

|   |   |
|---|---|
| A. CALL TO ORDER  |   |
| B. ROLL CALL  |   |
| C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:  | January 17, 2019<br>Prioritization and Agenda Order |
|   | 5 minutes   |
| D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 27, 2018  |   |
| E. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR  | 5 minutes   |
| F. PRESENTATIONS:   | None  |
| G. Staff Communications   | 10 minutes  |
| J. Items from the Council: Sherry Hooper Food Depot New projects update                                       | 20 minutes  |
| H. INITIATIVES AND ACTIONS  | 60 minutes  |
| 2. Policy Committees  |   |
| a. Food Plan Committee  |   |
| i. Food Plan update: assignment of distribution.  |   |
| ii. Coming up in February: re-establishing focus-Committees to consider how they will align with SFFPC Focus. |   |
| b.. Food Production and Land Use Committee  |   |
| i. Meeting updates.   |   |
| c. Education and Outreach   |   |
| i. Discussion and vote on recommendations and language around the food tax.                                   |   |
| ii. Council Commitment for monthly topics and communications – 2019   |   |
| b. State & National Issues  |   |
| i. State Legislature updates : How to inform SFFPC and partners of Legislative updates                        |   |
| ii. Pam to share and lead discussion on Slate of issues around food for the State Legislative Session.        |   |
| iii. Farm Bill update-effects on state and Federal level/Federal funding for Senior Programs                  |   |
| iv. National Issues   |   |
| c. Governance Committee   |   |
| i. Update: City and County SFFPC seats.   |   |
| 3. Executive Committee  | 5 minutes   |
| 4. Items from the Chair   | 5 minutes   |
| ADJOURNMENT   |   |

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RECEIVED AT THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

**DATE: January 9, 2019**

**TIME: 2:44 PM**

**SUMMARY OF ACTION  
SANTA FE CITY AND COUNTY ADVISORY COUNCIL ON FOOD POLICY  
KITCHEN ANGELS CONFERENCE ROOM  
1222 SILER ROAD  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2019, 9:00 AM**

| <b><u>ITEM</u></b>  | <b><u>ACTION</u></b>   | <b><u>PAGE</u></b> |
|---|------------------------|--------------------|
| CALL TO ORDER   |                        | 1                  |
| ROLL CALL   | QUORUM                 | 1                  |
| APPROVAL OF AGENDA  | APPROVED               | 1-2                |
| APPROVAL OF MINUTES   | APPROVED               | 2                  |
| COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR   | INFORMATION/DISCUSSION | 2                  |
| PRESENTATIONS   | NONE                   | 2                  |
| STAFF COMMUNICATIONS  | INFORMATION/DISCUSSION | 2                  |
| ITEMS FROM THE COUNCIL<br>SHERRY HOOPER FOOD DEPOT<br>NEW PROJECTS UPDATE | INFORMATION/DISCUSSION | 2-5                |
| <b><u>INITIATIVES AND ACTIONS</u></b>                                     |                        |                    |
| POLICY COMMITTEES   | INFORMATION/DISCUSSION | 5-13               |
| EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE   | INFORMATION/DISCUSSION | 13                 |
| ITEMS FROM THE CHAIR  | NONE                   | 13                 |
| ADJOURNMENT   | ADJOURNED              | 13                 |

**SANTA FE CITY AND COUNTY ADVISORY COUNCIL ON FOOD POLICY  
KITCHEN ANGELS CONFERENCE ROOM  
1222 SILER ROAD  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2019, 9:00 AM**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Santa Fe City and County Advisory Council on Food Policy was called to order by Sue Perry, Co-Chair, at 9:00 am on Thursday, January 17, 2019, at the Kitchen Angels Conference Room, 3221 Siler Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

**B. ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Sue Perry, Co-Chair  
Kierstan Pickens  
Tony McCarty  
Sherry Hooper  
Tracey Enright  
Gino Rinaldi  
Mark Winne  
Rebecca Baran-Rees  
Erin Ortigoza

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

David Sundberg, Co-Chair, Excused  
Carolina Flores, Excused  
Patricia Boies, Excused  
Emigdio Ballon

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Pam Roy, Farm To Table, Telephonically  
Helen Henry, Farm To Table  
Amara Nash, NM Farmers Marketing Association  
Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION** A motion was made by Ms. Hooper, seconded by Ms. Pickens, to approve the agenda as presented.

**VOTE**        The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**D.     APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
DECEMBER 27, 2018**

The following corrections were turned in: Kierstan misspelled in the members present; Boies misspelled in the members absent; Kierstan misspelled throughout the minutes and in the index; on page 2, paragraph 6 it should say Mr. Winne asked what do the numbers in the Annual Report mean and can we do an analysis on the numbers; on page 2, paragraph 7, snack pieces should be SNAP transactions; on page 2, paragraph 12 remove and; on page 3, first paragraph, remove they meant; on page 3, paragraph 11 it should say agriculture; on page 3, paragraph 13; it should be hopes; on page 3, paragraph 14, the name should be Katharine Kagle; on page 4, paragraph 4, it should not say wasn't; on page 4, 13, it should be LAMP programs; on page 5, paragraph 1, the three should be four, the one should be 2, seat should be seats and the sentence after seats should be removed; on page 5, paragraph 12, the name should be Paul Nabhan.

**MOTION**     A motion was made by Ms. Ortigoza, seconded by Ms. Pickens, to approve the minutes as amended.

**VOTE**        The motion unanimously by voice vote.

**E.     COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR**

Ms. Nash introduced herself.

**F.     PRESENTATIONS**

None

**G.     STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

Ms. Roy reported that she is getting the contract from the County today. It should be in place by early next week. We have the City contract and will be meeting with the City on February 7<sup>th</sup> to have further discussions regarding our role with the City.

Ms. Roy said she appreciates being a part of this group. You are all professionals and it is a real privilege. She thinks this is going to be an incredible year. She is happy to continue to serve the Council.

**H.     ITEMS FROM THE COUNCIL: SHERRY HOOPER FOOD DEPOT NEW  
PROJECTS UPDATE**

Co-Chair Perry said we don't take the time to always let members speak about what they doing. We asked Sherry Hooper to update us today on the Food Depot.

Ms. Hooper said we are working on the Kids Kitchen with United Way of Santa Fe County. United Way bought the old Kaune Elementary School and the program is housed there. We have hired a chef. They are going to be producing meals we will use in after school programs and for the Summer Express. They are nutritious and interesting meals. We have had good luck with it. They will be providing meals for the Early Childhood Development Center as well. It is an exciting project for us. We will start delivering to after school sites on February 4<sup>th</sup> and are excited to see the response the kids have.

Co-Chair Perry said it is possible for you, with this better set up, to not have to rely on packaged meals.

Ms. Hooper said we have no pre-packaged or pre-processed foods now. It is all fresh.

Co-Chair Perry said people are not yet aware of this. We need to publicize it. With a chef it is possible to have creative ways to provide food to programs.

Ms. Ortigoza asked what program.

Ms. Hooper said United Way programs which are kids age three and four where they provide 180 meals. The After School program, three Boys and Girls Club sites, the City Teen Center site where we are anticipating providing 500 meals a day on Thursday and Friday. She thinks that number will double within a year. We will add sites when we can.

Ms. Ortigoza asked what is Lunch Box Express.

Ms. Hooper said that is our summer program. We work with Santa Fe Public Schools. They provide buses and our volunteers go out and deliver the meals to low income housing. We will have our own trucks delivering this year. 500 meals a day will be provided for summer meals Monday through Friday.

Ms. Roy said we had a conversation with Youth Works. If you could share that a bit that would be great.

Ms. Hooper said the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Program in the schools sent out an RFP in October. Youth Works responded. They are providing meals to fourteen schools for after school meals. 1,000 meals a day. We are trying to identify sites that are not already being fed. We are looking at four schools that are not part of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Program and we may do those as well. There are two are high schools that are not receiving after school meals.

Ms. Ortigoza asked are these after school snacks.

Ms. Hooper said no, they are full blown dinners. We go to the site and deliver and serve the meals.

Ms. Ortigoza asked if it is a program for kids whose parents do not pick them up until after 5:00 pm does that qualify.

Ms. Hooper said yes if the school is within the guidelines.

Ms. Ortigoza said she doesn't think Teseque Elementary is hooked in with the after school meals program.

Ms. Hooper said she will look into that and see what they can do.

Ms. Hooper said we anticipate that we will start preparing meals that will be sent home with families when they pick their kids up at Kaune Elementary School and that we will be providing job training down the road. At some point we will get a food truck of our own. She is determined to see that happen. We have started providing an exercise called Making Ends Meet. It takes about an hour and it looks at a family of four where both parents are working full time at minimum wage and it looks at their budget and takes out basic needs and what is left for food. It is not even close to being enough for a family of four. It is a very good exercise. She will keep sending out the dates.

Ms. Pickens said she is doing that workshop for her Board.

Mr. Winne said the Santa Fe living wage is \$11.40 per hour. So two people working full time can't make ends meet with that for a family of four.

