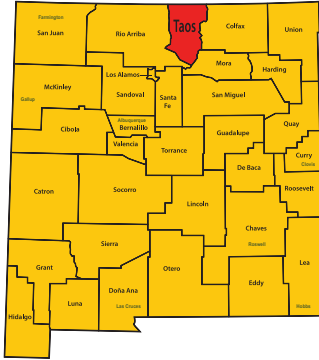




TAOS



Hunger is a Growing Crisis for Families in Northern New Mexico



Hunger by the Numbers for TAOS COUNTY

Number of Food Insecure Persons
4,280 total (12.5%)
1,110 children (18.5%)

Average Cost of Meal – \$4.12

Annual Food Budget Shortfall
\$3,117,000

Population of Taos County – 34,322

Unemployment Rate – 8.9%

People Living in Poverty – 6,319 (18%)

Children Living in Poverty – 1,489 (27%)

SNAP Person Participation – 2,018 (15%)

WIC Person Participation – 604 (2%)

Data Sources:

- (1) Hunger - Feeding America Map the Meal Gap
- (2) Poverty - The Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center 2022
- (3) WIC – NM Department of Health 10/2022

(Fact sheet created - January 2024)

What is Food Insecurity?

Food insecurity refers to USDA’s measure of lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members and limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods. Food-insecure households are not necessarily food insecure all the time. Food insecurity may reflect a household’s need to make trade-offs between important basic needs, such as housing or medical bills, and purchasing nutritionally adequate foods.

Hunger by the Numbers...

UNITED STATES

Number of Food Insecure Persons	33,844,000 (10.4%)
Number of Food Insecure Children	9,262,000 (12.8%)
Average Cost of Meal	\$3.59
Annual Food Budget Shortfall	\$21,466,234,000
Population of USA (July 1, 2022 Census)	334,914,895

NEW MEXICO

Number of Food Insecure Persons	285,220 (13.5%)
Number of Food Insecure Children	90,490 (19.2%)
Average Cost of Meal	\$3.35
Annual Food Budget Shortfall	\$168,875,000
Population of NM (July 1, 2021 Census)	2,109,366
People Living in Poverty	364,725 (18%)
Children Living in Poverty	105,030 (24%)

- NM ranks 3rd in poverty of the 50 states
- NM ranks 3rd in childhood poverty of the 50 states

Why are New Mexicans Food Insecure?

The **leading causes of food insecurity** in America cited in order of frequency in studies by the *Food Research and Action Center* are:

1. unemployment
2. underemployment
3. low-paying jobs
4. high housing costs
5. medical or health costs
6. homelessness
7. poverty or lack of income
8. substance abuse
9. mental health problems
10. reduced public benefits
11. child care costs
12. limited life skills

Here is what The Food Depot is doing in Taos County:



IN 2023, THE FOOD DEPOT DISTRIBUTED: **1,251,507 Pounds = 1,042,923 Meals**



Partner Agencies

Strong partnerships with independent nonprofits and churches connect The Food Depot to diverse communities and provide nutritious foods directly to families. These organizations include churches, shelters, community centers, soup kitchens, emergency pantries, college campuses, transitional or supported living programs, and more.

Agencies receive support from The Food Depot in pursuing their hunger relief goals, including site visits, technical assistance, educational opportunities, and resources for clients. The Food Depot's ability to acquire, store, and deliver food to each partner agency enables organizations to focus time and resources on their primary mission. **Many agencies provide a multitude of wraparound services along with hunger-relief efforts.**

Partner Agencies in Taos

- Community Against Violence
- Dream Tree Project
- The Giving Tree - Taos Hope
- La Jicarita Food Basket
- North Central Food Pantry-Questa
- Rio Grande ATP
- Saint James Episcopal Church
- Santo Nino Carson
- Shared Table

Diaper Depot

Diaper Depot provides families with a one-week supply of diapers and wipes once a month in sizes ranging from newborn to six. **Diaper Depot distributes diapers through The Food Depot and more than a dozen partner agencies.** Access to diapers improves the health of babies, reduces parental stress, and gives families the ability to divert household income towards other essential needs.

Diaper Depot Partners

- Rio Grande ATP
- The Giving Tree

Mobile Food Pantries

Mobile Food Pantries provide easy access to groceries to Northern New Mexico's rural towns and villages.

At every Mobile Food Pantry distribution, a truck delivers a variety of healthy foods to a central community location, such as a fire station, community center, or church. All food is delivered and distributed the day of the Mobile Food Pantry.

Mobile Food Pantries in Taos

- MFP - Ojo Caliente



Food 4 Kids School-Based Pantries

Food 4 Kids School-Based Pantries are located within public elementary, middle and high schools, providing easy access to healthy groceries for students and families in a familiar environment. Coordinators at each school partner with The Food Depot to organize regular distributions of shelf-stable and perishable items. Each school pantry is stocked with shelving, a freezer, and a refrigerator so schools can distribute fresh produce, frozen items, protein, bread, and a wide variety of pantry staples such as pasta, baking goods, canned fruits and vegetables, etc. Pantries not only support students during the school day but provide meals for the entire family at home.

Food 4 Kids Partners

- Taos Municipal Schools
 - Enos Garcia Elementary
- Penasco Independent Schools

Food 4 Pets

The Food Depot's Food 4 Pets program provides a **supplemental supply of dog and/or cat food to clients who come to Mobile Food Pantry sites each month.**

Food 4 Pets Partner

- Ojo Caliente MFP

