

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-2

INTRODUCED BY:

Councilor Jamie Cassutt

Councilor Renee Villarreal

Councilor Romero-Wirth

A RESOLUTION

**SUPPORTING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS BY THE NEW MEXICO
LEGISLATURE FOR NEW MEXICO-GROWN FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
FOR SCHOOL AND SENIOR MEALS PROGRAMS AND RELATED EDUCATION
PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOLS AND FARMERS.**

WHEREAS, New Mexico has a vibrant food and farming culture that is significant to its rural economies and that provides employment opportunities in retail, wholesale, and direct markets, in food processing and distribution, on farms, and in value-added businesses, all while adding to the health and well-being of New Mexicans; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2017 United States Department of Agriculture Census of Agriculture (“Census”), 1,538 New Mexico farmers sold \$98 million dollars’ worth of vegetables and melons and \$210 million dollars’ worth of fruits, nuts, and berries in 2017; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 New Mexico Legislature passed and Governor Lujan Grisham signed the Healthy School Meals Act as part of the New Mexico Food Initiative, providing \$22 million in recurring resources for school meals for all New Mexico K-12 students, \$2.3 million for

1 New Mexico-grown and raised food for school meals, \$20 million for school kitchen improvements
2 and training, and more than \$11 million for statewide food initiatives for FY 2023-2024; and

3 **WHEREAS**, in 2022, the New Mexico Food Security Grant Program awarded Santa Fe
4 County \$625,083.74; and

5 **WHEREAS**, a March 31, 2021, study released by Feeding America, reported that, in 2019,
6 10.6 percent (10.6 %) of Santa Fe County residents experienced food insecurity; and

7 **WHEREAS**, according to The Food Depot’s publication entitled “Santa Fe: Hunger is a
8 Growing Crisis for Families in Northern New Mexico,” New Mexico’s food insecurity is among
9 the highest in the nation, and approximately five thousand (5,430) children in Santa Fe County
10 experience food insecurity annually, including when food is available but is not nutritionally
11 balanced; and

12 **WHEREAS**, children require sufficient, nutritious food to maintain health, growth, and
13 development, and the experience of food insecurity is physically and psychologically harmful; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the organization “No Kid Hungry” produced a 2023 report entitled
15 “Childhood Hunger in New Mexico,” which states that twenty percent (20%) of Santa Fe County’s
16 children experience food insecurity; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the Santa Fe Public Schools have reported that more than 16,000 students in
18 Santa Fe County and the City of Santa Fe participate in the school meal program; and

19 **WHEREAS**, in 2022, the New Mexico School Nutrition Association found that, due to
20 inflation, local school meal programs have seen costs for food purchases increase by up to 25
21 percent (25%); and

22 **WHEREAS**, federal funding supports school meals programs through the National School
23 Lunch Program that is funded through the congressional “Child Nutrition Reauthorization” and

24 **WHEREAS**, the State’s purchase of New Mexico-grown fruits and vegetables for school
25 lunches and senior meals programs in New Mexico will enhance the diet of school children and

1 senior-aged community members and help school and senior meal programs comply with federal
2 rules that require fruits and vegetables on meal plates; and

3 **WHEREAS**, in 2023, the City of Santa Fe (“City”) Senior Services Division provided
4 159,178 home-delivered grab-and-go meals to seniors in Santa Fe and 23,444 congregate meals
5 (April through June 2023) at its Senior meal sites; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the City’s Senior Services Division received \$75,687 from the New Mexico
7 Grown grant program to supplement senior meals with New Mexico-grown fruits and vegetables;
8 and

9 **WHEREAS**, there is an agricultural sector of fruit and vegetable farmers in New Mexico
10 that can respond to these new food markets for local produce in the school and senior meal
11 programs; and

12 **WHEREAS**, food and agriculture education programs and experiential learning are key to
13 increasing student access to and relationships with fresh and local produce, as well as to introducing
14 students to possible career paths; and

15 **WHEREAS**, increased State funding enables senior, early childhood education and school
16 meal programs and local school districts to purchase New Mexico-grown produce and serve more
17 fresh fruits and vegetables to Santa Fe’s children and seniors for their health and well-being; and

18 **WHEREAS**, increased funding from the State to the New Mexico Food Initiative General
19 Fund Budget provides educational materials and experiential learning opportunities to support
20 economic development, opportunities for local farmers, make school kitchen capital improvements,
21 and to feed more New Mexicans by confronting food insecurity; and

22 **WHEREAS**, according to the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, seventy-six
23 percent (76%) of the funding in the federal “Farm Bill” is allocated to the Supplemental Nutrition
24 Assistance Program (“SNAP”), which, according to Federal Reserve Economic Data, provided
25 food security to nearly 508,523 New Mexicans in 2020, including 20,600 Santa Fe County

1 residents; and

2 **WHEREAS**, the “Double Up Food Buck” program matches purchases for New Mexico
3 grown fruits and vegetables made with SNAP dollars with an equal dollar match, resulting in
4 healthier food for New Mexico families, more sales for local farmers, and a boost for local
5 economies; and

6 **WHEREAS** the Farm Bill’s “Fresh Rx” program provides patients who are at-risk for
7 long-term diet related health outcomes due to unhealthy diets and/or lack of access to nutritious
8 foods fresh fruit and vegetable prescriptions to use at local farmers’ markets; and

9 **WHEREAS**, in 2022, the Santa Fe Farmers’ Market Institute reported over \$380,246 in
10 sales from Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program’s “Double Up Food Buck” program, the
11 Fresh Rx program, and SNAP, which provided a nutrition benefit to those who are food insecure
12 and an economic benefit to the region’s farmers and ranchers; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the Santa Fe Farmers’ Market Institute reported an increase of nearly 400
14 percent (400%) in the Fresh Rx program’s utilization in 2022 as compared to 2021; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Farm Bill programs are designed to provide technical assistance and
16 conservation programs to assist farmers and ranchers in land stewardship and building their
17 businesses.

18 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE GOVERNING BODY OF**
19 **THE CITY OF SANTA FE** supports the State’s continued funding to expand the New Mexico
20 Food Initiative and other programs such as the New Mexico-grown fresh fruits and vegetables for
21 school and senior meals programs, related education programs, the New Mexico Food Security
22 Grant Program, and programs that expand opportunities for farmers and ranchers.

23 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Governing Body supports the federal Child
24 Nutrition Reauthorization and passage of the Farm Bill to benefit New Mexico.

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Governing Body supports Farm Bill programs
2 that strengthen food assistance programs, ensure sufficient resources and access to nutritious food
3 for all people, and increase resources for New Mexico farmers and ranchers.

4 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Governing Body supports the New Mexico Food
5 & Agriculture Policy Council's federal Child Nutrition Reauthorization and Farm Bill
6 recommendations.


7 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Clerk shall forward a copy of this
8 Resolution to the City's lobbyist, the City's legislative delegation, the Governor of New Mexico,
9 and to New Mexico's congressional delegation.

10
11 PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 10th day of January, 2024.

12
13 
Alan Webber (Jan 12, 2024 17:16 MST)

14 ALAN WEBBER, MAYOR

15 ATTEST:

16 
17 Geralyn Cardenas (Jan 16, 2024 12:05 MST)

18 GERALYN F. CARDENAS, INTERIM CITY CLERK

19 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

20 
21 Erin McSherry (Jan 12, 2024 13:59 MST)

22 ERIN K. McSHERRY, CITY ATTORNEY

23
24
25 *Legislation/2024/Resolutions/2024-2 (R)/Support for Food Programs*