Ms. Hooper said no. MIT has a calculator where you can enter in information and see the results for your community. We are also offering advocacy trainings. One will be held on February 6<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to noon at the Food Depot. She will send out information on that again today. We are working with a woman who is with Results, an anti-poverty group. We are going to keep those up pretty continually. We are celebrating having our advocacy committee in place for one year. We are committed to working toward longer term solutions to hunger. Scott Bunton is our Chair. He worked for Office of Management and Budget and all over government. He is wonderful. Our committee is growing and learning. We have representation from other advocacy partners including Think New Mexico. We welcome new members. We have our first legislative agenda ever and are fighting the food tax again and the removal of the tax exemption for nonprofits. We are also working to see if there can be some incentive for farmers to let us pick in the fields rather than plowing under for the future year. We are also supporting some of the work Pam is doing legislatively. We were recently chosen as one of the top 40 food banks in the country which is exciting and surprising. She is very grateful for that. It is our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the Souper

Bowl which will be held on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Ms. Pickens asked do you have a committee description for your advocacy committee.

Ms. Hooper said yes, she will share it. It is a committee charter. We also have an advocacy policy as well and she will share that with the Council.

Ms. Roy said she has a document focused on equity statements in governing policy. She can share that as well.

## **H. INITIATIVES AND ACTIONS**

### **1. POLICY COMMITTEES**

#### **A. FOOD PLAN COMMITTEE**

##### **I. FOOD PLAN UPDATE: ASSIGNMENT OF DISTRIBUTION**

Co-Chair Perry said Helen is doing final edits on the plan. The plan is set to get printed, now that all of your suggestions have been incorporated, so it will be ready for the Legislature.

Ms. Roy said she still needs clarification on goal 1.

Mr. Rinaldi said Patricia wanted it there in that form.

Ms. Ortigoza said we did correct it.

Ms. Henry said she had a note that David was going to send clarification. She emailed him and has not gotten it yet.

Co-Chair Perry said we need to make sure that is corrected. David will be back from vacation soon. It needs to be addressed before printing.

Mr. Rinaldi said David was going to check with Patricia.

Co-Chair Perry said as soon as that is correct we will be ready to print. Get with Patricia first and if not send an urgent message to David for correction.

Ms. Roy will reach out to them.

Co-Chair Perry said she was a very proud observer of the food update and what

everyone has done. The work you are doing and the establishment of measurables is so valuable. How many copies should be printed.

Ms. Ortigoza said we are at our five year anniversary of the food plan. She thinks we should double or triple what we printed last year.

Ms. Enright said from an environmental perspective, can we make an effort to send it digitally rather than a lot of paper.

Co-Chair Perry said if we sent an email with a link the may not open it.

Ms. Ortigoza said we are doing County Day at the Legislature. We could hand them out.

Co-Chair Perry said the intent is to hand these out mindfully. We will come up with a number.

Mr. Winne said we need to promote it and do a news release.

Ms. Hooper said there is a new Business Editor at the New Mexican. He is interested in issues like this. He is working now on a minimum wage article. She is happy to pitch it to him.

Mr. Winne said he thinks this could get press and attention.

Mr. Rinaldi said he has to leave to go to another meeting. Before he leaves, is anyone familiar with legislation on creating a Malnutrition Commission.

Ms. Hooper said she has heard talk about a Hunger Coordinator.

Mr. Rinaldi said he believes Abbot Labs is involved. Also the National Nutrition Providers Association and a bunch of others are working together to create something like this throughout the nation. There is discussion in New Mexico over that. They are coming into town next week on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Abbot and some other folks. They will be meeting with Legislators. He doesn't know who is coordinating this. He will find out more and let Pam know.

Ms. Roy said it would be good to know if there are segues with the proposed Hunger Commission.

Mr. Rinaldi left the meeting.

Co-Chair Perry said in February we, the Executive Committee, said we would like the Council to think about focus. We talked about the Mayor's hunger initiative. The other item was not to lose track of the economic impact of food and local food and how



your committee might be working with those goals. Think about these things between now and our February meeting.

Ms. Hooper asked do we as a Food Policy Council have our own strategic plan.

Ms. Roy said we did that in 2016. She would like for us to be a bit more structured on specific issues.

Ms. Hopper said so maybe next time we can talk about setting up an opportunity for that.

Ms. Roy said yes and partner with the Food Production and Land Use committees.

Ms. Ortigoza said we did not have a retreat last year and that has been traditionally when we have done these kinds of things. That might be a good thing after we get our new member on board.

Ms. Hooper said after the Legislative Session, maybe April.

Mr. Roy said a retreat sooner than later with our new member would be perfect timing. What can be done to launch some of our priorities.

Ms. Ortigoza said as we think about a retreat we might think about looking at the Food Plan. That would be a reasonable time to do it.

Co-Chair Perry said she knows hard it is to get four hours set aside, but in the past we were committed and it would be valuable to do that. We have done some excellent work in the past in retreats.

Mr. Winne said if you are going to take a look at the food plan and potentially make changes we need to understand where we are as to our community food needs. Look at the numbers and dig in to compare current numbers to the numbers five years ago and see what that says. We should do that in advance and come to the retreat with that analysis.

Ms. Hooper said she agrees. Great idea.

Ms. Ortigoza said maybe we don't focus on every number, but focus on some numbers that tell the story of something. What story do we want to tell and how does that inform any changes. We do not want to make it so broad that we can't do it.

Co-Chair Perry said we can ask at our meeting with Kira Ochoa if the City has these kinds of numbers and what they are tracking and how that might help us inform what we want to do.

Ms. Roy said it may be hard to get numbers in that fashion by April. We have a pretty good idea of what is happening. Can we focus on major issues.

Mr. Winne said isolate some numbers. He disagrees that we need to do the work. Things have changed from five years ago. Who is doing what.

Ms. Ortigoza said the whole landscape has changed. A theme area could be farmers growing for retail as opposed to wholesale. Numbers to support that. Something like that. Each of us could put something together.

## **II. COMING UP IN FEBRUARY: RE-ESTABLISHING FOCUS - COMMITTEES TO CONSIDER HOW THEY WILL ALIGN WITH SFFPC FOCUS**

This item was addressed under Food Plan Update.

### **B. FOOD PRODUCTION AND LAND USE COMMITTEE**

#### **I. MEETING UPDATES**

Ms. Ortigoza said we did not meet in December. Yesterday was a big day. We got sign off on the AgreGate platform and the entire website. Now we are building it. She discussed the website as she distributed examples.

Everybody congratulated Ms. Ortigoza.

Mr. Winne asked what is the cost.

Ms. Ortigoza said just staff time. This started from a concept. Now the marketing and organization are critical.

Ms. Pickens asked can we choose two categories to be identified in if we need to.

Ms. Ortigoza said yes. She will do separate profiles for each category you are in.

Co-Chair Perry said that makes sense.

Rebecca Baran-Rees arrived at the meeting.

Co-Chair Perry said the tourism people may want to take tours of farms.

Ms. Ortigoza said she will keep the Council updated as we do this.

Co-Chair Perry said this is phenomenal work. She can't imagine anyone else in the State has something like this.

Ms. Roy congratulated Erin on leading this. She loves the path is has come from. It says something about why this relationship of a Food Policy Council is important.

Ms. Ortigoza said it would not have been the same without that.

Ms. Roy asked will this be connected with New Mexico Tue.

Ms. Ortigoza said it could be. Delicious New Mexico is back up and running.

Ms. Pickens said Delicious New Mexico is an online platform intended to connect big purchasers with growers. The intention is also for there to be some type a of aggregation and to be a distribution point at some time.

Ms. Roy said Squash Blossom is here as well. She works directly with restaurants with a focus on local farmers. Local City and County.

Ms. Ortigoza said we are also trying to think about transportation and distribution in this as well.

Co-Chair Perry said thank you Erin.

### **C. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

#### **I. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON RECOMMENDATIONS AND LANGUAGE AROUND THE FOOD TAX**

Ms. Enright said she has heard a lot about this and wondered if the Food Policy Council could make a statement on this. She did research and put together bullet points. They are in your meeting packet. She is hoping we as a Council can come out and say we are against the food tax.

Co-Chair Perry said she imagines there is no one at the table not concerned about food tax. In the first sentence on the first page you are saying 15.8% of our population is food insecure and nationally it is 12.9%. Is that what you are saying.

Ms. Enright said yes

Co-Chair Perry said you may want to make it clear that we in New Mexico are consistently in the higher than national rate of food insecurity. Just suggestion.

Mr. Winne said in the second full paragraph he suggests that she say “most adverse effect.”

Ms. Hooper said this is very good.

Co-Chair Perry said this is a lot of work.

Ms. Hooper said Senator Carlos Cisneros has a bill about starting to tax food. It is about benefitting the rural communities. Egoff said he will not allow a food tax to go forward. Rep Jim Trujillo said we need funds to sustain teachers. Here we are still out there having to fight it.

Co-Chair Perry said maybe a lot of those legislators don't know it will effect SNAP recipients.

Ms. Hooper said we are using New Mexico Voices for Children to work on this.

Ms. Baran-Rees asked did you see anywhere in your research how much tax revenue this would generate.

