

Hunger in New Mexico, Get Involved and Help Out Any Time of Year

We know that food insecurity is a year-round struggle for far too many – especially families with children, individuals living with disabilities, senior citizens, and working people who do not earn near enough to meet their expenses. Feeding America’s annual [“Map the Meal Gap” report](#) shows that New Mexico ranks #1 (or worst) for childhood hunger and #6 in overall hunger among its residents with 1 in 4 children at risk for hunger and 1 in 6 for the overall population.

Mag Strittmatter, president and CEO of Roadrunner Food Bank said, “Hunger is a serious issue in our New Mexico. We are your community food bank and here to serve our neighbors in need. When the community invests their time, talents, food and funds in our mission, they are making a difference in the lives of tens of thousands of our fellow neighbors. Thank you for your support and partnership. Your efforts provide access to nutritious food and a way for us to deliver it in communities across our state.”

The last [Hunger In New Mexico report](#) shows that every week 70,000 hungry New Mexicans seek food assistance from Roadrunner Food Bank’s statewide charitable hunger network. The network is made up of hundreds of partner food pantries, soup kitchens, group homes, shelters, schools, senior sites and other organizations. Each affiliated partner receives food from Roadrunner Food Bank on a regular basis to distribute right in their own community. From Albuquerque to Las Cruces to Hobbs and Silver City countless communities count on the 33 million pounds of food provided by Roadrunner Food Bank.

While that sounds like a lot of food, the [Map the Meal Gap](#) report shows that for every meal provided by the state’s charitable hunger network, nearly two more are still needed to serve our low-income neighbors in need.

And that’s where all of us come in to take action and help! Volunteers and donors are the bedrock of food assistance programs winter, summer, spring and fall.

You can call up our nearest food bank or nearby food pantry and ask, “What can I do to help?” Whether it’s one time, occasionally, or on a regular basis, your gift of time can make a real difference in providing an important base of support to solve hunger. And when you make a financial commitment to help, your giving is stretched to bring more food into communities across the state. For example, at Roadrunner Food Bank, every \$1 donation can help provide 5 meals in communities across our state.

There are also other ways to help too. It’s likely you might know someone who is struggling to put food on the table. If you do, connect them to a food assistance program right in your community. Here’s how:

- Roadrunner Food Bank’s Hunger-Relief Partners – enter a zip code in the [“Search by Zip Code” feature](#). Or download Roadrunner Food Bank’s **FREE** food assistance app on [GooglePlay](#) or from the [AppleStore](#).
- Roadrunner Food Bank’s Food Assistance Line: 505.349.5340 or toll-free 844-684-6268.
- Food Assistance Locations Listed on [Share New Mexico’s Website](#).

No matter how you get involved it all matters. Thank you for taking the time to help make our communities a brighter and more hopeful place to live!

-- Sonya Warwick, Communications Officer Roadrunner Food Bank – May 2019