

## Call to Action: Address Hunger and Food Insecurity in New Mexico

Dear New Mexicans,

This is an urgent call to action: Help address hunger and food insecurity in New Mexico by forwarding the message below to members of your network.

The need for emergency food has hit a real crisis across New Mexico and the situation is getting worse for families, food banks, food pantries and meal programs statewide because of covid19. Providers report 40-200% increases in families/individuals using services. Those numbers will grow as supply chain issues continue, joblessness increases, and economic downturn persists as leaders work to contain COVID-19.

**Food banks are and will be closing.** The emergency food providers count on volunteers, many of whom are now considered high-risk and can no longer volunteer.

**We can all be a part of the solution.**



1. **Volunteer** if you're healthy and able. The food banks and pantries that have remained open are practicing social distancing to keep everyone safe.
2. **Donate personal protective equipment** (gloves and masks) to keep volunteers and the public healthy as food is shared.
3. **Donate boxes and bags.** Many emergency food providers have gone to drive-through food distribution to limit contact and respond to the increased number of people using these community supports and need a way to pass food out quickly and safely.
4. **Donate cleaning supplies.** Shelters and pantries maintain high standards of cleanliness and safety, but hoarding of cleaning supplies means that they cannot buy these needed items.
5. Please give **monetary donations** to food banks and pantries to purchase large quantities of food and cover mileage and supplies to distribute food. Consider giving locally as well as finding a rural, frontier or Tribal community program to support as they have been particularly hard hit and experience food deserts during normal times.
6. **Help your neighbors.** You can practice social distancing and continue to reach out to neighbors/community members who may be unable to leave their home and offer help with the basics. You can call ahead and drop off needed items in their driveways. We all have something to offer each other.

## Connect with our Emergency Food Providers

**Food Banks.** Five food banks provide the food for many of the food pantries in New Mexico.

- **Echo Food Bank** provides food to the pantries in San Juan County. Call 505-326-3770. [Donate](#) to Echo Food Bank.
- **Food Bank of Eastern New Mexico** provides food to the pantries in Curry, DeBaca, Guadalupe, Quay, and Roosevelt Counties. Call 575-763-6130. [Donate](#) to the Food Bank of Eastern NM.
- **Roadrunner Food Bank** provides food to the pantries in Bernalillo, Catron, Chaves, Dona Ana, Eddy, Grant, Hidalgo, Lea, Lincoln, Luna, Otero, Sandoval, Sierra, Socorro, Torrance, and Valencia Counties. Call 505.247. [Donate](#) to Roadrunner Food Bank.
- **The Community Pantry** provides food to the pantries in Cibola and McKinley Counties. Call 505-726-8068. [Donate](#) to The Community Pantry.
- **The Food Depot** provides food to the pantries in Los Alamos, Mora, Rio Arriba, San Miguel, Santa Fe, Taos, and Union Counties. Call 505-471-1633. [Donate](#) to the Food Depot.

**Local Food Resources.** If you have questions about contacting local food resources to volunteer, donate, or contribute, or if you need help, you can search on the FREE SHARE New Mexico Resource Directory. Enter your location into [this search](#), and a list of community resources will be generated. **The situation on the ground is changing rapidly, so please call ahead to learn about hours of operation and services available.** If you have information on additional or updated information on local resources, please let us know by contacting [Wendy@nmfirst.org](mailto:Wendy@nmfirst.org).

Wishing you safety, health, and the power of knowing we're in this together,

The team at New Mexico First and Share New Mexico

