



Hunger in New Mexico: Food Banks, Partnerships and Pandemic

Mag Strittmatter, President and CEO, Roadrunner Food Bank of New Mexico

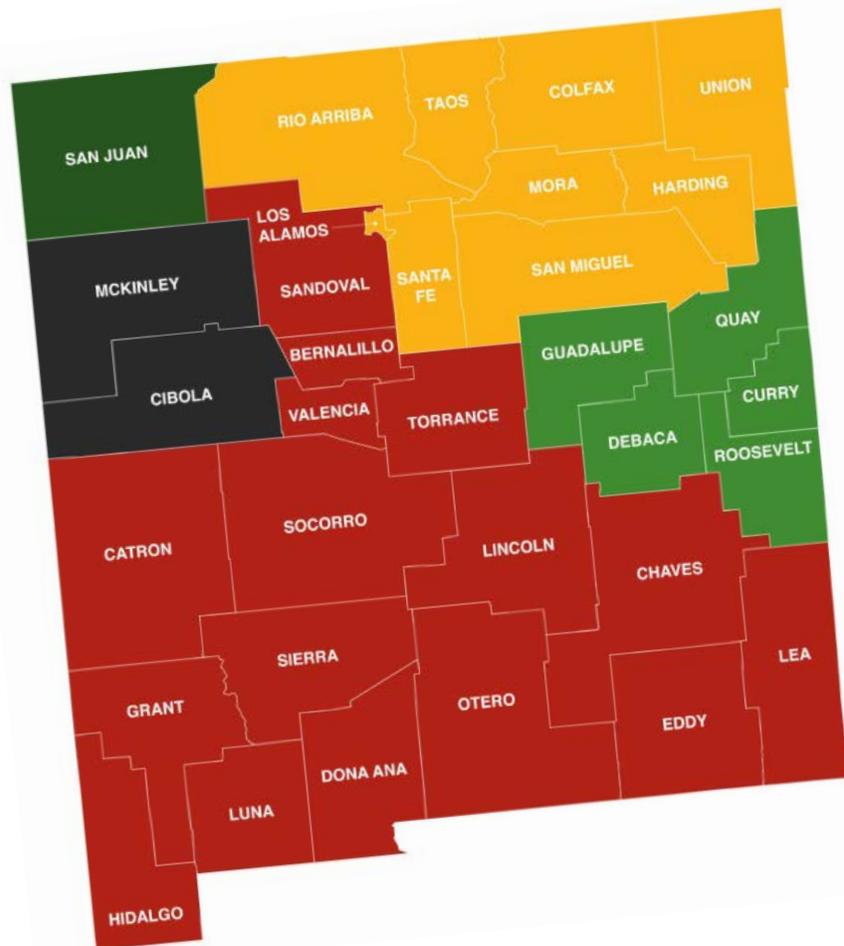
Lorenzo Alba Jr, Executive Director Casa de Peregrinos-- Las Cruces New Mexico, Dona Ana County

The *Hunger Relief Network* in New Mexico

Food Bank Service Areas By County

via

New Mexico Association of Food Banks (NMAFB)



<p>Roadrunner Food Bank 5840 Office Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109 505-247-2052 www.rafb.org</p> <hr/> <p>Roadrunner Food Bank – Las Cruces Office 505 S. Main St., Suite 149A, Las Cruces, NM 88001 575-523-4390 www.rafb.org</p>
<p>The Food Depot 1222 Siler Rd, Santa Fe, NM 87507 505-471-1633 www.thefooddepot.org</p>
<p>Food Bank of Eastern New Mexico 2217 E. Brady; PO Box 1476, Clovis, NM 88101 575-763-6130 www.foodbankenm.org</p>
<p>Community Pantry PO Box 520, Gallup, NM 87305-0520 505-726-8068 www.thecommunitypantry.org</p>
<p>ECHO Food Bank 401 South Commercial, Farmington, NM 87401 575-325-8222 www.echoinc.org</p>