Ms. Hooper said she did. \$63 million is what she remembers. Also the GRT tax on nonprofits is out there again. It is frustrating. We will see it in the overall tax bill. Senator Wirth said he won't do that, but there are others who say they will. It will be in the Taxation and Revenue Committee. They think charities will not be included. They really want to get at the labs and hospitals, but we are in the middle of that and it takes meals away from kids.

Ms. Enright asked that any changes anyone may have be sent to her. She would like to vote and get done before anything gets reduced. Maybe vote on it with the changes we have.

**MOTION** A motion was made by Mr. Winne, seconded by Ms. Hooper, to adopt this statement with the changes.

**VOTE** The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Co-Chair Perry asked what are the ways we would use this statement.

Ms. Enright said on social media and in the Legislative Session we can say the Food Policy Council, from a research based background, has come out against the food tax.

Co-Chair Perry said excellent.

Ms. Baran-Rees said put it in the Legislator's boxes.

Mr. Winne said give to the City Councilors and County Commissioners.

Co-Chair Perry said it is part of our charge to find ways to provide food opportunities .

Ms. Rebecca-Rees said call this a background paper on the impacts of food taxes. Frame it as the research says...

Co-Chair Perry asked will they read a background paper.

Ms. Enright said she would like it to be an opposition statement. She will need any changes by the end of the day tomorrow and then she will finalize and distribute it.

Ms. Roy asked do you want it on Food Policy stationary.

Co-Chair Perry said yes.

There was discussion around using individual members names and affiliations. It was decided to say from the Food Policy Council as a whole without individual names.

Ms. Hooper said you could turn this into a "my view" for the New Mexican.

Ms. Roy said that is a great idea.

## **II. COUNCIL COMMITTEE FOR MONTHLY TOPICS AND COMMUNICATIONS - 2019**

Mr. McCarty said as a follow up on the report last week, Robert Eggers will be providing a discussion on the thinking on ending childhood hunger at the upcoming meeting of the E and O on February 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am here at Kitchen Angels. If a couple of you want to come let him

Ms. Hooper said he is incredible.

Mr. McCarty said it is an opportunity to get into the City and County thinking. He envisions it as a county wide project culminating into something big like World Food Day.

Ms. Roy said that is good to know for our conversation with Kira as well.

Mr. McCarty said it is an exploratory meeting.

Co-Chair Perry and Ms. Pickens expressed their desire to attend the meeting.

**D. STATE AND NATIONAL ISSUES**

**I. STATE LEGISLATURE UPDATE: HOW TO INFORM SFFPC AND PARTNERS OF LEGISLATIVE UPDATES**

Ms. Roy said there are updates in your packet, but we have a new corrected sheet. That information was passed out. This information is herewith included in these minutes as Exhibit "1". In the Resolution it says we want to support food programs overall. The specific details are in another hand out which was passed out. The information is herewith included in these minutes as Exhibit "2". Ms. Roy reviewed the information on each bill.

**II. PAM TO SHARE AND LEAD DISCUSSION ON STATE OF ISSUES AROUND FOOD FOR THE STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

This discussion was included in the previous item.

Ms. Roy asked for direction on how to proceed. Does the Council want to proceed with information only and work individually or as a Council.

Co-Chair Perry said continue to update us so people can act individually. We will talk more about it in the February meeting.

Ms. Baran-Rees said we need process of how we sign and support things.

Ms. Roy handed out information on Food and Farm Day which is herewith included in these minutes as Exhibit "3".

The following items were tabled due to time constraints.

**III. FARM BILL UPDATE: EFFECTS ON STATE AND FEDERAL LEVEL/FEDERAL FUNDING FOR SENIOR PROGRAMS**

Tabled.

**IV. NATIONAL ISSUES**

Tabled.

**E. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

**I. UPDATE: CITY AND COUNTY SFFPC SEATS**

Tabled.

**2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

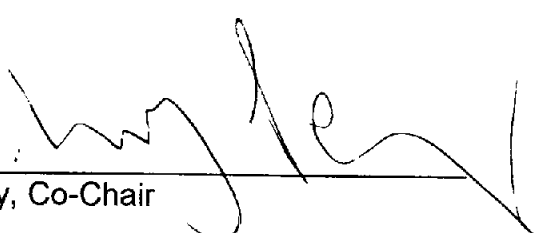

Discussed in a previous item.

**3. ITEMS FROM THE CHAIR**

None.

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Council the meeting adjourned at 11:08 am.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sue Perry, Co-Chair  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

**New Mexico Food & Agriculture Policy Council**  
**Initial NM Legislature Bill Priorities as of January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

Next meeting to discuss bills, progress, and priority setting will be February 5<sup>th</sup>, 10am, 2019

Contact: Pam Roy, Farm to Table & NM Food & Ag Policy Council, 505-660-8403

For additional information: [www.nmlegis.gov](http://www.nmlegis.gov)

**PRIORITY ORDER**

1. NM Produce for School Meals
2. Develop Market Opportunities for Farmers, Ranchers, & Agribusiness in NM
3. NM Food & Agriculture Experiential Learning Grant Program
4. Enhancing Senior Nutrition Programs

| Bill number from agenda   | Recommendation                            | Notes  |
|---|---|--|
| #1 SB 115- NM Produce for School Meals<br><i>Senator Woods</i><br><i>Senate Conservation/Finance</i>  | Tier 1                                    | Striking line 24 & 25 (taking out Emergency clause)                    |
| #2. HB 125- NM Food & Agriculture Experiential Learning Grant Program<br><i>Representative Sweetser</i><br><i>House Agriculture</i><br><i>/Appropriations</i> | Tier 1.5 -- 2?                            | Too many questions (Roger), Could NM First take the lead?              |
| #3. SB 83 Enhancing Senior Nutrition Programs<br><i>Senator Stefanics</i><br><i>Senate Public Relations</i><br><i>/ Finance</i>                               | Tier 1 (with understanding it needs work) | Pilot bill needs; Statutory language:                                  |
| #4SB84 Authorizing use of Fruits & Vegetables in senior centers<br><i>Senator Stefanics</i><br><i>Senate Public Relations</i><br><i>/ Finance</i>             | Tier 2                                    |  |
| #5HB 137 – Support for NM Health Councils<br><i>Representative Liz Thomson</i><br><i>HSEIC</i>  | Tier 2                                    | NM Alliance for Health Councils is the Lead                            |
| #6 Agriculture Workforce Development Program<br><i>Representative Bandy</i><br><i>(tentative)</i>   | Tier 2                                    | Missing appropriation. Who is taking the lead? Young Farmers Coalition |

Exhibit "1"



|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <p><b>#7 Health Soils Act</b></p> <p><i>SB 218 Senator Stefanics</i><br/> <i>HB 204 Representative Small</i></p>                            | <p>Neutral and opportunities for improvement</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow them to address the concerns with budget.</li> <li>• Admin fee goes to NMSU</li> <li>• How does NMDA feel about it? Bill need to clarify the \$5 million was NOT only for staff &amp; is for the grants.</li> <li>• RMFU would support, but concerns about the funding.</li> <li>• NM Cattle Growers Asso. cannot support. But has a meeting in February board meeting. Opposition: the amount of funding, and it gives the ranching industry a bad name.</li> </ul> <p>Others pointed out that they didn't see that the bill addressed anything that gives farming and ranching a bad name.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would urban legislators want to tax the cattle growers?</li> <li>• Selected for the Speakers Academy; civic engagement program for high school students</li> <li>• Solutions based and not blaming. It is practical</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>#8. Develop Market Opportunities for Farmers, Ranchers, and Agribusiness in NM</b></p> <p><i>Representative Bandy (tentative)</i></p> | <p>Tier 1 NM</p>                                 | <p>Co-Leads: NM Farmers Marketing Asso &amp; NM Food &amp; Ag Policy Council</p>  |
| <p><b>#9 SB102 Working group for direct investment</b></p>  | <p>Tier 2</p>                                    | <p>National Center for Frontier Communities is the lead Rural Economic Development Council, creative economies</p>  |
| <p><b>#10 SB39 Solar Bill tax credit</b></p>  | <p>Tier 2</p>                                    | <p>Direct tie to Food &amp; Ag? Beyond the session, energy conservation are part of the issues, can be an important economic investment into agriculture.</p>   |

|   |                                 |   |
|---|---------------------------------|---|
|   |                                 | Does it include rural electric cooperative? No<br><br>Hasn't had a lead?  |
| #11 HB 26 Economic Development Grant                                      | Tier 4                          | Learn who it is supporting  |
| #12 NM Trust Fund   | Tier 4<br>until bill is drafted | - \$150 million trust fund;<br>soil health and water restoration<br>-Debbie Hughes and WLA<br>- Senator Wirth?<br>- SWCD Commission is supporting (yes.) Regional also supporting. 5% about 7.5 million (interest)  |
| #13. Rural Heritage Act   | T4                              | See discussion draft of bill.<br>Sponsor: Sen. Wirth<br>In the past: Association of counties was concerned about lost revenue. Vacant land not being used for agriculture. (Association of counties fought it.) Is there really a need from rural communities. Heated bill.<br>-Acreage cap is now there. |
| #14 Food Tax  | T4                              | 22% of low income families income is spent on food.   |
| #15 School Based Health Centers   | Next time                       |   |
| #16 Anti shaming clean up bill  | T4                              | Wait until a bill.  |
| #17 SB22 Early childhood Development                                      | T4                              | Sen. Padilla.   |
| #18 Reinstate Meat Inspections  | T4                              | More information to come  |
| #19 HB71 School Based Health Centers<br><i>Representative Liz Thomson</i> | T4                              | Need to see bill  |

