

3.26.19 Food, Hunger, Agriculture Workgroup

Food Systems and Covid-19

Facilitator: Representative Melanie Stansbury

Participants: (Please verify spelling and affiliation. If you did not receive an invitation directly from Representative Stansbury, please e-mail her your contact info. So your added to the communication list.)

Federal Delegation- Michelle Cavanaugh, Senator Udall's Office; Elsa Menendez, Senator Heinrich's Office; Sofia Sanchez, Representative Haaland's Office

Governor Lujan Grisham's Office- Ane Romero and Patty Keane

State Departments- Rochelle Public Education Department, Eldridge and Genevieve Indian Affairs, Jeremy F. and Steven Chavez Human Services Department, Rebecca Sanchez Department of Health

Other Officials- Alicia Edwards Grant County, Megan Hounshell Mayor Keller's Office, Mayan Armijo City of Albuquerque Health and Social Services

Legislators- Representative Anderson (Roosevelt, Curry, Catron) Representative Joy Garret (west side of Albuquerque), Representative Rudy Martinez, and staff from Speaker Egolf's Office

Food Providers- Sherry Hooper and Scott Burton, The Food Depot; Sonya Warwick, Katie Anderson, and Mag Strittmatter Roadrunner Food Bank; Alice Perez and Hilda Garcia-Kendall, The Community Pantry- Gallup NM; Sarah and ? w/ ECHO-Farmington; Diana The Food Bank of Eastern New Mexico- Clovis NM, Anna Rondon McKinley Mutual Aid (part of NM Justice Equity Institute), Christina Morris Northwest Region DOH/Food Hub; Mike ; Lorenzo Alba, Jr., Casa de Peregrinos; Mike K., Adelante; Alicia, the Commons-Silver City; Rebecca, Deming and Lordsburg; Julie Ann, Commodities Supplemental Food Program; Brian Emmerman, the Storehouse; Mayan Armijo, 4 Emergency Food Pantries City of ABQ

Faith-based Organizations- Carlos Navarro and Ellen Buelow, Interfaith Hunger Coalition

Service for People Experiencing Homelessness- Alissa, Barrett House; Mary Gaul, First Born

Agriculture Stakeholders and Food Providers- Denise Miller, NM Farmers' Marketing Association; Bonnie T. and Christina Dominguez-Eshelman, La Semilla; Pam Roy, Farm to Table and the New Mexico Food and Agriculture Policy Council

Advocacy Organizations- Lilly Irvin-Vitela and Jonas Moya, New Mexico First; Appleseed; Tsiporah Nephesh, New Mexico Thrives; Tim Davis, New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty, Alissa Barnes, Progress Now

Academia- Sarita Cargas, UNM Honors College

Volunteers- Debra Krishets, Tom Gibbler, Donna Lockner, Judith Minks

Other- Allison Griffen, Cullari Group; Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Context/Background: In the summer of 2019 a diverse group of stakeholders across NM began working together to address structural issues around food security issues. The group worked together through the legislative session to work on a coordinated policy response to eradicate hunger. The Food, Hunger and Ag

Workgroup agreed to meet to respond to urgent food system issues in light of Covid-19 to work together to help support an emergency response to this public health and economic crisis.

Emergency Food Responders Challenges/Needs:

- losing volunteers (retirees make up the greatest share of the volunteer labor force and due to their vulnerability to Covid-19, volunteerism is down)
- agencies are closing b/c of labor and food shortages leaving some frontier and rural communities unserved,
- access to large quantities of dried canned goods/stable shelf life food is limited,
- sourcing food is a challenge,
- mileage for transportation and maintaining fleets of vehicles is an expanding cost center across agencies that they are not equipped to address,
- space for storage and cold storage are inadequate for the current demand for emergency food and the anticipated growth in requests in coming months,
- volunteer and worker safety are at risk in terms of have not having enough personal protective equipment, insufficient cleaning supplies, and security at food distribution centers needs to be strengthened as hungry stressed out people have coping strategies compromised and tempers flare,
- communication and referrals are sometimes inaccurate and place additional burdens on families,
- capacity to fulfill requests for mobile food banks and food delivery for seniors, those immunocompromised, and those with inadequate/non-existent transportation does not exist,
- coordinated responses that allow adults and children to receive meals in accessible community locations,
- economic down-turn and layoffs threaten to create even greater demands for emergency food services,
- people within food deserts (such as the four corners area) are experiencing these challenges more intensely.

Work Groups: (Contact Lilly Irvin-Vitela at lilly@nmfirst.org if you're interested in participating in one of the following work groups to help problem solve and coordinate.)

- Volunteer Mobilization
- Food Supply
- Funding Coordination
- Coordinated Communication

Concerns and needs for resources should be directed to Patty Keane, patty.keane@state.nm.us, in the Governor's Office. She will coordinate with Ane Romero in the Governor's office and state departments.

Next Steps:

-Email Patty and Ane directly if you have immediate needs from the State on these issues.

-Please send Representative Stansbury and Lilly Irvin-Vitela, lilly@nmfirst.org, the following information:

For Food banks, Food pantries, Meal providers, and Homeless Service Providers

We are going to create a quick inventory of needs statewide. Please email me and those cc'ed above regarding specific needs you have relating to:

- Food supply and water needs (what items and how much)
- Personal protective gear (what items and how much)
- Volunteer needs (what items and how much)

- Other monetary or donation items

Note: If you have already shared this info with someone at the state, fear not—we are not reinventing the wheel. We are just looking to compile info so we can blast out requests for donations locally until larger supply needs are worked out.

For Agricultural Producers, Distributors, and Support Groups

We are going to compile a list of folks working on connecting producers to local food providers. Again, we are not looking to reinvent the wheel—just looking to find out who is working on what statewide. Please email me with this info and we will help compile and connect the dots.

For Local, Tribal, State, and Federal Officials and Electeds

if you have information you would like compiled and sent out, please send that to us so we can assemble that. We will also be working to develop a media toolkit in the next day to help get the word out to your communities on program needs and services for constituents. Our ask to you will be to blast this out to as many people as possible to help get need met out there.

For Advocacy and Support Groups

Please let us know how you may be able to help! We are building a spreadsheet to help track who is helping with what. Needs include tracking policy, coordinating communications, rallying volunteers, seeking funding, and getting the word out to people who may need or can provide help, etc.

-If you forwarded or invited others or know anyone who should be added to this list, send their email to Representative Stansbury and Lilly Irvin-Vitela

-We will be working on a game plan for some kind of regular check in to support all of your work.

-We will distribute info tomorrow for a media/social media blast seeking volunteers and donations statewide