



Office of the Governor

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

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Contact: Nora Meyers Sackett
Press Secretary, Office of the Governor
nora.sackett@state.nm.us
(505) 690-7313

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Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham awards \$10 million in Food Security Grant funding to 40 organizations

SANTA FE – Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham on Friday announced the recipients of \$10 million in funding through the Food Security Grant to invest in infrastructure improvements for New Mexico’s food system, part of a larger \$24 million investment to address hunger secured by the governor during the 2022 legislative session.

Joined by leaders of The Food Depot, which serves nine counties in northern New Mexico, the governor announced that funding has been awarded to 40 projects in 26 counties that will benefit an estimated 477,000 New Mexicans – around a quarter of the state’s population.

“In the last three years, New Mexico has had the biggest improvement in food insecurity rates of any state – but we know there is more to be done,” said **Gov. Lujan Grisham**. “This historic funding will revolutionize how we address food insecurity and improve the state’s food distribution system as a whole, getting more fresh foods to children, families, students and seniors all across New Mexico. I will keep fighting food insecurity until hunger is no longer a reality for any New Mexican.”

The Food Depot was awarded \$1.4 million to stand up the Food Mobile Dos, a mobile grocery store that will serve 43 rural, frontier, and Tribal sites in seven northern New Mexico counties. 12,600 individuals will be provided up to 262,500 additional meals monthly as a result of this single investment.

“I have worked in hunger-relief since 1990 but have not seen us move the needle on hunger. Gov. Lujan Grisham’s commitment to addressing hunger and poverty in New Mexico gives me hope,” said **Sherry Hooper**, executive director of The Food Depot. “With her

commitment and the support of the Legislature, we are well-positioned to lift people out of poverty and create sustainable solutions to hunger.”

“Food insecurity in a state the geographic size of New Mexico is not easy to address. These initiatives have certainly made a positive impact in assisting us in our fight against hunger,” said **Lorenzo Alba Jr.**, Executive Director at Casa de Peregrinos in Doña Ana County. “The focus areas that the initiative has identified will definitely help us develop a sustainable food system beneficial to all New Mexicans, and we are grateful to Gov. Lujan Grisham for her leadership in meaningfully addressing this issue.”

Projects considered for the \$10 million in Food Security Grant funding included food refrigeration and cold storage, vehicles, kitchen equipment for preparing and serving meals, and facility renovations. Additional priorities included mobile distribution models for communities without access to grocery stores or food retailers and start-up/seed funding for innovative projects that increase local food access for low-income New Mexicans. Of the \$10 million, 50% was awarded to the state’s food banks and food pantries, with the remaining funds awarded to non-profit farmer cooperatives, food hubs, schools and senior centers. Projects awarded include:

- \$1.8 million for a new food distribution center in Grants. The project will partner with the NMSU Grants Container Farm and NMSU Cooperative Extension to expand opportunities for educational programming and fresh, hydroponically grown produce.
- \$1.4 million to The Food Depot in Santa Fe for a mobile food pantry that offers produce and meat, as well as shelf stable foods and prepared meals, and will serve 43 new sites in seven northern New Mexico counties
- \$417,834 to Bernalillo Public Schools for a youth-led food truck program that will distribute hot meals on school campuses and to surrounding communities.
- \$176,700 to the Pueblo of Pojoaque to purchase cold storage, vehicles and greenhouse equipment for the Pueblo’s Agriculture/Bison program, which provides fresh and locally grown crops and bison to tribal members in an effort to reduce obesity and diabetes
- \$101,500 to the Anthony Youth Farm to upgrade the irrigation system of the youth training farm’s irrigation system, tractor equipment and cold storage warehouse, resulting in a 25% increase in school meals and agriculture boxes for distribution

The Food Security Grant is one element of a \$24 million funding package secured by Gov. Lujan Grisham in the 2022 legislative session, the largest investment in food and hunger in recent state history. Addressing food insecurity has been a top priority of the Lujan Grisham administration, and that work has yielded real results including:

- When comparing 2019-2021 data to 2016-2018, New Mexico had the highest drop in the nation in overall food insecurity rates (-5.3%).
- Since 2019, more than 1.7 billion meals have been provided to food insecure New Mexicans – this translates to more than 2 billion pounds of food.
- Since 2017, the rate of food insecure New Mexico children has decreased more than 15% from 118,030 to 99,100 children.

The full list of Food Security Grant awardees is attached.