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By the Numbers-By Need

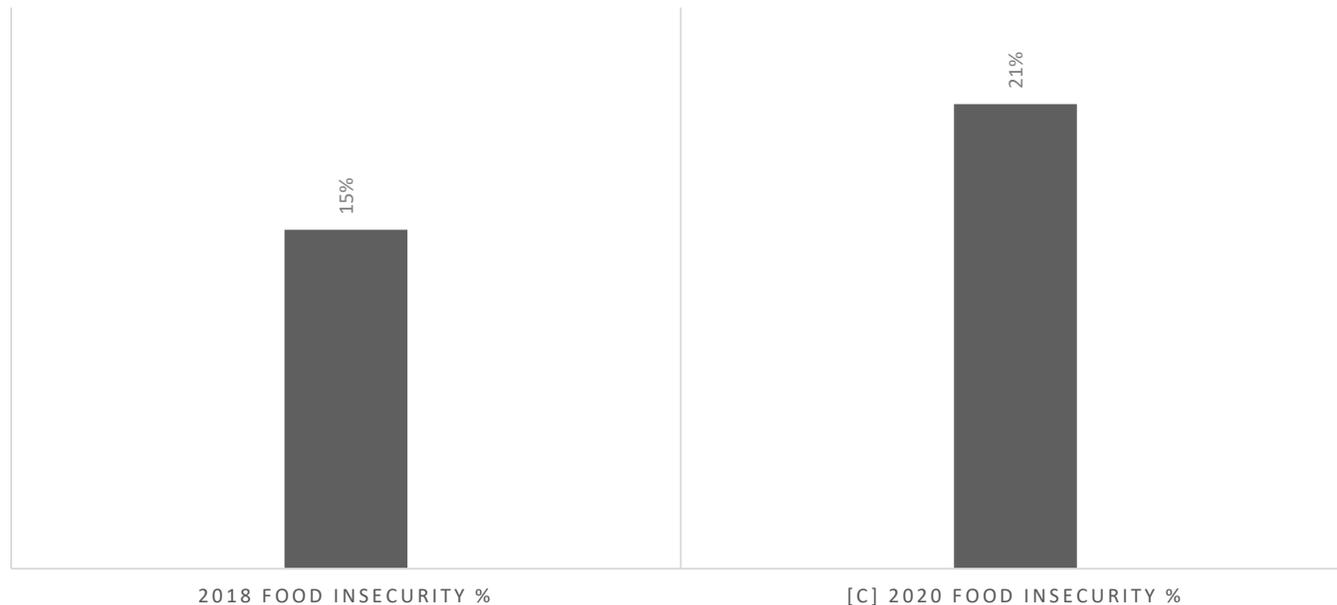
- FY20 ended June 30 with a record of **46,219,364 pounds** of food or **38,516,136 meals** distributed by the network across the state-an increase of **15 percent** over FY 19.
- **40%** of that overall total was distributed during the last four months of the fiscal year, also **the first four months of the pandemic (March-June)**.
- Through Sept 15th of FY21, the network has **already** distributed **11.6 million pounds or 9,667,000** meals across the state.