**Additional BILLS not in packet:**

- NM AG AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND
- NM RURAL HERITAGE ACT

- FOOD TAX
- NM ALLIANCE FOR SCHOOL BASED HEALTH CENTERS
- ANTI SHAMING CLEAN UP
- EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT DEPT. (#22)
- REINSTATE MEAT INSPECTIONS

#### **PRIORITY ORDER**

1. #1: NM Produce for School Meals
2. #8: Develop Market Opportunities for Farmers, Ranchers, & Agribusiness in NM
3. #2: NM Food & Agriculture Experiential Learning Grant Program
4. #3: Enhancing Senior Nutrition Programs

**Set mid legislative session: FEB 5, 10 AM, Location TBD**

For information on Farm Bill: [www.2018farmbill.org](http://www.2018farmbill.org)

**New Mexico Food & Agriculture Policy Council**

**January 8th, 2019**

**1:00pm – 4:00pm**

**Meeting and Legislative Presentation**

**New Mexico State Capitol, Meeting in room 318**

**Purpose of the meeting and presentation:**

Final preparation for the 2019 New Mexico Legislative Session and Priority Setting

Share, discuss, and prioritize 2019 potential and confirmed legislative requests for NM Food & Ag Policy Council consideration (must be statewide in reach)

- Brief presentations and discussion of new legislation and who will benefit
- Review of all legislation before the NMFAPC and prioritize

**Priority Setting Tiers:**

**1st Tier:**

NM Food & Agriculture Policy Council take the lead and is responsible for all organizing, advocacy, outreach and communications for these bills these will include bills we have introduced and have being taking lead on recently. we will also track these bills and provide regular updates and action alerts. They may include bills of the NM Policy members who ask us to take the lead.

**2nd Tier:**

Other organizations take lead on organizing and advocating for and communications and ask the NM Food & Ag Policy Council to stand in support, add to any advocacy communications, and tracking.

**3rd Tier:**

Bills that we are for or against that the membership wants us to track, but not take a position on.

**Bills and Summaries for Review:**

- 1) SB 115: Procurement of NM Grown Produce for School Meals, Senator Pat Woods
- 2) HB 125: Provide Food and Agriculture Experiential Learning Grants to Schools Programs, Representative Candie Sweeters
- 3) SB 83: Creating a Pilot Program to Provide NM Grown Fresh Fruits and Vegetables to Senior Centers and Fund Nutrition Programs for Seniors, Senator Liz Stefanics
- 4) SB 84: Authorizing Growing and Use of Fruits and Vegetables for Senior Center, Senator Liz Stefanics
- 5) SB 137: Enacting the County and Tribal Health Act, Senator Liz Stefanics
- 6) Enacting the NM Agricultural Workforce Development Program Act
- 7) Enacting the Healthy Soils Act
- 8) Develop Market Opportunities for Farmers, Ranchers, and Agribusiness in NM (NM Farmers Markets)
- 9) SB 102: Fund a Working Group to Identify Ways to Direct Investment and Reinvestment in Frontier Communities, Senator Carlos Cisneros
- 10) SB 39: Creating the Solar Market Development Income Tax Credit; Repealing the Expired Solar Market Development Tax Credit, Senator Mimi Stewart
- 11) HB 126: Economic Development Grant Fund

Additional Bills for Consideration

Exhibit "2"

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SENATE BILL 115  
**54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019**

INTRODUCED BY  
Pat Woods

FOR THE ECONOMIC AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND  
THE WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

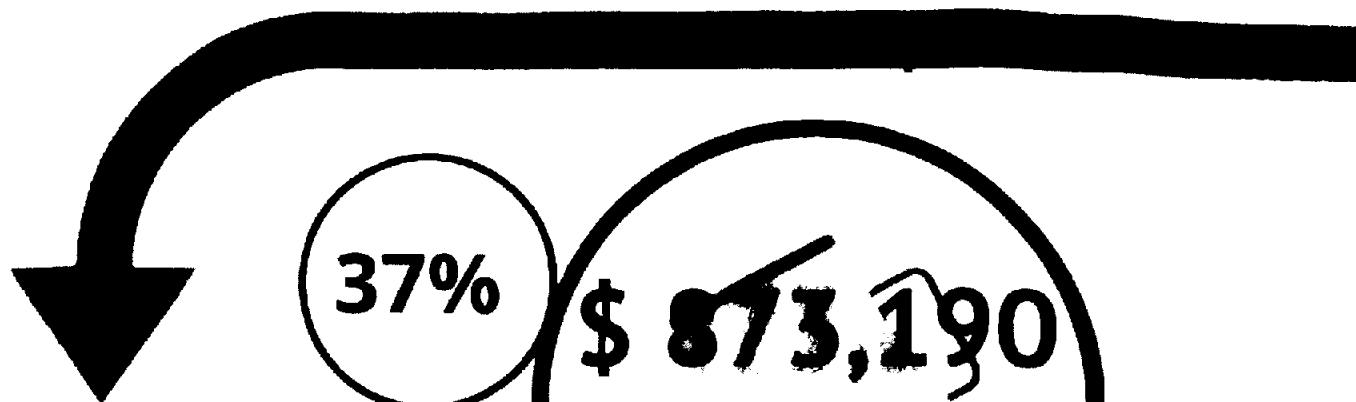
AN ACT  
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR PROCUREMENT OF NEW MEXICO-GROWN  
PRODUCE FOR SCHOOL MEALS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION.--Three hundred fifty thousand  
dollars (\$350,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the  
public education department for expenditure in fiscal year 2019  
and subsequent fiscal years for the purchase and distribution  
of New Mexico-grown fresh fruits and fresh vegetables to school  
districts, charter schools and juvenile detention centers  
through the department's school meal programs. Any unexpended  
or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year  
shall not revert to the general fund.

SECTION 2. EMERGENCY.--It is necessary for the public  
peace, health and safety that this act take effect immediately.

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**37%**

of grantees  
**INVESTED** in local  
produce in FY  
2017-18.

**\$ 873,190**  
**100%** **PURCHASED** from NM  
Farmers

**17%**

of **PRODUCE BUDGET** spent  
on **LOCAL** product.



**TOP 5 PRODUCTS  
PURCHASED**

- Chile
- Watermelons
- Apples
- Salad Greens
- Pinto Beans



**30+**

Growers  
participating in  
State Program

HOUSE BILL 125

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019

INTRODUCED BY

Candie G. Sweetser

FOR THE ECONOMIC AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND  
THE WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO PROVIDE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
EDUCATION AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING GRANTS TO SCHOOL PROGRAMS  
TO EDUCATE NEW MEXICO STUDENTS ABOUT FOOD AND AGRICULTURE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION.--Three hundred fifty thousand  
dollars (\$350,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the  
board of regents of New Mexico state university for expenditure  
in fiscal year 2020 and subsequent fiscal years for the New  
Mexico department of agriculture to provide food and  
agriculture education and experiential learning grants to  
school programs to educate New Mexico students about food and  
agriculture. Funds may be used by grantees for materials,  
supplies and up to fifty percent of staff salaries. Any  
unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a

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fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund.

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**Sponsor: Representative Candie Sweetser**

**Endorsed by the Economic and Rural Development Committee**

## **New Mexico Food and Agriculture Education Grant Program**

Throughout New Mexico, students are lacking access to locally grown food, engaging experiential STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) learning opportunities, and adequate nutrition education. Agriculture presents a unique opportunity for students to achieve deeper STEM learning, and develop readiness for career pathways in the agriculture, food and natural resources job sectors.

The New Mexico Food and Agriculture Policy Council and the *Resilience in NM Ag Project* propose to run legislation to develop the **New Mexico Food and Agriculture Education Grant Program** ("NM Food and Ag Education Grant"). This program would expand the New Mexico Grown Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program to enable K-12 schools to provide experiential and entrepreneurial learning opportunities in food and agriculture. These programs would broaden students' professional horizons, reinforce multiple state-required subject areas, and give valuable life lessons on nutrition and health.

### **What is the NM Food and Ag Education Grant?**

Housed in the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, and managed with input from the New Mexico Public Education Department and the New Mexico Department of Health, the NM Food and Ag Education Grant would award funding for the following types of K-12 school programs:

- **Agricultural Education** – School-based farmer/rancher/horticultural training programs and internships, animal husbandry, agricultural technologies (greenhouse construction, aquaponics, etc.). Land-based curriculum that promotes the agricultural trade, as well as local histories and stories. Additionally, programs that encourage student exposure to careers in the agricultural sciences, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math), and natural resource conservation.
- **School Gardens/Outdoor Classrooms** – Programs that provide opportunities for project-based learning, real-world problem solving, and scientific experimentation through fruit, vegetable and livestock production on school campuses. These programs would include, but are not limited to, educational gardens, school farms, garden to cafeteria program development, social programs for feeding the needy, demonstration gardens, and traditional/indigenous growing methods.
- **Food Education** – Educational programming that promotes healthier food choices and student nutrition and allows student exposure to careers in food science and nutrition. Examples include: cafeteria taste tests, cooking demonstrations, cooking clubs, and any form of nutrition education in the classroom, cafeteria, after-school and summer program settings.