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Food Security Grant Awardees

Local Government/ Non-Profit	Project Summary	Award Amount
Anthony Youth Farm	Funds will be utilized to upgrade the 25-acre youth training/incubator farm's irrigation system, tractor equipment and cold storage warehouse. Production for school meals and community supported agriculture boxes is expected to increase by 25%.	\$ 101,500
The Rio Grande Community Development Corporation	Equipment and vehicles for South Valley Food System Collaborative's (Robert F. Kennedy Charter School, Southwest Educational Partners for Training, & Organicos) launch of the Shadyside Food Hub.	\$ 116,424
Meals on Wheels of Albuquerque	Temperature-controlled vehicles for service expansion - including pop-up distributions - to underserved areas of Bernalillo, Sandoval, and Valencia counties.	\$ 314,400
La Cosecha Community Supported Agriculture	Processing equipment to expand value-added products for school and senior meals and no/low-cost community supported agriculture boxes.	\$ 240,000
Rio Grande Academy of Fine Arts	Seed funding to develop a culinary arts and garden program. Students will provide free meals for South Valley community members on a monthly basis. Equipment will also be used for breakfast, lunch, and snack programs.	\$ 41,162
Silver Horizons New Mexico, Inc.	Vehicle to expand grocery box deliveries and pop-up grocery markets for seniors in need. Program has a focus on increased food access for grandparents raising grandchildren.	\$ 12,000
Bernalillo Public School District	The Bernalillo Public Schools food security initiative will use a food truck to distribute fresh hot meals on school campuses and to surrounding pueblo communities during summer, holidays, and for students that attend Virtual Learning Academies.	\$ 417,834

Bloomfield Public Schools	Bloomfield Schools will develop the Family Resource and Wellness Hub to provide an array of resources (clothing closet, client-choice food pantry, hygiene pantry, family counseling, and lodging support) for families in need.	\$ 118,999
Bloomfield Senior Center	The Bloomfield Senior Center Greenhouse Project will provide fresh produce - and educational opportunities - on a year-round basis for seniors.	\$ 160,200
Food Bank of Eastern New Mexico	The Farm to Fridge project expands the Food Bank's limited cold storage capacity to receive and distribute locally-sourced meat, dairy, and produce. This project will enhance the availability of healthy, protein-rich food choices for families in eastern New Mexico while growing small agricultural businesses.	\$ 500,000
Economic Council Helping Others	The ECHO food bank will expand satellite food distribution sites on Navajo Nation and provide perishable, healthy food items to the Huerfano Chapter community.	\$ 133,235
The Community Pantry	Building and equipment purchase for new food distribution center in Grants. Equipment funds will be utilized to equip the facility with necessary items, including a large walk-in cooler/freezer unit. The project will partner with the NMSU Grants Container Farm and NMSU Cooperative Extension to expand opportunities for educational programming and fresh, hydroponically-grown produce.	\$ 1,844,763
Mesilla Valley Community of Hope - Casa de Peregrinos	Funds from this grant will be used to complete the warehouse and distribution center purchased by the City of Las Cruces on the Community of Hope Campus for the use of Casa de Peregrinos for food storage, processing, and distribution.	\$ 168,458

YouthWorks	YW Culinary Arts Training and Social Justice Kitchen will retrofit an existing commercial kitchen to increase meal production for child and senior nutrition programs, emergency feeding responses, and community food needs.	\$ 219,403
Cuba Independent School District	CISD will design an academic and practical program that teaches students cross curricular skills/knowledge through the operation of a food truck. The food truck will send supper/dinner meals home with students and deliver meals to families in need.	\$ 81,800
Curry County	The community of Melrose and Grady School's Agriculture Department, Melrose Senior Center, Curry County and the Curry County Health Council are requesting funds to develop greenhouse and garden projects for senior and youth populations in two rural communities.	\$ 41,628
Assembly of God (Colfax County)	Start-up funds will be used to purchase equipment and vehicles for a new food pantry in Springer. The pantry will deliver meals to homebound individuals as well host grocery box distributions.	\$ 53,752
Dona Ana County	Pop-up produce/grocery markets will help increase food security and fresh food consumption for food-insecure families living in colonias and rural communities.	\$ 381,793
La Semilla Food Center (Dona Ana County)	Funding will provide efficiency- and output-increasing equipment to 25 small-scale regional farmers to facilitate bed planting and preparation, as well as community workdays at farms that often have little to no labor support beyond the farmer. The project will increase the quantity and variety of products farmers can offer to the food insecure community members.	\$ 27,296

