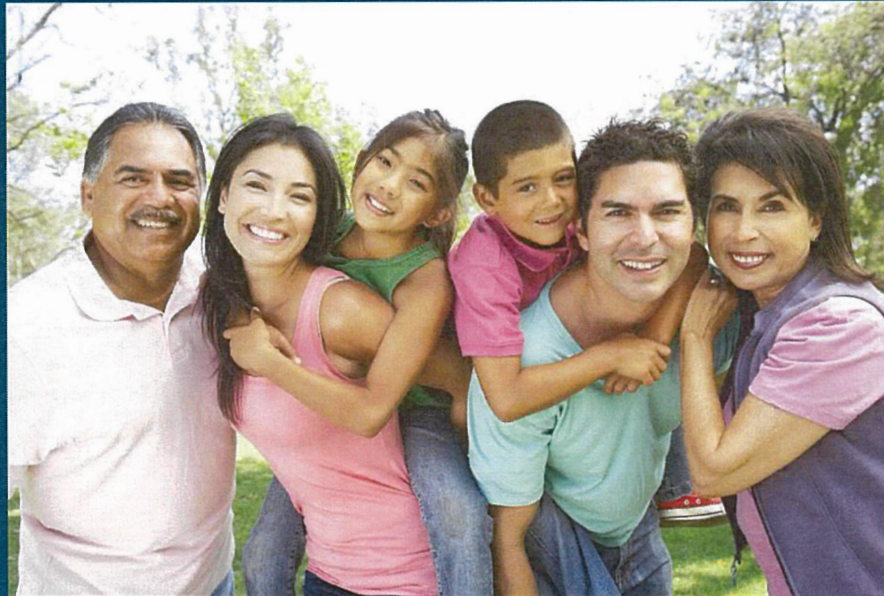


Fight For Food Security with Community-Based SNAP Enrollment



Legislative Health And Human Services Committee Presentation

August 27, 2024

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty



Advancing economic justice,
Increasing opportunities, Protecting
the rights of people living in poverty.

- Impact Litigation
- Policy Advocacy
- Community Education

Economic Equity - Healthcare - Public Benefits - Education - Workers' Rights

Introduction to SNAP

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides important nutritional support for low-paid working families, low-income older adults (60 years and older) and people with disabilities living on fixed incomes, and other individuals and households with low incomes.
- The federal government pays the full cost of SNAP benefits and splits the cost of administering the program with the states, which operate it.



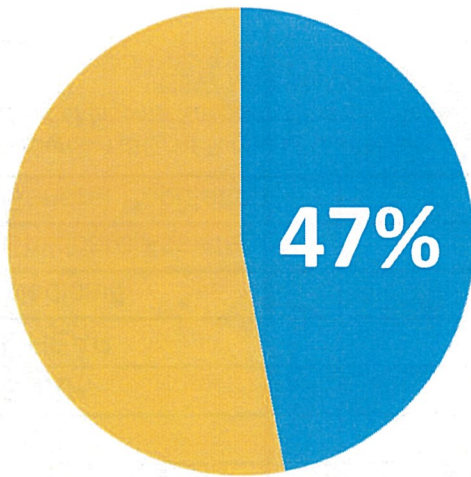
SNAP is NM's Most Effective Food Security Program

SNAP feeds

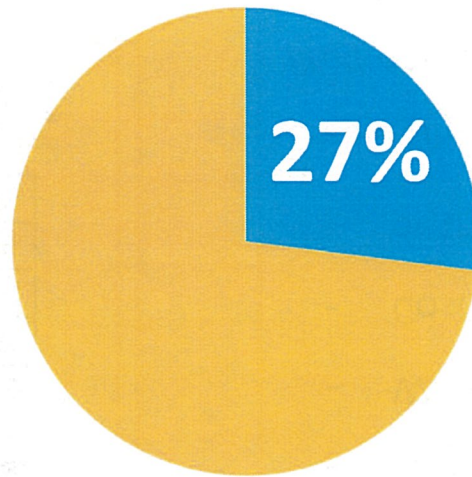
- 170,000 New Mexican children; and
- 300,000 New Mexican adults.