The grant program will support and align with the development of programs that directly relate to state testing and educational standards and benchmarks, including, but not limited to; Common Core, Next Generation Science Standards and STEM. The program requests a \$250,000 appropriation from the legislature for both awards and program operations.

## **Why do we need the NM Food and Ag Education Grant?**

**A Food and Ag Education Grant Program could improve STEM education in New Mexico.** Leaders across the country are in agreement – experiential learning is key to improving STEM education. Connecting lessons in the classroom to the real world can improve students' content knowledge, critical thinking skills and motivation. Agriculture is rife with opportunities to explore chemistry, biology, nutrition, climate-science, business, and leadership skills. The Food and Ag Education Grant Program could provide another tool for educators to immerse students in STEM and Core Curriculum subjects, while providing activities that students can look forward to!

**A Food and Ag Education Grant Program can support the workforce pipeline.** Currently, our state's agriculture industry lacks a sufficiently trained labor pool. Young people are struggling to break into agriculture, and with most producers nearing retirement, our state needs to invest in the next generation of growers and food-related business professionals now. Currently, many students do not get exposure to agriculture, or view agriculture as a career option. The Food and Ag Education Grant could allow students to see agriculture as an exciting and rewarding job. Programs arising from the grant could also open doors to nutrition and natural resource-related professions.

**A Food and Ag Education Grant Program could increase access to nutritious, locally-grown foods and provide education to make healthy choices.** Nutrition plays a pivotal role in our lives. It influences all aspects our children's growth and development, disease prevention, and disease management. However, a fifth of New Mexicans live in poverty, making it difficult to afford healthy foods. Further, diet-related health illnesses such as type 2 diabetes and heart disease are impacting thousands of our residents. Building access to locally grown, fresh foods and raising the next generation of healthy, educated eaters will be mainstays of the NM Food and Ag Education Grant.

### **New Mexicans have asked for a Food and Ag Education Program!**

The NM Food and Ag Education Grant program is a key piece of the NM Food & Agriculture Policy Council's long-range plan developed in 2014 by stakeholders representing more than 50 organizations and agencies. Additionally, in 2016 over 600 stakeholders across the state voiced concerns that K-12 agricultural education and training programs are decreasing (in meetings held by New Mexico First and NMSU Cooperative Extension Service). As a result, the New Mexico Ag Plan contains recommendations to improve financial and institutional support for K-12 agriculture education programs.

For further information contact:

Pam Roy  
NM Food & Agriculture Policy Council  
[pam@farmotablenm.org](mailto:pam@farmotablenm.org)  
(505) 660-8403

Kelsey Rader  
*Resilience in NM Ag Project*  
[kelseyr@nmfirst.org](mailto:kelseyr@nmfirst.org)  
(505) 225-2140 ext. 2

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SENATE BILL 83  
**54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019**

INTRODUCED BY  
Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics

FOR THE ECONOMIC AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE,  
THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
AND THE WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH; CREATING A PILOT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE  
NEW MEXICO-GROWN FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES TO SENIOR CENTER  
MEAL PROGRAMS; FUNDING NUTRITION PROGRAMS FOR SENIORS; MAKING  
AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

**SECTION 1.** [NEW MATERIAL] PILOT PROGRAM--CREATION.--The  
department of health, in cooperation with city and county  
governments in New Mexico that operate senior centers, shall  
establish and operate in fiscal year 2020 the "fresh fruits and  
vegetables for senior center meals pilot program" to purchase  
New Mexico-grown fresh fruits and vegetables from farmers'  
markets, roadside stands and mobile farmers' markets for senior  
center meal programs approved by the women, infants and  
children program of the department's public health division.

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1 Within two months following the end of fiscal year 2020, the  
2 department of health shall report to the interim legislative  
3 health and human services committee regarding the efficacy and  
4 accomplishments of the pilot program and shall make  
5 recommendations on whether the pilot program should be  
6 continued or expanded.

7 SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.--

8 A. Thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) is  
9 appropriated from the general fund to the department of health  
10 for expenditure in fiscal year 2020 to purchase New Mexico-  
11 grown fresh fruits and vegetables for the fresh fruits and  
12 vegetables for senior center meals pilot program. Any  
13 unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of  
14 fiscal year 2020 shall revert to the general fund.

15 B. Four hundred seventy thousand dollars (\$470,000)  
16 is appropriated from the general fund to the department of  
17 health for expenditure in fiscal year 2020 to provide financial  
18 assistance to qualified seniors pursuant to the farmers' market  
19 nutrition program, provided that not more than thirty-five  
20 thousand dollars (\$35,000) shall be used for program  
21 administration or promotion. Any unexpended or unencumbered  
22 balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2020 shall revert  
23 to the general fund.

24 SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the  
25 provisions of this act is July 1, 2019.

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## **New Mexico Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition and Senior Centers Program**

### **2018 Legislative Request:**

Sponsored by Senator Liz Stefanics and Representative Gail Armstrong

Provide \$470,000 to increase participation in the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program and \$30,000 towards a pilot program for City and County operated senior centers to purchase NM grown produce for meal programs and will report results to the Legislature. The program would be administered and managed by the NM Department of Health's WIC and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program.

The NM Department of Health WIC Program administers the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program that is funded through two sets of funding:

- **Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP)** from the USDA (annual federal funding)
- **Farmers' Market Nutrition Enhancement Program (FMNEP)** from the NM Department of Agriculture

**SFMNP** is funded by a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), to provide low-income seniors with checks that are used to buy eligible foods (fruit, vegetables, honey and fresh cut herbs) from farmers' markets, roadside stands and mobile farmers' markets. Seniors must be at or below 185% of Federal poverty income guidelines to qualify for SFMNP benefits. Current 2018 funding = \$324,663

**FMNEP** is funded by a grant from the NM Department of Agriculture (NMDA). This program functions using the same guidelines as SFMNP with the exception of income requirements. Seniors must be at or below 130% of federal poverty income guidelines for eligibility, targeting our most at risk seniors. FMNEP is meant to supplement and extend the benefits of SFMNP. This program is funded through a state recurring allocation of funds to the NMDA that originate from a 2008 legislative appropriation of \$125,000, HB 156, sponsored by Representative Tripp. Current 2018 funding = \$97,030

### **The purposes of the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs are to:**

- (1) Provide resources in the form of fresh, nutritious, unprepared, locally grown fruits, vegetables, honey and herbs from authorized farmers' markets, roadside stands and community supported agriculture programs to low-income seniors
- (2) Increase the domestic consumption of agricultural commodities by expanding or aiding in the expansion of domestic farmers' markets, roadside stands, and community supported agriculture programs, and
- (3) Develop or aid in the development of new and additional farmers' markets, roadside stands, and community supported agriculture programs.

**Eligibility:** Individuals that are at least 60 years of age, are residents of New Mexico and who meet the income requirements.

**Benefits:** Qualified seniors can receive up to \$50 per farmers' market calendar year (July 1st to November 15<sup>th</sup>)

**How the SFMNP operates:** Coupons are issued to eligible SFMNP participants to buy eligible foods from farmers, farmers' markets, roadside stands, or mobile farmers' markets that have been approved by the State agency to accept SFMNP coupons. The farmers, farmers' markets, roadside stands or mobile farmers' markets then submit the redeemed SFMNP coupons to the bank for reimbursement.

**How a farmer or farmers' market becomes authorized to accept and redeem. SFMNP:** Three-year agreements between the state and individual farmers, farmers' markets, roadside stands and mobile farmers' markets, that meet selection criteria, are made. Individuals, who exclusively sell produce grown by someone else, such as wholesale distributors, **cannot** be authorized to participate in the SFMNP.

**Currently there are 800 farmers, 65 farmers' markets, 15 roadside stands, and 3 mobile farmers' markets with current agreements.**

**Distribution:** SFMNP & FMNEP checks are distributed via the Commodity Supplemental Food Distribution Program (CSFP) providers covering 30 counties. *In 2017 16,973 seniors participated.*

**Redemption:** For both programs has consistently been in the 80-90 percentile.  
*The 2017 redemption rate was 93%.*

**Caseload:** In 2017 SFMNP had 13,160 participants and 3,813 participants for FMNEP.

2017 redemption rate: 93%

**Funding 2018:** SFMNP \$324,663 (USDA federal funding), FMNEP \$97,030 (State funding through the NM Department of Agriculture)

**\*The Need in New Mexico:**

- In New Mexico approximately 98,000 seniors fall below 185% of the federal poverty income guidelines.
- In New Mexico approximately 56,000 seniors fall below 130% of the federal poverty income guidelines.

