**Emergency Relief & Recovery Efforts**

to get more protein into
from possible cuts.
in New Mexico.
that is more inclusive than the Federal effort and links to
mainly in response to food, health and safety supplies, transportation, and to enhance capacity.

**Invest $12 Billion in EMD for Emergency Relief and Recovery Efforts**

**Policy Workgroup Members**

The Food, Hunger, Water, and Agriculture Policy Workgroup is made up of a group of partner policy makers, agricultural producers, the emergency food sector, faith leaders, research academics, and public policy advocates. While participants come from many different communities and professions across New Mexico and have many different life experiences, there is a shared belief that addressing water and food insecurity and strengthening local food systems requires working together. For questions about these priorities or for introductions to workgroup members, please contact Lilly Linh-VuHoa at lilly@jennifers.org.

**Cross-sector Approach**

New Mexico has the highest child hunger rates in the nation. 1 in 4 children in New Mexico are struggling with hunger. Our citizens are not facing this alone:

- From late March through April 2020, the two largest food banks in New Mexico spent $2.5M and $800K, respectively on food to respond to the increasing demand for support from the emergency food sector.

A significant majority of New Mexico’s counties have food insecurity rates greater than the national average.

- Most families participating in SNAP in New Mexico have 2 or more household members that are employed.

In one week in March 2020 alone, there were 1.2K new unemployment claims in New Mexico.

While agriculture is a major economic driver in the state, over 80% of the food New Mexico consumes comes from outside of state, and nearly all food produced in New Mexico leaves the state. A stronger local food system would simultaneously help combat food insecurity and hunger while keeping more dollars in our local economies.

Rates of food insecurity and hunger in New Mexico reflect multiple systemic failures. Therefore, our policy priorities are to:

- Use data to inform decision-making
- Promote local food systems and agricultural resiliency
- Increase the monthly food budget for families of low-income
- Use an equity lens to make sure that the needs of all are considered within the context of community and culture.

**Address Root Causes of Food Insecurity**

- Repeal re-institution of a Food Tax in New Mexico.
- Repeal location of non-profit organizations who provide essential and resilience capacity in responding to New Mexico’s COVID-19 relief and recovery efforts.
- Increase staffing for State Departments responsible for administering Public Benefits to assure timely processing and administration of Federal and state programs, and continuity of access to increase supports to strengthen recovery and relief efforts.

L Nich Matheson, Journal Staff Writer, May 2020 “New Mexico Again Leads the Nation in Child Hunger Rates”

**Invest $100K in D.O.H. for the Purchase of NM Grown Produce and Shelf Stable Food**

- Reinvest $100K in D.O.H. for the Purchase of NM Grown Produce and Shelf Stable Food.
- Invest $300K in NMEDA for Food Safety and Conservation Districts.
- Invest $1 million in NMEDA for the Healthy Soil program and $250K in NMEDA for Soil and Water Conservation Districts.
- Invest $50,000 for program support to NMDA to develop New Mexico Local Food and Farming Systems including value chain coordination and food safety systems that Support the SNAP Double Up Food Bank program and local producer sales to retail and institutional food outlets.

**Invest $12 Billion in EMD for Emergency Relief and Recovery Efforts**

- Invest $12 Billion in EMD for Emergency Relief and Recovery Efforts with a focus on food, food supplies, transportation, and to enhance capacity.

**Policy Workgroup Members and Advocacy Partners**

Adelante
Agri Cultura Cooperative Network
Center for Health Innovation
Delicius New Mexico
Farm to Table
Food is Free Albuquerque
Indigenous Life Ways
In Search of Hunger Coalition
McKinley Collaborative for Health Equity
National Young Farmers Coalition
New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts
New Mexico Association of Food Banks
New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty
New Mexico Farmers’ Marketing Association
New Mexico First
New Mexico Food and Agriculture Policy Council
New Mexico Social Justice and Equity Institute
New Mexico Healthy Soils Work Group
New Mexico Voices for Children
South Valley Economic Development Center
Storehouse NM
The Montibon Company
Village of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque

See Supporting Organizations on Back