

FUND THE EXECUTIVE REQUEST IN HB 2 TO ENSURE ACCESS TO FOOD AND BASIC NEEDS



HEALTH CARE
AUTHORITY

WHY IT MATTERS?

- NM's Supplemental Nutrition Program (SNAP) reaches **more than 75 percent of eligible households**, improving food security for children, older adults, and people with disabilities.
- Health care expenditures are disproportionately linked to preventable chronic health conditions associated with food insecurity (e.g. hypertension and type 2 diabetes). These costly health conditions are concentrated among lower-income individuals. **SNAP benefits** are associated with lower subsequent healthcare expenditures (e.g. emergency department visit) for lower-income individuals.
- **Every \$1** spent on SNAP benefits **generates \$1.50 in local economic activity** in NM.
- Studies show that **even small increases in income dramatically increase educational attainment and well-being**, especially for very young children.
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is NM's only source of cash assistance for low-income families with children that **helps pay for housing, utilities and clothing costs**.
- On average families receive **SNAP in NM for 16 months** and **TANF for 33 months**.

WE MUST CONTINUE TO INVEST IN NEW MEXICANS BY FUNDING THESE CRITICAL PROGRAMS

KEY PROPOSALS:

HAFC RECOMMENDATION

EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATION

SNAP Supplement: Increase the minimum SNAP food benefit for older adults and people with disabilities from \$25 to \$125 a month (28,529 households)

\$0

\$20.8 MILLION

Expand Cash Assistance Eligibility: Raise Cash Assistance income eligibility from 85% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to 90% FPL, allowing ~2,635 lower-income families on the cusp of poverty to receive important benefits. Additional \$5M increase in TANF from carryover balance with no new GF. Federal grant can't sustain this level beyond FY25.

\$5 MILLION

\$11.5 MILLION

Closing The Meal Gap by Supporting NM's Food Banks: Providing funding support to NM's 5 regional food banks to provide an additional 50,410,448 meals to New Mexicans.

\$0

\$5 MILLION

SNAP Expansion & System Enhancements

Summer EBT: Continue funding for food benefits to families with children when school-based lunch is not available (est. 252,000 children).

\$310,000

\$310,000

SNAP Eligibility Expansion: Increase SNAP eligibility from 165% Federal Poverty Limit (FPL) to 200% FPL, expanding eligibility to an additional 67,967 households on the cusp of poverty.

\$0

\$722,600

SNAP Meal Access: Allow older adults, adults with disabilities, and people experiencing homelessness to purchase prepared meals (est. 153,000 individuals).

\$700,000

\$700,000

Kinship Care SNAP Healthy Incentive Program Pilot: Provide a \$75 monthly SNAP supplement for more than 6,000 children living with grandparents or kin. This will increase the purchasing power of kinship care households to purchase healthy foods.

\$0

\$8.9 MILLION

ALTSD Collaboration for Kinship Care: Programming, Outreach and Staff to support Grandparents and Kin Raising Children led by ALTSD.

\$0

\$6.6 MILLION