**\*Scenarios to Expand the Program:**

- **If we were to expand the SFMNP to meet the needs of approximately 75,000 seniors (98,000 total minus current senior SFMNP participants at 16,000) at \$25 per SFMNP booklet of checks and at a 90% redemption rate, the total would be almost \$1.69 million.**
- **If we were to expand the SFMNP to meet the needs of an additional 25,000 seniors at \$25 per SFMNP booklet of checks the total would be \$625,000.**

\*These are estimates for discussion and options.

Information provided by:

Pam Roy, Farm to Table, the Santa Fe Food Policy Council, and the NM Food & Agriculture Policy Council with program information and facts provided by the WIC and Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program at the NM Department of Health

Contact: Pam Roy, 505-660-8403 & [pam@farmtotablenm.org](mailto:pam@farmtotablenm.org)

Updated: October 30, 2018

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SENATE BILL 84  
54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019

INTRODUCED BY  
Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO NUTRITIONAL SERVICES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS;  
AUTHORIZING THE GROWING AND USE FOR FOOD SERVICE OF FRUIT AND  
VEGETABLE GARDENS AT SENIOR CENTERS; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION  
OF RULES PERTAINING TO FOOD SAFETY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. [NEW MATERIAL] SENIOR CENTER FOOD GARDENS  
AUTHORIZED--ADMINISTRATION.--

A. The aging and long-term services department  
shall permit any senior center, as defined in rules promulgated  
by the department, to coordinate the planting, cultivation,  
growing, tending and harvesting by senior center staff and  
senior participants of edible fruits and vegetables on the  
senior center's premises for inclusion in food service or  
distribution to senior participants.

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1           B. The aging and long-term services department  
2 shall authorize the building, maintenance and use of structures  
3 that extend the growing season of edible fruits and vegetables,  
4 including greenhouses and hoop houses, for the purposes  
5 outlined in Subsection A of this section.

6           C. No later than September 1, 2019, the aging and  
7 long-term services department shall adopt rules that allow for  
8 food gardens as described in Subsections A and B of this  
9 section.

10          D. The rules shall include and address:

11               (1) applicable state and federal guidelines;

12               (2) the avoidance of microbial contamination  
13 of fruits and vegetables grown at the senior citizen  
14 facilities;

15               (3) the quality of water and types of  
16 fertilizer that can be used in gardens at the senior citizen  
17 facilities;

18               (4) the types of fruits and vegetables that  
19 can be grown for consumption at the senior citizen facilities;

20               (5) training for senior participants and staff  
21 regarding safe handling, cooking and preservation techniques;

22               (6) both conventional and organic growing  
23 methods; and

24               (7) other factors needed to ensure that good  
25 agricultural practices are used in the growing of fruits and

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1 vegetables at the senior citizen facilities and that the fruits  
2 and vegetables are safe for human consumption.

3 E. For the purposes of this section, "senior  
4 participant" means an individual who is at least fifty years of  
5 age or older and who is otherwise eligible to receive services  
6 or to participate in programs administered by the aging and  
7 long-term services department or its designees.

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HOUSE BILL 137

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019

INTRODUCED BY

Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH; ENACTING THE COUNTY AND TRIBAL HEALTH  
COUNCILS ACT; REPEALING THE MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH PLAN ACT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. [NEW MATERIAL] SHORT TITLE.--This act may be  
cited as the "County and Tribal Health Councils Act".

SECTION 2. [NEW MATERIAL] PURPOSE OF ACT.--The purpose of  
the County and Tribal Health Councils Act is to improve the  
health of New Mexicans by encouraging the development of  
comprehensive, community-based health planning councils to  
identify and address local health needs and priorities.

SECTION 3. [NEW MATERIAL] DEFINITIONS.--As used in the  
County and Tribal Health Councils Act:

A. "board" means the board of county commissioners  
of a county or leadership of a tribe;

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- 1 B. "department" means the department of health;  
2 C. "health council" means a county or tribal health  
3 council;  
4 D. "jurisdiction" means a county or a tribe; and  
5 E. "tribe" means an Indian nation, tribe, pueblo or  
6 chapter located within the boundaries of the state.

7 SECTION 4. [NEW MATERIAL] COUNTY AND TRIBAL HEALTH  
8 COUNCILS--DESIGNATION.--

9 A. Residents of a jurisdiction may create a county  
10 or tribal health council to carry out the provisions of the  
11 County and Tribal Health Councils Act; provided that:

12 (1) a board shall recognize only a single  
13 health council for its jurisdiction; and

14 (2) two or more boards may collaborate to  
15 recognize a common, single health council representing two or  
16 more jurisdictions.

17 B. A board shall recognize only a county or tribal  
18 health council whose members represent a diverse spectrum of  
19 community interests, including individuals and public, private  
20 and nonprofit entities.

21 C. Members of a health council shall elect from  
22 among themselves a chair for a term designated by the health  
23 council.

24 D. Health council members shall not be paid, but  
25 they may receive per diem and mileage expenses as provided in

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1 the Per Diem and Mileage Act.

2 SECTION 5. [NEW MATERIAL] HEALTH COUNCIL FUNCTIONS.--

3 A. A health council shall prepare a community  
4 health plan, updated at regular intervals. A health council  
5 shall report its community health plan to the board and to the  
6 department.

7 B. Each community health plan shall include:

8 (1) a county or tribal health assessment and  
9 inventory of health resources;

10 (2) identification of health priorities  
11 determined through independent, community-based planning  
12 processes; and

13 (3) strategies and resources to address health  
14 priorities.

15 C. A health council shall:

16 (1) monitor health and health care programs  
17 and services in order to identify potential gaps and to reduce  
18 potential duplication;

19 (2) collaborate with other entities to develop  
20 programs, networks, partnerships and coalitions as necessary to  
21 improve health;

22 (3) advise the board in its jurisdiction and  
23 other entities regarding policies that affect health;

24 (4) facilitate communication among local  
25 jurisdictions, state agencies and other entities; and

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1 (5) identify additional public and private  
2 resources to improve health in its respective jurisdiction.

3 SECTION 6. [NEW MATERIAL] DEPARTMENT--POWERS AND  
4 DUTIES.--The department shall:

5 A. in consultation with health councils, develop  
6 benchmarks, expectations and mechanisms to ensure the long-term  
7 viability of health councils;

8 B. in collaboration with universities, other state  
9 agencies and other public health entities, provide training,  
10 technical assistance and other supports to health councils;

11 C. in collaboration with other entities, develop a  
12 system to evaluate the effectiveness of health councils and the  
13 gathering of necessary evaluation data;


14 D. administer funding to support the work of the  
15 health councils, including local health council staffing,  
16 training and technical assistance, and monitor and evaluate  
17 contracts for funding; and

18 E. adopt and promulgate rules as necessary to carry  
19 out the purposes of the County and Tribal Health Councils Act  
20 and to strengthen community-based health planning and self-  
21 determination.

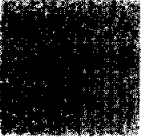
22 SECTION 7. REPEAL.--Sections 24-1B-1 through 24-1B-7 NMSA  
23 1978 (being Laws 1991, Chapter 113, Sections 1 through 7, as  
24 amended) are repealed.

2018 New Mexico Legislative Session  
**Senate Memorial 44**  
**Task Force Report and Recommendations**


**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**



**Senate Memorial 44** requested that the New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils convene a task force to “identify steps to strengthen the *structure, effectiveness and sustainability* of county and tribal health councils.” The Task Force includes health council members, representatives of the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH), the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center, and other public and private entities that make up the state’s public health system. (Task Force members are listed in the Appendix to this report.)



**History:** The New Mexico Legislature created the health councils in 1991 through the County Maternal and Child Health Plan Act, amended in 2007 to include tribal communities. The health councils form the hub of a decentralized, community health planning system, providing a mechanism for local communities to assess local health needs, create comprehensive health plans, and coordinate the implementation of the community health plans. The State supported this system with a \$2.8 million annual budget that provided health councils with full-time or part-time staff to follow up on health council decisions and actions. State funding also supported a system to build health council skills and capacity, coordinate their activities, and evaluate outcomes. There are currently 39 health councils, in 33 counties and 6 tribal communities.



**Accomplishments:** Over their 27-year history, the health councils have identified local health priorities and led community interventions to address urgent problems, including access to health care, diabetes and obesity, alcohol and drug use disorders, infant mental health, suicide, environmental health, and many other areas. The health councils have benefited New Mexico communities by reducing gaps and duplications in programs and services, by providing effective health assessment and planning, and by serving as an effective means of communication and dissemination of information to and from communities throughout the state. The health councils have also been a wise investment, attracting \$4 in additional funding for every \$1 invested by the State (Community Health Consulting Group study, 2003).

**Roles, functions, and outcomes:** A 2006-2010 Health Council Evaluation conducted by the University of New Mexico and the NM Department of Health found that ***health councils serve at the center of local public health systems***, accomplishing systemic outcomes resulting in improved health status.