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Stats – Overall Population

NEW MEXICO- OVERALL HUNGER RATE IN 2018 AND
POTENTIAL HUNGER RATE IN 2020



**1 in 5
people**

**1 in 6
pre-pandemic**

A total of 434,540 people food insecure up from 315,990

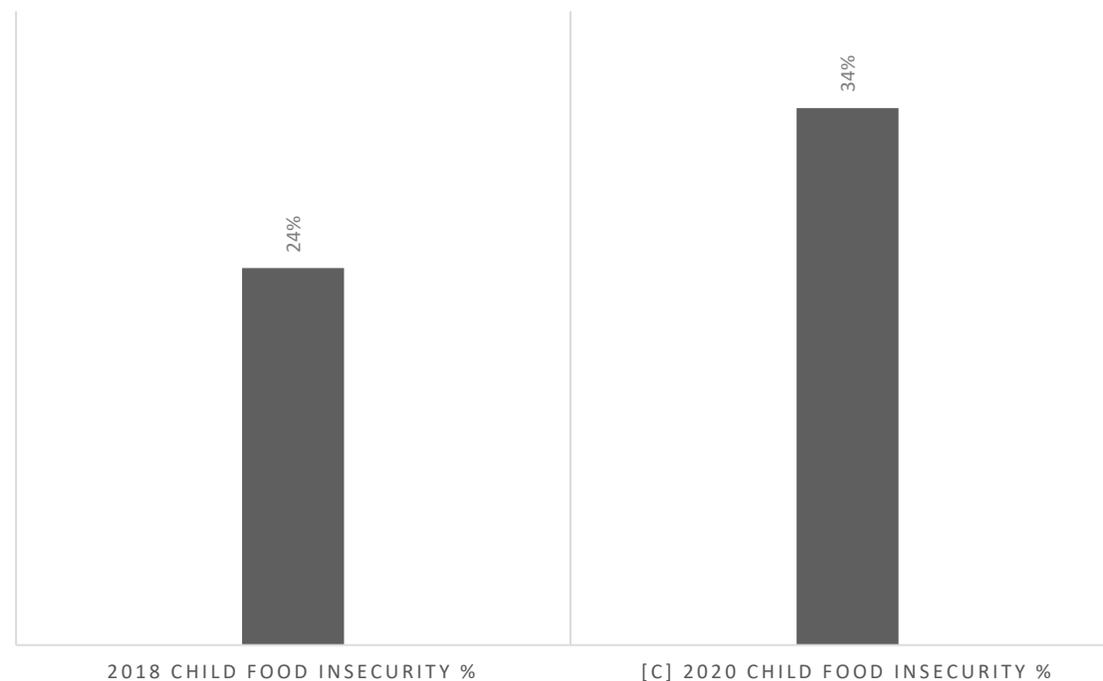


Stats – Child Population

**1 in 3
children**

**1 in 4
pre-pandemic**

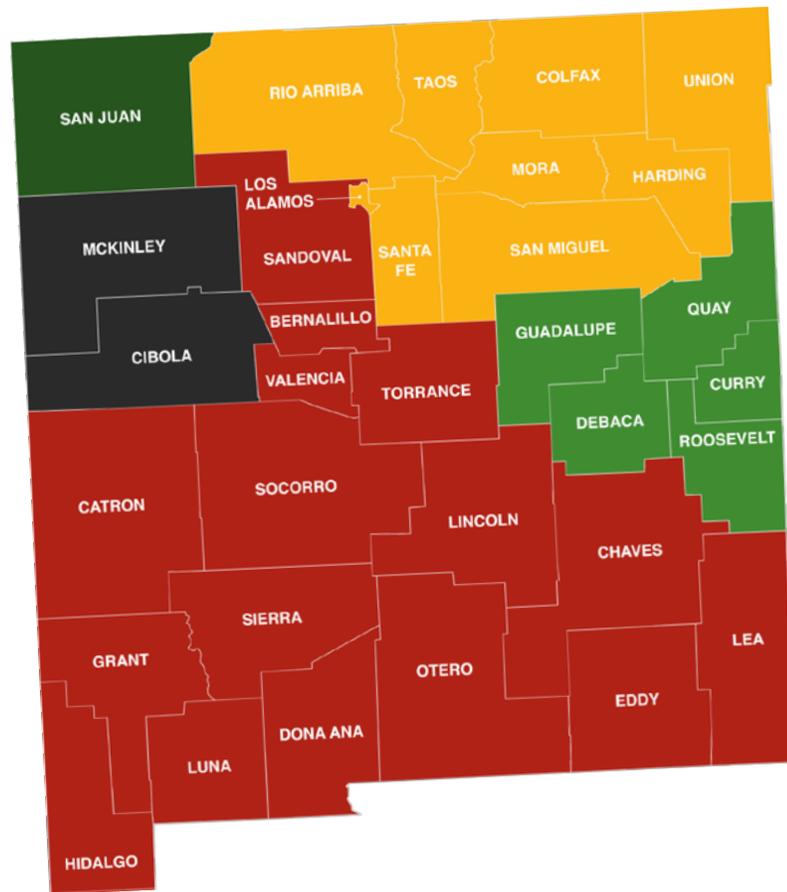
NEW MEXICO CHILD HUNGER RATE IN 2018
AND POTENTIAL HUNGER RATE IN 2020



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A total of 162,960 children food insecure up from 114,180

