

# PLEASE SUPPORT

## NM Food & Agriculture Policy Council and Partners' Priorities



### Provide full funding to meet the needs of initiatives which

- **Promote nutrient-rich food**, especially for children, youth, seniors, individuals with disabilities, low-income populations and for food banks and food pantries.
- **Improve access** to nutritious and culturally significant, New Mexico grown food.
- **Expand opportunities** for New Mexico farmers' and ranchers' through the New Mexico Grown Programs to benefit the well-being of our communities and local economy.
- **Support programs** for healthy soils, conservation and agriculture workforce.
- **Prioritize clean water** for agricultural use in New Mexico.
- **Support programs** for farmers and ranchers to address climate impact.
- **Support the Healthy Universal School Meals Act** which provides nutrition and programmatic support for K-12 students.

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The logo for the New Mexico Food & Agriculture Policy Council is overlaid on a scenic landscape photograph. The photo shows a dirt road winding through a field towards mountains under a bright sun. The logo text is: "NEW MEXICO" in large brown letters, "Food & Agriculture" in smaller blue and green letters, and "POLICY COUNCIL" in white letters on a teal rectangular background.

NEW MEXICO  
Food & Agriculture  
POLICY COUNCIL

# Please Support These Critical Programs

- **New Mexico Grown Programs**

- K-12 meal programs (PED)
- Senior center meal programs (ALTSD)
- Early childhood programs (ECECD)

- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs (SNAP)** such as Double Up Food Bucks

- **Healthy Food Financing Fund (EDD)**

- **Senior and WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Programs (DOH)**

- **Emergency Assistance for food banks,** including farm to food banks programs.

- **Approved Supplier Program Market Development,** Value Chain Coordination, and related technical assistance support for farmers, ranchers and food business.

- **Continue support for New Mexico soil health, conservation, and agriculture workforce programs (NMDA).**

- **Water priorities that align with NMFAPC's Water Policy** such as agricultural water conservation grants that support technology, infrastructure, and adoption of practices that conserve water. [www.nmfoodpolicy.org/water-policy-statement](http://www.nmfoodpolicy.org/water-policy-statement)

- **A State Pollinator Plan** based on Pollinator Work Group recommendations.

To learn more, visit the New Mexico Food Charter and Report Card webpage at <https://nmfoodpolicy.org/new-mexico-food-charter/>

*Follow the QR code to the NM Food & Agriculture Policy Council's 2025 Legislative Session information.*



Photo credit: Molino de la Isla Organics

**NM Food & Agriculture Policy Council**  
**2025 Legislative Priorities**

**Supporting food, farm, hunger and health legislative initiatives**

- **NM Grown for Seniors: \$1.5 million** (recurring)  
Aging & Long-Term service Department (ALTSD) special request included on the FY26 increase to the Kiki Saavedra Senior Dignity Fund. Currently 175 of the state's 240 senior centers are purchasing NM grown and raised foods. Funding would allow the ALTSD to expand the program to all senior centers and provide more funds for buying local.
- **NM Grown for K-12: \$2.3 million** (recurring)  
Public Education Department (PED). 67 out of 89 School Food Authorities are purchasing New Mexico grown and raised food serving more than 300,000 New Mexico students in school meal programs. This is in alignment with the Healthy Universal School Meals program.
- **Healthy Universal School Meals:**  
NM Public Education Department (PED)  
**\$9.7 million recurring increase, \$5 million special, \$7.8 million supplemental, and \$3 million deficiency funding requests** will fully fund implementation of the healthy hunger free students' bill of rights act, 22-13C-1 NMSA 1978.
- **Brighter Bites: Enhanced reimbursements for excellence in Childcare meal Quality: \$1 million**  
Early Childhood Education Fund (ECECD) incentivizes the adoption of higher meal standards – including scratch cooking and locally sourced ingredients – in childcare settings statewide. The Brighter Meals program integrates with the State's FOCUS Quality Rating Improvement System and ties improved meal standards to measurable quality benchmarks for childcare providers leading to higher quality meals for approximately 10,000 children.
- **WIC and Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program: \$1 million** (recurring)  
Department of Health (DOH). This funding will support expanding farmers' market nutrition program incentives to more than 23,162 individuals through the Senior and WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program. Over 555 individual farmers benefit from this program.
- **Healthy Food Financing Fund: \$2 million**  
Economic Development Department (EDD). This grant program serves as the cornerstone to a developing suite of financial tools and technical assistance for food and agricultural enterprises to grow, raise, process, aggregate, distribute, and sell local, fresh, healthy food through expanded retail and institutional in-state market channels in rural and underserved communities. Program expansion will support the creation of more than 70 new jobs, with a demonstrated track record of 75 jobs created since the inception of the program.
- **Emergency Assistance for Food Banks: \$10 million**  
Health Care Authority (HCA) would fund critical infrastructure including – mobile grocery units, cold storage, and refrigerated transportation – and emergency food for communities statewide. including "farm to food bank" programs, (\$30 million over three years).
- **Food is Medicine: Medicaid Funded Nutrition Prescription and Medically Tailored Meals \$13.5 million for food and \$3.2 million for capacity building infrastructure for the Health Care Authority (HCA).** This program will support nutrition interventions for more than 3,000 homebound seniors and 2,400 pregnant individuals. Interventions include medically tailored