Dulce Independent School District	Seed funding will support phase two of a district-led farm to fork program that includes poultry, dairy, and meat farming, greenhouse production, and food business entrepreneurship. The project will be in partnership with the Jicarilla Apache Nation.	\$ 180,916
The BEN Initiative	The BEN Initiative will utilize a mobile trailer to clean, inspect, package and transport indigenous-grown produce directly to the Farmington Municipal School District/Central Consolidated School District, charter schools and local elder care facilities.	\$ 48,560
Indian Pueblo Cultural Center	The Indian Pueblo Cultural Center will provide Indigenous food education and garden training programs to local and Pueblo K-12 schools. A new green/hoop house is expected to produce up to 2,500 pounds of traditional native produce when fully operational. The green/hoop house will not only provide hands-on training opportunities for students but will also function as a producer in the local food system.	\$ 63,102
Logan Municipal School District	Logan Municipal Schools will provide higher quality fruit and vegetable options for students through the purchase of salad bar equipment and a steam table.	\$ 3,000
Roadrunner Food Bank	Equipment and vehicles for the Healthy Food Express Mobile Market, a monthly mobile market in partnership with healthcare facilities, clinics, or other public spaces in 8 Tribal communities and 3 sites in the Albuquerque metro. Roadrunner Food Bank will match state funds to further scale the model in 10 additional communities in rural southern NM.	\$ 284,139
Mora Independent School District	The Mora Independent School District will increase meal deliveries for students, siblings and caretakers - including grandparents raising grandchildren - in remote areas of the community.	\$ 83,148

Toohnii Binahneest'a' Altaas'ei Alliance	Funding will support a cooperative of Navajo farmers to grow, package and distribute greater amounts of nutritious fresh produce for Navajo communities.	\$ 149,935
Pueblo of Pojoaque	Funding will be used to purchase cold storage units, vehicles, and greenhouse equipment for the Pueblo of Pojoaque Agriculture/Bison Program. The program grows crops and provides fresh bison meat to Pojoaque tribal members in an effort to reduce obesity and diabetes.	\$ 176,700
Pueblo of Santa Ana	The Tamaya Learning Center will upgrade food production and distribution equipment to improve the Pueblo's food service programs for children ages 0-5.	\$ 85,000
Food Bank of Eastern New Mexico	The Grocery for Good project (Portales) will provide clients a client-choice free grocery shopping experience as well as the time-efficient convenience of a curbside pickup for clients who are ill and/or elderly.	\$ 137,797
The Food Depot	Food Mobile 2.0 will offer a choice-based food mobile pantry experience to unserved/underserved communities across 43 new sites in seven northern New Mexico counties. Community members will "shop" for refrigerated items, including produce and meat, as well shelf stable foods and prepared meals.	\$ 1,386,301
Reunity Resources	Funding will be used for equipment and supplies to process rescued produce (gleaned and/or "ugly" produce) into value-added products for food insecure New Mexicans.	\$ 78,182
Barrios Unidos	Funding for a high-tunnel cold-frame and other farm equipment to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to the Chimayo community, provide jobs, and inspire the next generation of farmers.	\$ 47,261

Santa Fe Indian School	Santa Fe Indian School (SFIS) and the MoGro mobile grocery model will provide 2,500 food bags - primarily sourced from NM farmers - to SFIS students and families during the 2022-2023 school year.	\$ 48,960
South Valley Preparatory School	Equipment for the South Valley Preparatory School to serve as a central kitchen for other charter schools working to increase food quality and meal access for students and families.	\$ 68,518
Taos County Economic Development Corporation	Funding will expand and improve the mobile matanza, develop a wash and pack aggregation and value-added processing center, and invest in a commissary kitchen.	\$ 1,468,994
Torrance County	Torrance County will upgrade the kitchen at the Torrance County Fairgrounds to provide food and nutrition education programs and a food security/food distribution hub for community members. The commercial kitchen will also be available for the aggregation and processing of local produce.	\$ 500,000
Silver City Gospel Mission	Kitchen and distribution equipment to support daily meals, weekly and monthly food distributions, and weekend food bags for children and individuals experiencing homelessness.	\$ 5,000
The National Center for Frontier Communities	The Frontier Food Hub will purchase a refrigerated van to expand partnerships with dozens of farmers and increase the distribution of food to schools, senior centers, and Double Up Food Bucks outlets.	\$ 72,390
One Generation	Storage trailers and refrigerated truck will be used by the Indigenous Farm Hub and its network of cooperative farmers to increase production for free and low-cost Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) boxes for Sandoval, McKinley, and San Juan counties.	\$ 95,000

The Commons Center for Food Security and Sustainability	A new van will allow the food pantry to expand home deliveries of food boxes, serve additional rural community members in Grant County, and deliver weekend food "backpacks" to partner school districts.	\$ 42,450
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