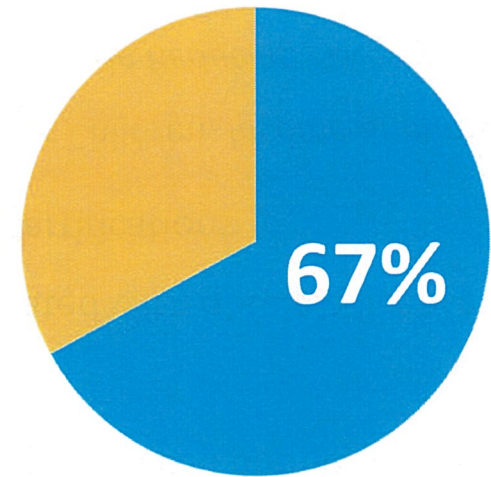
SNAP Participants in New Mexico



Over **47%** were working households.



Over **27%** were older adults or disabled members.



Over **67%** were families with children.

SNAP Participants in New Mexico

New Mexicans Receiving Income Supports are More Likely to be Working than the General Adult Population

Percent of Adults Working While Enrolled in Income Support Programs (Sept. 2023)

Program	Percent Working
TANF	74%
SNAP	62%
LIHEAP	72%
Medicaid	64%
Childcare Assistance	97%
General Population	57%

Source: HSD, KFF, and LFC analysis of ECECD data via *Stacking of Income Supports Progress Report*, NM LFC, pg. 8
NEW MEXICO VOICES FOR CHILDREN

New Mexicans receiving SNAP can spend their money on other necessities, like:

- Child care
- Transportation and cell phone service
- Work apparel
- Costs associated with obtain a license or training certifications

Credit: NM Voices for Children, *Income-Support Programs Show Success in Reducing Poverty in New Mexico*

What challenges are New Mexicans facing?

Continued Food Insecurity in New Mexico



1 in 5 children and **1 in 7 adults** face food insecurity.

SNAP Benefits Are Important to Children

SNAP can improve educational and economic outcomes for children:

- Higher high school graduation rates;
- Higher rate of Work Rate in SNAP Households;
- Women receive SNAP improve their economic self sufficiency.



Credit: NM Voices for Children, *Income-Support Programs Show Success in Reducing Poverty in New Mexico*

What challenges are New Mexicans facing?

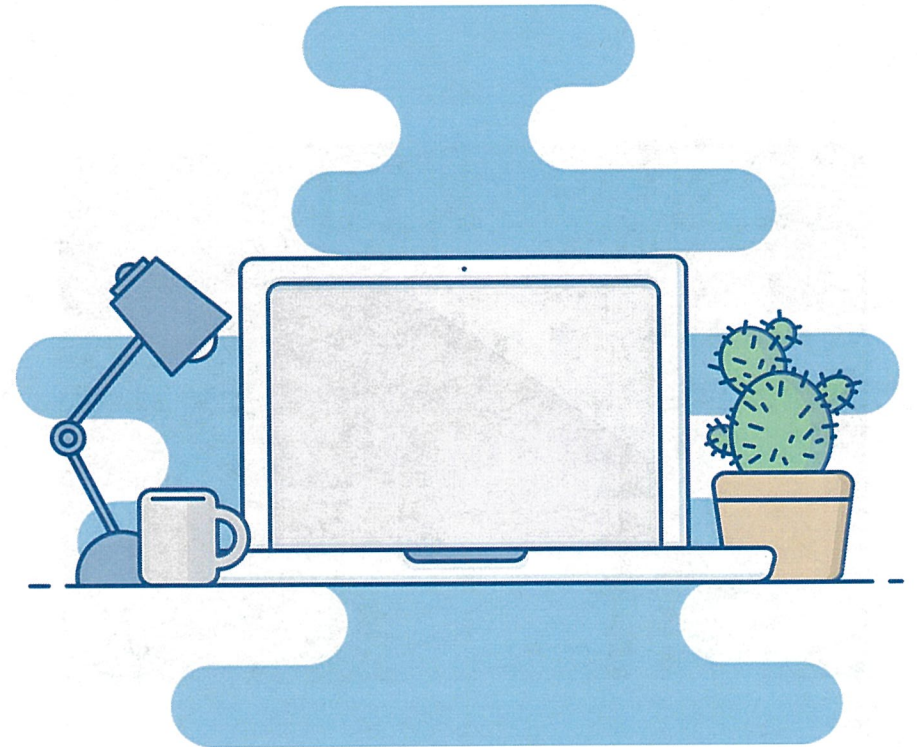
Some New Mexicans Face Additional Barriers

- Rural residents,
- Non-English speakers,
- People with disabilities.
- Barriers for people age 50+
- Literacy barriers.



What challenges are New Mexicans facing?

- Internet Access Disparities
 - Rural residents face limited internet access
 - Native Americans living on reservations are particularly affected by disparities in connectivity.