County Stats—Overall Population



Top Five Counties with Largest Food Insecurity Increases in 2018 to 2020

- McKinley County: 22.1 percent to 27.5 percent
- Luna County: 21.8 percent to 27.5 percent
- Cibola County: 19.4 percent to 26.3 percent
- Catron County: 19.2 percent to 26.1 percent
- Sierra County: 19.5 percent to 24.4 percent
- **TWENTY-THREE** counties have overall hunger rates of more than 20 percent. All but one are **rural counties** (Doña Ana)

Positive Trend–Expanded Food Bank Services to Native Communities

- National food vendors earmarked food product to area (examples: Chobani, UNFI – food wholesaler).
- Required additional boxing/handling prior to transport from food bank.
- **24 percent INCREASE** of food into tribal areas (from 11.6 million pounds to 14.4 million pounds).
- Increased our awareness/opportunities to help.
- More work to do in supporting tribal areas
 - Commercial vehicle access due to poor roads.
 - Lack of cold storage space in tribal areas.
 - Additional relationship building to maintain/expand services year after year.
 - Need for more culturally appropriate foods.



Food Banks Serving Tribal Communities

ECHO Food Bank

- Portion of Navajo Nation

The Food Depot

- 1 Apache Tribe
- 8 Pueblos

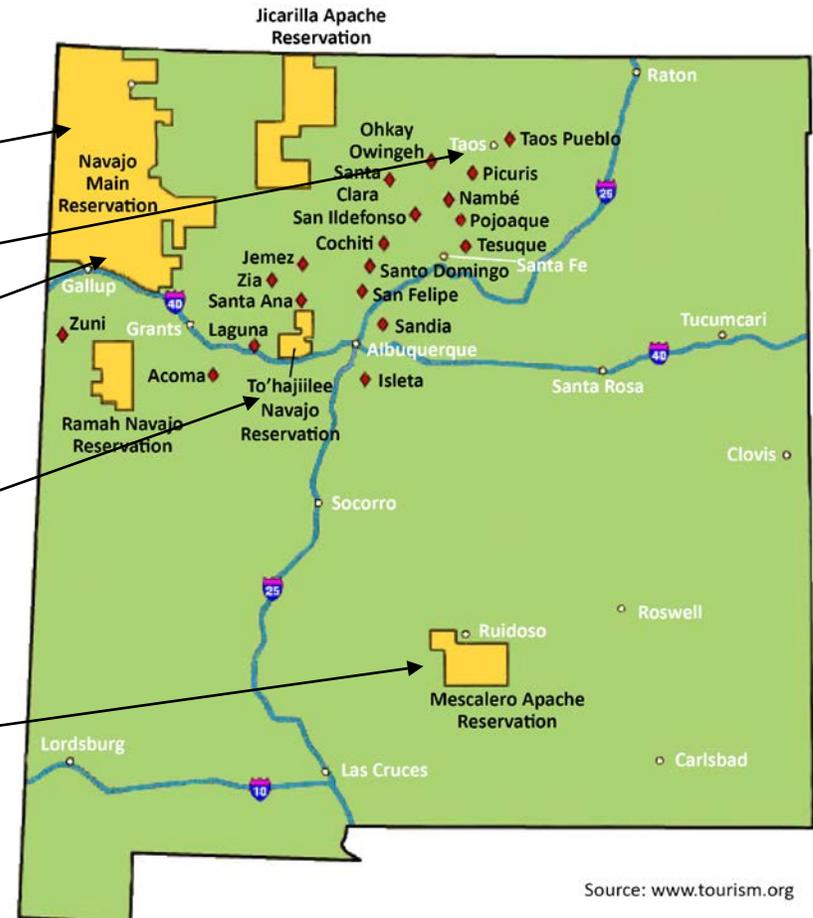
Community Pantry

- Portion of Navajo Nation
- 3 Pueblos

Roadrunner Food Bank

- 2 Apache Tribes
- 8 Pueblos
- 3 Chapters of Navajo Nation

Pueblos and Reservations in New Mexico



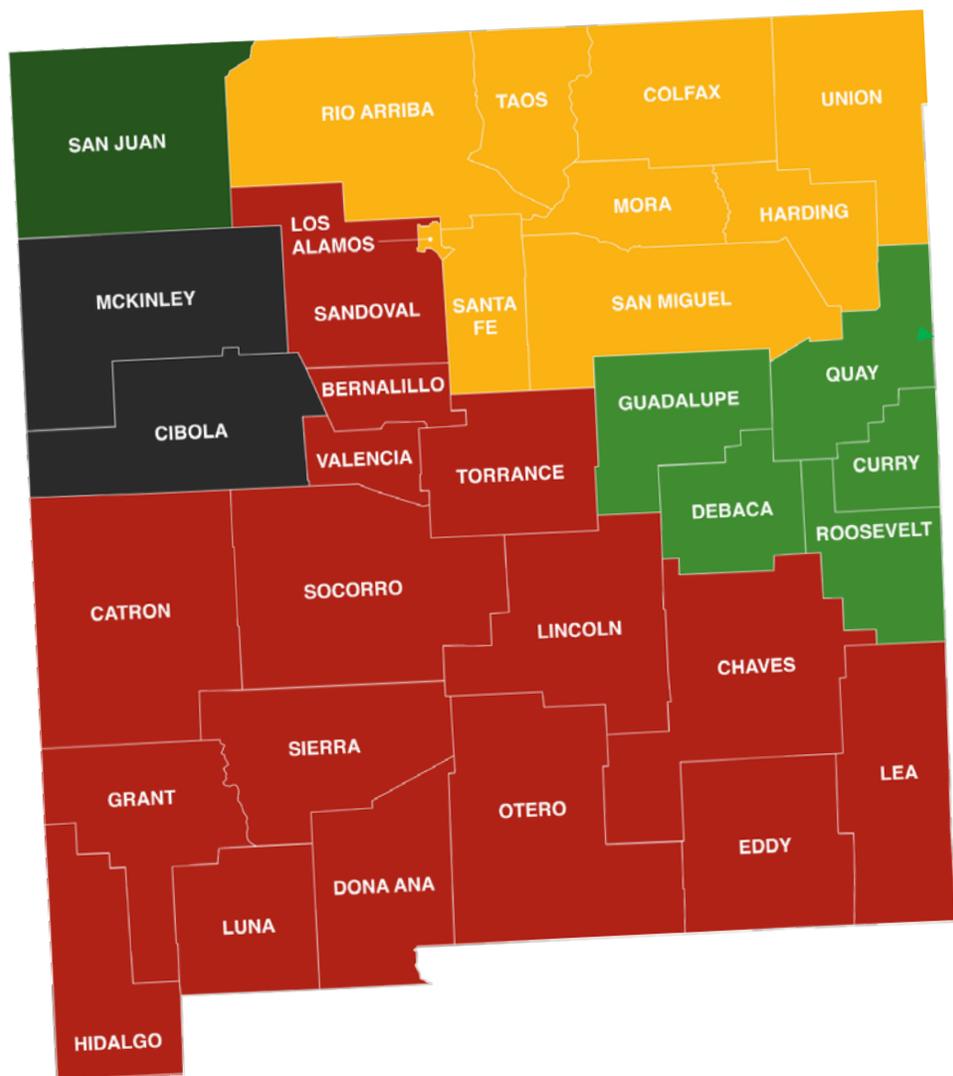
Top 10 Counties with Largest Percentage Increase in Hunger Due to the Pandemic