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**Roles, functions, and outcomes:** A 2006-2010 Health Council Evaluation conducted by the University of New Mexico and the NM Department of Health found that *health councils serve at the center of local public health systems*, accomplishing systemic outcomes resulting in improved health status in the following functional areas:

1. Convening communities to improve health
2. Community health assessment
3. Community health planning
4. Coordination to enhance efficiency, identify gaps in services, and prevent duplication
5. Developing programs and services
6. Building and supporting issue-specific partnerships, networks, & coalitions
7. Leveraging financial resources
8. Policy development
9. Facilitating communication between local communities and State agencies

## **Task Force Recommendations**

### **A. Structure: Health councils adopt organizational structures that reflect local needs, conditions, and resources.**

**1. The enabling legislation needs to be changed to reflect the evolution of health councils from maternal and child health councils into comprehensive, community health councils.**

**2. Counties and tribal communities should designate a single health council** for state recognition. Councils in rural or sparsely populated regions should be free to combine activities and resources with councils from other jurisdictions.

**3. Each health council is by definition representative of its community**, including citizens, health and social service providers, early childhood services, education, elected representatives, the business community, philanthropy, and faith communities.

**4. Additional tribal communities are encouraged to establish health councils**, and to adapt council structures appropriate to tribal needs and conditions.

**5. Each health council should maintain a formal relationship with its county or tribal governing body** through a memorandum of understanding or similar arrangement.

**6. Organizational structures:** Health councils may operate (a) As an independent, non-profit organization, (b) As an adjunct to a unit of local or tribal government; (c) Under a fiscal sponsorship arrangement with a nonprofit organization.

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7. Each health council should be responsible for creating an officially sanctioned community health assessment and community health plan in coordination with the local governing body at regular intervals, as well as advising its county or tribal government on the potential impacts of policies on health and wellness.

**B. Effectiveness: The health council system should provide for continuous quality improvement, outcome evaluation, health council training and technical assistance, and integration with local, regional, and statewide public health and health care systems.**

1. County and tribal health councils will serve as community hubs, and will fulfill the roles and responsibilities identified by the 2006-2010 Health Council Evaluation (as outlined above).

2. **Evaluation and quality improvement:** An evaluation system should include clearly defined outcomes and ways to measure and achieve those outcomes. Councils should be guided by explicit benchmarks and standards of good practice, with mechanisms to ensure continuous quality improvement. Councils and State government should work together to gather outcome evaluation data.<sup>1</sup>

3. **Building health council capacity:** All health councils need to be adequately staffed, with a paid coordinator (full-time or part-time), depending on the scope and complexity of its work and the population served. Health councils should be provided with regular training and technical assistance in community health improvement and organizational effectiveness, with capacity-building coordinated and/or provided by the NM Alliance of Health Councils, the NM Department of Health, and collaborating organizations and institutions.

4. **Partnerships.** Health councils by their very nature work with, and through, other entities. The councils were developed as an integrated health planning system, and they need to be managed as a system. They operate most effectively with structured, interdependent relationships with other key partners: cabinet agencies, university systems, New Mexico Public Health Association, NM Public Health Institute, NM Association of Counties, and others.

**C. Sustainability: Health councils and the system as a whole must be provided with sufficient funding to accomplish the goals and outcomes stated in the Maternal & Child Health Plan Act and subsequent enabling legislation.**

1. **State investment:** State General Funding should provide core funding to each health council for a paid coordinator to carry out the decisions and actions of the council. State funds should also be used to ensure continuous training and technical assistance to the health councils. The NM Department of Health should assist the health councils with overall coordination, outcome evaluation, travel, and fiscal accountability systems.

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<sup>1</sup> An on-line evaluation system has been developed and resides at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center, Master's in Public Health Program.



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**2. Local investment:** Counties and tribal governments may be expected to provide financial, administrative, and in-kind support, such as office space and equipment, telephone, and other resources.

**3. Additional resources:** The health councils have demonstrated their ability to leverage other resources through grants and contracts from Federal, other state, private, and philanthropic sources.

### **Senate Memorial 44 Task Force Members (in alphabetical order)**

**Zachary Coffman**, Burrell, College of Osteopathic Medicine, Student  
**Anthony Cook**, NM Department of Health, PHD SE Region  
**Chris DeBolt**, NM Alliance of Health Councils, Partnerships Manager  
**Cynthia Estrada**, Doña Ana Wellness Institute  
**Ron Hale**, NM Alliance of Health Councils, Board Co-Chair, SM44 Task Force Co-Chair  
**Helen Henry**, NM Alliance of Health Councils, Administration and Communications  
**Alisha Herrick**, New Mexico Public Health Institute  
**Athena Huckaby**, Doña Ana Wellness Institute  
**Christopher Hudson**, McKinley Community Health Alliance, Coordinator  
**Dawn Hunter**, NM Department of Health, Deputy Secretary  
**Jessica Jara**, Luna County Community Health & Well Being, Director  
**Dr. Art Kaufman**, UNM Health Sciences Center, Vice Chancellor for Community Health Sciences  
**Cari Lemon**, Grant County Community Health Council, Coordinator  
**Elaine Luna**, Office for Community Health, UNM, HERO Affiliate, Northern Region  
**Dick Mason**, NM Alliance of Health Councils, Board, Sandoval County Health Council, Former Co-Chair  
**Jimmy Masters**, NM Department of Health - Public Health  
**Amber Mayhall**, Otero County Administration Office, Healthcare Services Coordinator  
**Marsha McMurray-Avila**, Bernilillo County Community Health Council, Coordinator, SM 44 Task Force Co-Chair  
**Gerald Montoya**, NM Department of Health/PHD - Health Promotion  
**Jackie Muncy**, NM Department of Health - HPT - Socorro  
**Lauren Reichelt**, Rio Arriba Health and Human Services, Director  
**Michelle Rincón**, MPH at NMSU, SM 44 Task Force Intern,  
**Terrie Rodriguez**, NM Alliance of Health Councils, Executive Director  
**Francisco Ronquillo**, Office for Community Health, UNM, Health Extension Officer, South Valley, Abq  
**Dr. Victoria Sanchez**, Public Health Program, UNM School of Medicine, Assistant Professor  
**Amy Sandoval**, NM Department of Health/Public Health/Health Promotion  
**Melissa Sayegh**, Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine, Student  
**Tom Scharmen**, NM Department of Health & NM Community Data Collaborative  
**Maureen Schmittle**, NM Department of Health HPT - Otero County  
**Michelle Skrupskis**, NM Department of Health  
**Kim Straus**, Brindle Foundation, Foundation Manager, and Santa Fe County Health Planning and Policy Commission, Member  
**Susie Trujillo**, Grant County Community Health Council, Coordinator, Retired

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HOUSE BILL  
54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019  
INTRODUCED BY

DISCUSSION DRAFT

AN ACT  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE; ENACTING THE NEW MEXICO AGRICULTURAL  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ACT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. [NEW MATERIAL] SHORT TITLE.--This act may be  
cited as the "New Mexico Agricultural Workforce Development  
Program Act".

SECTION 2. [NEW MATERIAL] FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.--

A. The legislature finds that:

(1) agriculture is an important industry to  
New Mexico, providing employment opportunities for rural  
counties, ensuring economic development activities throughout  
the state and providing a nutritious food supply;

(2) it is a challenge for agricultural  
businesses to find qualified and trained agricultural

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1 employees;

2 (3) the majority of New Mexico's farmers and  
3 ranchers are nearing retirement, and it is critical to provide  
4 training and experience to young and beginning farmers or  
5 ranchers to ensure New Mexico's agricultural future;

6 (4) the barriers to entry in agriculture and  
7 ranching for young and beginning farmers or ranchers are  
8 significant, and among these barriers is a lack of access to  
9 training programs that provide real-world work experience;

10 (5) internships are a recognized way to build  
11 a talent pipeline and career pathway to align education,  
12 training and work-based learning; and

13 (6) by offering incentives to agricultural  
14 businesses to create internships, there will be more  
15 opportunities for young and beginning farmers or ranchers to  
16 obtain work experience in agriculture and support themselves in  
17 long-term careers.

18 B. The purpose of the New Mexico Agricultural  
19 Workforce Development Program Act is to provide incentives to  
20 agricultural businesses to create internships to provide  
21 opportunities to young and beginning farmers or ranchers to  
22 obtain work experience in agriculture that can support them in  
23 long-term careers and support New Mexico's agricultural future.

24 SECTION 3. [NEW MATERIAL] DEFINITIONS.--As used in the  
25 New Mexico Agricultural Workforce Development Program Act:

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- 1           A. "agricultural business" means a business of a  
2 food or agricultural nature, including agriculture production  
3 or processing;
- 4           B. "board" means the board of regents of New Mexico  
5 state university;
- 6           C. "department" means the New Mexico department of  
7 agriculture;
- 8           D. "director" means the director of agriculture;
- 9           E. "intern" means an individual who is a student or  
10 a young and beginning farmer or rancher employed by an  
11 agricultural business pursuant to the program;
- 12           F. "program" means the New Mexico agricultural  
13 workforce development program; and
- 14           G. "young and beginning farmer or rancher" means an  
15 individual who has not operated a farm or ranch or who has  
16 operated a farm or ranch but not for more than ten consecutive  
17 years.