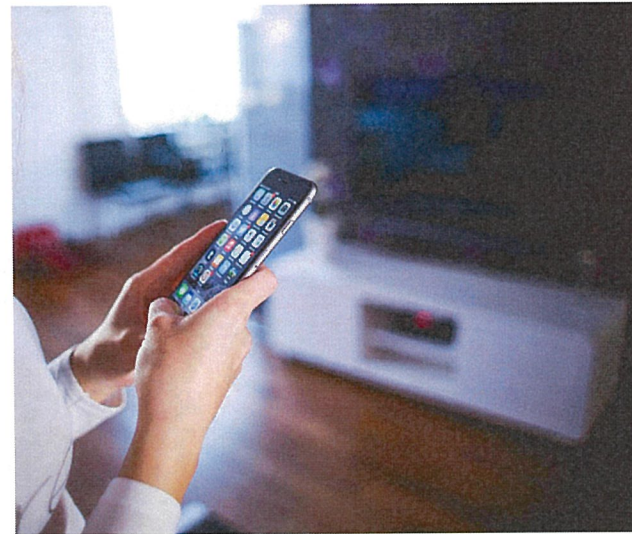


What challenges are New Mexicans facing?

- Rising Costs of Foods
- Administrative Challenges at Health Care Authority



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SNAP Outreach Program

SNAP Outreach Program

- Federal option for SNAP programs.
- Requires plan submission each year with 1) outreach activities and 2) state or non-profit funds contributing half the cost.
- Once approved, matching federal funds will be awarded and can be distributed to community based non-profits.

The Federal Match

The federal government matches SNAP Outreach Program funds from the state or from philanthropic donations.

State Funding
and
Philanthropic
donations
(50%) +



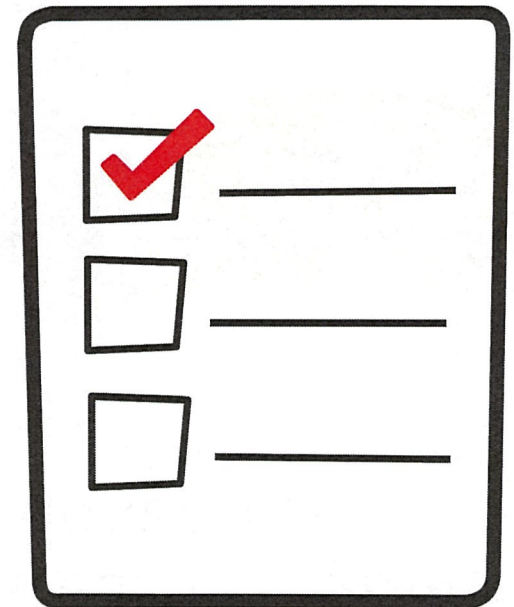
Federal Funding
(50%)

= Total Cost of SNAP Outreach Program

Why SNAP Outreach Programs Work

Allows the state to prioritize groups with low participation and those who face additional barriers:

- rural communities
- non-English speakers;
- older adults; and
- individuals with disabilities.



SNAP Outreach Benefits New Mexico

- Decrease administrative burden on the state agencies.
- Higher enrollment a month those who qualify can SNAP boosts economic activity.
 - \$1 SNAP = \$1.50 local economic activity.



SNAP Outreach Program Benefits

Programs can provide effective:

- Education about SNAP;
- Prescreening;
- Application help; and follow-up.



