

New Mexico Association of Food Banks Agenda
2024 Regular Legislative Session
Approved by New Mexico Association of Food Banks
Board of Directors on November 15, 2023

New Mexico Association of Food Banks respectfully requests that you and your colleagues provide crucial help to our efforts by taking the following eight actions:

ACTION ONE: SUPPORT INCREASED, RECURRING FUNDING FOR FOOD BANKS

Repeat the 2023 appropriation of \$1,116,500 for food banks to purchase and distribute fresh produce, and appropriate an additional \$5 million for food banks to acquire more of the self-stable food hungry New Mexicans need. Because there is no end in sight to the need for this funding, it should be made recurring. To fully meet the meal gap in New Mexico, the food banks respectfully requests an additional \$17 million.

ACTION TWO: INCREASE SNAP BENEFITS FOR SENIORS

Approve an increase from \$25 to \$150 to augment the federal funding of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, or “food stamps”) benefit received by New Mexico’s struggling senior citizens. Seniors are increasingly hard-pressed to meet their essential living expenses in the face of inflation, and this will reduce the number of them who face food insecurity. This additional support will reach approximately 27,000 people.

ACTION THREE: INCREASE SNAP ELIGIBILITY TO 200% OF POVERTY

The increase will allow for greater participation in this critical relief program, and will offer additional New Mexicans access to federal SNAP benefits for their families. This increase will also bring additional federal funds into the state with funds going to purchase food in communities throughout the state.

ACTION FOUR: FULLY FUND AND STAFF STATE AGENCIES ADMINISTERING CRITICAL SERVICES

New Mexicans in need must not be subjected to a situation where federal or state assistance available to help them does not reach them because state agency personnel and resources needed to administer and deliver that assistance are insufficient. Several agencies responsible for various human services programs are already stretched to the breaking point given the sharply increased need for the services and assistance they provide. Impoverished New Mexicans will be further hurt if the agencies cannot deliver the services and assistance to all who are eligible and do so on a timely basis.

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ACTION FIVE: COMBINE ALL FOOD AND NUTRITION PROGRAMS TO ONE STATE AGENCY

Many nonprofit organizations (charities) sponsor several food and nutrition programs, offering services to New Mexicans in need by accessing these federally- and state-funded programs. Placing all food and nutrition programs in one State agency would simplify the application process and compliance procedures, eliminating barriers for smaller, rural nonprofit organizations to sponsor these critically-needed programs for their communities.

ACTION SIX: ELIMINATE THE ANTI-DONATION CLAUSE FOR FOOD BANKS

Application of the Anti-Donation Clause to established nonprofit organizations involved in feeding hungry New Mexicans should be eliminated. Until that is accomplished, State funding for food banks should be channeled to them by means of contracts from state agencies rather than grants they must obtain from local governments.

ACTION SEVEN: ELIMINATE GROSS RECEIPTS TAX ON SERVICES FOR FOOD BANKS

Currently, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations (charities) like food banks do not pay gross receipts tax on tangibles they purchase and yet do have to pay gross receipts tax on services, making New Mexico gross receipts tax law different from most other states. Please support the end of GRT on services for nonprofit organizations.

ACTION EIGHT: LEAVE FOOD EXEMPT FROM TAX

Leave food exempt from the gross receipts tax. Taxing food will directly reduce the food that can be purchased by poor New Mexicans who already are experiencing hunger, and already-strained food banks will not be able to make up difference. Make no mistake: taxing food will increase hunger in our state.