

FOOD INITIATIVE FUNDING HIGHLIGHTS W/ HAFC SCENARIO UPDATES

This year's budget recommendation includes more than \$118 million to continue to build a robust food system that grows, transports, and serves food to the New Mexicans that need it most. Budget highlights include:

School Meals

- **Healthy Universal School Meals**, which eliminates school meal costs and ensures higher quality, healthy meals for all New Mexico students. *Recommended funding: \$43.5 million in recurring and \$19.9 million in supplemental funding for the Public Education Department. Recurring gap – \$1,566,800, section 5 gap – \$10,962,860, section 6 gap – \$9,952,430.*
- **SNAP System Enhancement for Summer EBT**, which allows for the implementation of the Summer EBT program for more than 252,000 students statewide. *Recommended funding: \$310,000 for the Health Care Authority.*

Senior Hunger No Mas

- **State SNAP Supplement for Seniors and Disabled Individuals**, which raises the monthly SNAP supplemental benefit for older adults and people with disabilities from \$25 to \$125 monthly, reaching 28,529 households. *Recommended funding: \$20.8 million for the Health Care Authority. Recurring gap – \$20,800,000.*
- **Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program**, which expands farmer's market nutrition incentives for more than 14,000 seniors. *Recommended funding: \$980,000 for the Department of Health. Section 5 gap – \$980,000.*
- **System Enhancements for the SNAP Restaurant Meals Program**, which establishes a program that allows older adults, people with disabilities, and people experiencing homelessness to purchase prepared meals at participating restaurants with SNAP benefits. *Recommended funding: \$700,000 for the Health Care Authority.*

Emergency Food Assistance and Innovation

- **Community Food Assistance**, which funds food banks to provide an additional 50,410,448 meals to New Mexicans. *Recommended funding: \$5 million for the Health Care Authority. Section 5 gap – \$5,000,000.*
- **College Basic Needs**, which provides grab and go healthy meals, low cost or free access to campus dining plans, and innovations to food distribution systems to support food insecure students statewide. *Recommended funding: \$1 million for the Higher Education department. Recurring gap – \$1,000,000.*
- **System Enhancements for SNAP Eligibility Expansion**, which expands SNAP eligibility to New Mexicans at 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, reaching an additional 67,697 households. *Recommended funding: \$722,600 for the Health Care Authority. Section 5 gap – \$772,600.*
- **State Fruit and Vegetable Prescription Program (FVRx)**, which is a produce prescription program that provides free fruits and vegetables to children who qualify as food insecure, nutritionally at-risk, or at risk for chronic conditions. *Recommended funding: \$500,000 for the Department of Health. Section 5 gap – \$500,000.*

Food, Farm, and Agriculture Entrepreneurship

- **State Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program**, which complements the USDA Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program to assist the state's agriculture industry with infrastructure needs. State funding will expand and enhance available federal funding in two areas: 1) processing, aggregation, and distribution, 2) water efficiency, climate resilience, and greenhouse gas emission reduction. *Recommended funding \$4.6 million for the New Mexico Department of Agriculture. Section 5 gap – \$4,600,000.*
- **Healthy Food Financing Initiative**, which prioritizes the development of food retail in rural and underserved communities and provides alternate market channels for value-added and sustainably grown farm and ranch products. *Recommended funding: \$1 million for the Economic Development Department. Section 5 gap – \$1,000,000.*
- **New Mexico Grown**, which builds the market for farmers, ranchers, and food businesses to grow, manufacture, and sell food to schools, senior centers, and preschools. *Recommended funding: \$1 million for the Aging and Long-Term Services Department. Recurring gap – \$1,000,000.*