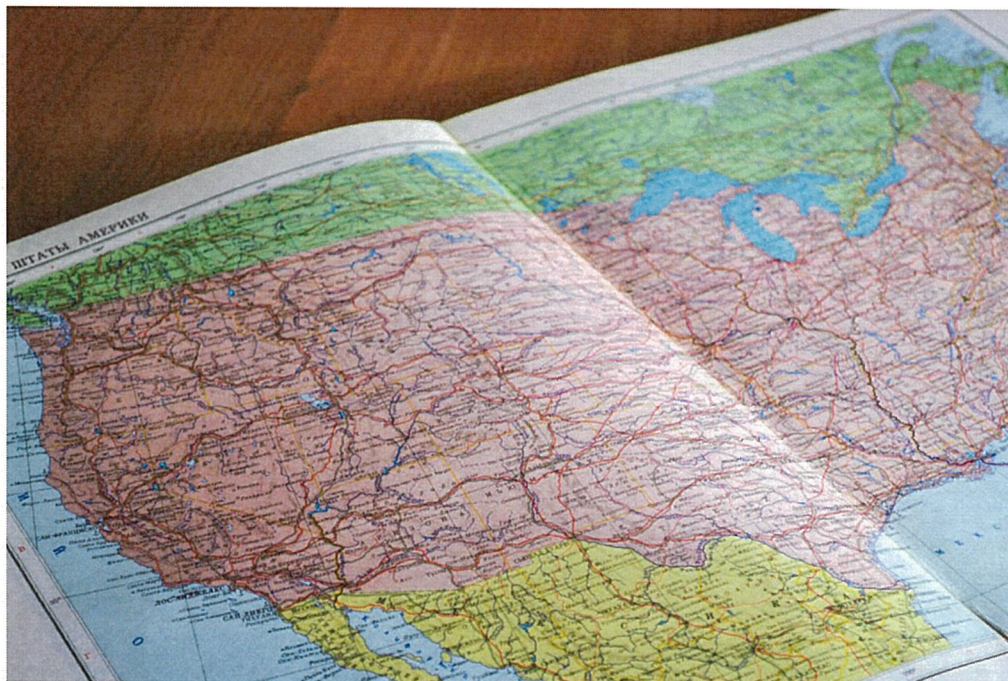
SNAP Outreach Program Benefits

- Collaboration between state agencies and community partners to understand enrollment strategies and barriers.
- Foster networking and partnerships for broader outreach and higher enrollment among those who qualify.



SNAP Outreach Program Benefits

SNAP Outreach Programs are active in many states, including robust programs in CO, NE, TX, NJ, NH, MN.



2023 Success in New Mexico

- NM submitted and was approved for its **first SNAP Outreach Plan starting in October of 2023.**
- **The plan drew down approximately \$60,000** in federal funds to match \$60,000 funds from Roadrunner Food.
- The funds were used to enroll New Mexicans in SNAP and run a toll free SNAP assistance line.

SNAP Outreach Opportunities in NM

Make SNAP Outreach Plans Required by statute.

- Require future administrations to submit a Plan each year.
- Ensures that funds will be continued to match by future administrations.



Investment for Effective Implementation

A \$150,000 Investment in the SNAP Outreach Program to be used for:

- A dedicated staff member to manage the application process and program.
- An application portal for SNAP outreach workers and read only access to the State's system to see the status of SNAP applications.
- Interpretation services for outreach workers.
- Provide small grants to reach underserved communities.





About Roadrunner Food Bank

- Established in 1979, New Mexico's largest food bank and only Feeding America member.
- Roadrunner Food Bank serves the entire state through a direct and indirect distribution network.
- Direct service to over 300 partners in 24 counties.
- In FY23, RRFB distributed 33,008,129lbs across the state
- 1,672,327lbs distributed to Indigenous Communities in FY23
- In 2013, RRFB creates SNAP Outreach program to increase access to food. Per Feeding America, SNAP can provide 9 times the amount of meals than the entire food bank network.

How Roadrunner Helps People Apply for SNAP

- HELP Center- referrals received and toll free number available to New Mexicans in all 33 counties for help with public benefits applications over the phone
- SNAP Clinics- identifying high need areas and setting up mobile desks at community organizations like libraries or community centers to help with SNAP apps on the spot
- Outreach- attending community events, resource fairs, food distributions, etc. to spread word about Roadrunner services including SNAP application assistance, scheduling phone appointments

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The SNAP Outreach Program Supports Roadrunner's outreach services

- Official partnership between HCA and Roadrunner Food Bank increases communication between entities.
- Access to USDA Federal matching funds allows Roadrunner to increase staff size thereby increasing SNAP Outreach capacity.

Results for the 2023 NM SNAP Outreach Program

- 271 SNAP apps submitted from October 2023 - July 2024
- Increased capacity for the HELP Center
- Increased field outreach
- Able to hire another part time bilingual HELP Center rep and increase our veteran part time rep to full time, increased HELP Center capacity and field outreach.

Impact of SNAP program:		
Estimated total SNAP benefits generated (\$) ²	\$ 7,751	88
Estimated local economic impact generated (\$) ³	\$ 1,367,137	
SNAP meals attributable to food bank outreach	9,286	23

The Benefits of a Program Expansion

- Roadrunner Food Bank HELP Center: Increase access to SNAP by providing application assistance over the phone to citizens across NM, thereby removing geographic and technological barriers.
- Field Outreach: Attend community events (resource fairs, schools, food distributions, veteran events) to increase awareness of SNAP program and access as well as Roadrunner SNAP application assistance services.
- SNAP Clinics: Set up specific events in targeted communities designed to help people with applications for SNAP. Veterans, students, seniors, Latinos, Native Americans, unhoused population, immigrant communities and mixed status families.

Questions?



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