County	2018 (Pre-Pandemic) Food Insecurity %	2020 During Pandemic Food Insecurity %
McKinley County	22.1%	27.5%
Luna County	21.8%	27.5%
Cibola County	19.2%	26.3%
Sierra County	19.5%	24.4%
Colfax County	16.9%	23.8%
Torrance County	17.4%	23.2%
San Miguel County	18.1%	23.2%
Hidalgo County	16.9%	23.2%
Socorro County	18.7%	23.1%
Harding County	16.9%	23.1%



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Roadrunner Food Bank Territory



*New Mexico is the 5th largest state in the country (121,697 square miles)

*Roadrunner's fleet travels 600,000 miles per year.

*Last fiscal year, RRFB delivered over 40,000,000 pounds or 33,330,000 meals.

* If you took all of the tractor trailer food loads RRFB delivered last year, lined them back-to-back, the line would stretch from Albuquerque to Los Lunas (over 20 miles.)



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Power of Partnership

The five food banks (NMAFB) in the state partner with over 600 nonprofit *food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, churches, schools, senior centers, and senior living communities* to feed our hungry neighbors.

Roadrunner Food Bank has some 300 partners in its 16-county area that we provide food and support to, so they can serve through direct distribution in communities which could be urban-suburban to *very rural*. We are so grateful to have an outstanding pantry partner in Las Cruces like **Casa de Peregrinos**.

Casa de Peregrinos serves all of Dona Ana County and is RRFB's "go to" feeding pantry partner in southern New Mexico. Annually, **Casa de Peregrinos** distributes in excess of three million pounds (**2.5 million meals**) to nearly 30,000 unduplicated recipients, in a county with the states second largest population base, also with many isolated communities.

Casa de Peregrinois is one example of the determined network at work all across New Mexico.



Casa de Peregrinos

- 1979** Founded in Las Cruces
- 1987** Received 501 c 3 IRS designation
- 2005** Moves into the Community of Hope
- 2009** Implements the Summer Program for Children, to assist families with school-aged children during the times school is not in session
- 2011** Begins the Rural Food Initiative, setting up 13 mobile pantries throughout Dona Ana County to serve clients living near the colonias.



Casa de Peregrinos

- 2012** Distributes *one million pounds or 833,333 meals*
- 2014** Undertakes the Food Rescue Program. Food rescue is defined as the practice of “*safely retrieving edible food that would otherwise go to waste and distribute it to those in need.*”
- 2016** Opened seven new mobile pantry sites, bringing the number of mobile pantries to 21. Distributed 2.5 million pounds, or **2,083,333 meals.**



Casa de Peregrinos

- 2019** Distributed 3,804,286 pounds or **3,170,238 meals** to nearly 30,000 unduplicated individuals at 23 distinct locations.
- 2020** The City of Las Cruces purchased a new site for CdP that includes two acres of land, with two buildings: a retail/office operation consisting of 8,200 square feet, and a warehouse consisting of 11,000 square feet.
- 2020** Faces yet another humanitarian crisis: the global COVID-19 pandemic. We continue to serve our community while taking the ultimate precautions for the safety of our staff, volunteers, and clients.



Our Ask

Experts across the state predict a two to four-year recovery window to rebound from the economic blow as a result of this pandemic.

There will be more New Mexicans needing help and support because of the loss of income, which will lead to the higher rates of food insecurity in a state already with some of the highest food insecurity rates in the country. The next two to three years are critical for those most vulnerable, especially families with children and our senior citizens.

Food supplies have been stretched and food chains have been disrupted and costs have increased by an average of \$.50 per pound which, for a 50-million-pound budget, is a grave concern.

We ask that the Human Services Department:

- 1) continues to partner with the hunger relief sector in ways that allow us to source and acquire the foods needed with existing funding and governmental programs
- 2) while also expanding financial support, as needed, in the effort to acquire the sheer volume of product required to address the spike in food insecurity rates we anticipate over the next two-three years.

Thank you!



Contact Us

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