meals, fruit and vegetable prescriptions, protein box prescriptions, and healthy food vouchers.

- **Support for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs**
- **Support for College Students Struggling with Basic Needs: \$4 million**  
Higher Education Department (HED)  
The program will provide grab and go healthy meals, low-cost or free access to campus dining meal plans, and/or innovations to food distribution systems that support up to 15,500 food insecure students.
- **Approved Supplier Program Market Development, Value Chain Coordination, and Related Technical Assistance Support for Farmers, Ranchers, and Food Businesses: \$430,000** (recurring) NM Department of Agriculture (NMDA)  
The Approved Supplier Program is the state's food quality assurance program essential to NM Grown procurement. It connects farmers, ranchers, and producers to institutions such as food banks, childcare centers, and senior centers. Benefiting more than 300 producers statewide, sales for FY26 are projected at \$7.5 million, with continued growth expected in FY27 and beyond.
- **Agriculture, Water Resilience Program: \$10 Million** (NMDA) in support of regionally appropriate projects that improve farmers and ranchers' ability to manage, conserve, and efficiently apply limited water resources for agriculture production.
- **Agriculture Water Resilience Coordinator** (NMDA): **\$175,000** (recurring)  
An expert with agricultural background is needed to accomplish state actions outlined in the Governor's 50 Year Water Plan and support agricultural participation in regional water planning under the Water Security Planning Act.
- **Acequia and Community Ditch Fund Needs** (NMDA): **\$417,711** (recurring)  
The demands on this fund, available to the state's 14 active associations, continually exceed available monies – typically by a factor of nearly two. The requested amount would bring this fund to \$1,250,000.
- **Aquifer Monitoring Program: \$28.8 million**, Office of the State Engineer (OSE)
- **NM Pollinator Program: \$1.5 million** over 3 years  
(NM Dept. of Fish & Game or Natural Resources in collaboration with NMDA) for personnel, research, outreach and education program.
- **Veterinary Repayment Loan Program: \$5 million**
- **New Mexico County & Tribal Health Councils** (DOH): Support the NM Alliance of Health Councils advocating for recurring optimal funding to leverage County & Tribal Health Councils for success in service of communities statewide. Health Councils are the lifeline for New Mexicans and a critical function of public health. [www.nmhealthcouncils.org/advocacy](http://www.nmhealthcouncils.org/advocacy)
- **Public Banking Act:** The Public Banking Act will establish a State Public Bank to improve the state's focus, efficiency, and effectiveness in the management of its funds. The public bank's mission is to collaborate with community banks, credit unions and local governments to increase social capital, expand infrastructure, and regenerate natural assets. Among these investments would be regenerative agriculture, expanding production and processing, and protecting water resources and the environment.

**These programs are supported by:**

New Mexico Food & Agriculture Policy Council

Farm to Table

Santa Fe City and County Advisory Council Food Policy

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