18           SECTION 4. [NEW MATERIAL] AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE  
19 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM CREATED--GENERAL PROVISIONS--RULEMAKING.--

- 20           A. The "New Mexico agricultural workforce  
21 development program" is created and shall be administered by  
22 the department. The department shall establish policies for  
23 the program that specify, at a minimum:

- 24                   (1) criteria for selecting agricultural  
25 businesses for participation in the program, including the

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## **New Mexico Agricultural Workforce Development Program**

A resilient agriculture sector in New Mexico relies on creating and retaining a well-trained and highly skilled agricultural workforce. Currently, our state's agriculture industry lacks a sufficiently trained and ready labor pool. Young people are struggling to break into agriculture, and with most producers nearing retirement, there are not enough young, trained growers to keep the industry strong. Agriculture value-added and food-related businesses have also reported serious needs for well-trained employees. Preparing the next generation of the agriculture workforce for long-term success is an issue New Mexico must address now.

New Mexico First in partnership with the National Young Farmers Coalition propose to run legislation to establish the **New Mexico Agricultural Workforce Development Program**. The program would help attract and retain new entrants to New Mexico's agricultural industry by expanding hands-on training opportunities for aspiring farmers and ranchers. The program would do the following:

- Allow the New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) to create the Agricultural Workforce Development Program to assist agricultural businesses with the costs of hiring interns and expand training opportunities for aspiring farmers and ranchers.
- Provide eligible agricultural businesses up to 50 percent of the costs to employ an intern, including wages, fixed expenses, and other costs. The agriculture business must provide an intern with at least 130 hours of work experience over no more than 1 year. The intern may not be a current or former employee or relative of the business owner or operator.
- Allow NMDA to develop the criteria for selecting an agricultural business for participation in the program and guidelines for internships funded through the program to help ensure the intern receives valuable work experience.
- Legislation would initially request \$250,000 for the program to devote to both staff time and internship awards. Based on funding, NMDA can set targets for number of internships funded, employment hours and other contributions to measure program success.

### **Why an Agricultural Workforce Development Program?**

**New Mexico's agricultural workforce is older on average than at any other time in history.** National data from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) suggests the rate of farmer and rancher retirement could very well out-pace the rate of new entrants into the industry (USDA, 2012 Census of Agriculture). The average age of a New Mexico farm operator in 2012 was 61 years (USDA), which is higher than the national average age of 58. Over 60% of New Mexico's farmers are set to retire over the next two decades (USDA). In contrast, the most recent data shows that only 3% of New Mexico's

farmers are under the age of 35 (USDA). This gap in grower ages indicates the next ten years are a critical time period for passing on farming and ranching knowledge to the next generation.

**More young people are entering the agriculture industry in New Mexico.** New Mexico saw a 5.8% increase in young farmers entering the agriculture industry from 2007 to 2012, demonstrating that young people are showing an interest in agricultural careers. Still, less than 17% of farmers in New Mexico are under the age of 45, and New Mexico farmers over the age of 55 outnumber young farmers and ranchers under 35 by 8 to 1 (USDA). Aspiring farmers in New Mexico face many barriers in entering the agriculture industry including limited access to farmland, rising land prices, difficulties accessing capital, high startup costs for new farms, student loan debt, and limited opportunities to gain hands-on farming experience.

**A workforce development program will expand agricultural training opportunities for aspiring farmers and ranchers.** Agriculture is a knowledge-intensive and experience-driven occupation. Many aspiring farmers and ranchers entering the field today are first-generation farmers, those who come from non-farming backgrounds and may not have had the opportunity to acquire critical farming skills and techniques through hands-on experience. Internships are one of the best ways to gain useful hands-on skills and knowledge about running a successful farm/ranch business. Interns gain valuable knowledge in production planning, planting, tending, harvesting, record keeping and other aspects of the business. Internships also provide first-generation farmers and ranchers with an opportunity to network with more established producers; potentially opening up pathways to more secure land tenure arrangements and marketing opportunities.

**An agriculture workforce development program can help to support existing and new efforts.** Several groups in New Mexico have begun to respond to the need to train the next generation of farmers and ranchers. New Mexico State University Cooperative Extension Service, New Mexico Cattle Growers, the Institute of American Indian Arts, National Young Farmers Coalition and Rocky Mountain Farmers Union are just some of the organizations working to build agricultural career-development opportunities throughout our state. However, most of these groups currently rely on grant funding or volunteers. A state-run program could help to bolster these efforts and expand their reach, while ensuring the financial burden of hiring an intern does not rest solely on growers.

**A workforce development program will expand a trained agricultural workforce pool.** With a growing gap between retiring and aspiring farmers and ranchers, there is an immediate need to build a skilled agricultural workforce for the future. Without a well-trained and highly skilled agricultural workforce, New Mexico's agriculture industry could struggle to meet growing consumer demand for New Mexico products and remain competitive within a globalized food system. The Agriculture Workforce Development Program will help address this labor gap, providing established producers with temporary workforce needs and cultivating a skilled labor pool for the agriculture sector. The bill will also benefit farmers and ranchers with limited resources who may have more difficulty covering the costs of hiring seasonal employees.

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\_\_\_\_\_ BILL

**54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019**

INTRODUCED BY

DISCUSSION DRAFT

AN ACT

RELATING TO NATURAL RESOURCES; ENACTING THE HEALTHY SOIL ACT;  
CREATING THE HEALTHY SOIL PROGRAM AND HEALTHY SOIL GRANT  
PROGRAM IN THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE; PROVIDING  
POWERS AND DUTIES; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. [NEW MATERIAL] SHORT TITLE.--This act may be  
cited as the "Healthy Soil Act".

SECTION 2. [NEW MATERIAL] DEFINITIONS.--As used in the  
Healthy Soil Act:

A. "board of regents" means the board of regents of  
New Mexico state university;

B. "champion" means a land manager that is declared  
a soil health champion due to the land manager's excellence in  
applying and promoting soil health principles, as modeled by

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1 the soil health champion program of the national association of  
2 conservation districts;

3 C. "commission" means the soil and water  
4 conservation commission;

5 D. "department" means the New Mexico department of  
6 agriculture;

7 E. "district" means a soil and water conservation  
8 district created pursuant to the Soil and Water Conservation  
9 District Act;

10 F. "eligible entity" means a local governmental  
11 entity with proven land management capacity to support healthy  
12 soil and includes an Indian nation, tribe or pueblo, a land  
13 grant or an acequia;

14 G. "healthy soil" means soil that enhances its  
15 continuing capacity to function as a biological system,  
16 increases its organic matter and carbon content and improves  
17 its structure and water- and nutrient-holding capacity,  
18 resulting in net, long-term greenhouse gas benefits;

19 H. "program" means the healthy soil program created  
20 in the Healthy Soil Act;

21 I. "soil health principle" means a principle that  
22 promotes soil health and includes:

23 (1) keeping soil covered;

24 (2) minimizing soil disturbance on cropland  
25 and minimizing external inputs;



1 (3) maximizing biodiversity;  
2 (4) maintaining a living root; or  
3 (5) integrating animals into the landscape,  
4 including grazing animals, birds, beneficial insects or  
5 keystone species, such as earthworms;

6 J. "supported method" means a method that is based  
7 upon soil health principles and is scientifically supported to  
8 promote healthy soil and includes:

9 (1) planting cover crops, perennials,  
10 hedgerows, native grasses and other native vegetation;  
11 (2) multi-cropping;  
12 (3) adopting no-till or conservation tillage;  
13 (4) planned grazing with appropriate graze and  
14 recovery periods and herd effect;  
15 (5) integrated crop livestock systems;  
16 (6) mulching;  
17 (7) compost application;  
18 (8) soil microbial stimulation and  
19 inoculation; or  
20 (9) on-site wetland and riparian restoration;

21 K. "technical assistance" means assistance provided  
22 to a farmer or rancher to achieve the purpose of the Healthy  
23 Soil Act and includes outreach, education or assistance with  
24 project planning, project design, grant applications, project  
25 implementation or project reporting; and

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1 L. "technical assistance provider" means a local,  
2 state, federal, tribal, educational, nonprofit or  
3 nongovernmental entity with demonstrated technical expertise in  
4 designing and implementing agricultural management practices  
5 that contribute to healthy soils and includes a district, the  
6 New Mexico state university cooperative extension service, the  
7 United States natural resources conservation service, the  
8 United States forest service, the United States bureau of land  
9 management, the state land office, the energy, minerals and  
10 natural resources department or the state forestry division.

11 SECTION 3. [NEW MATERIAL] HEALTHY SOIL PROGRAM--CREATED--  
12 PURPOSE.--

13 A. The "healthy soil program" is created in the  
14 department. The department, with support and advice from the  
15 commission, shall administer the program.

16 B. The purpose of the program is to promote and  
17 support farming and ranching systems and other forms of land  
18 management that increase soil organic matter, carbon content,  
19 aggregate stability, microbiology and water retention to  
20 improve the health, yield and profitability of the soils of the  
21 state.

22 SECTION 4. [NEW MATERIAL] HEALTHY SOIL PROGRAM--SOIL  
23 ASSESSMENT AND EDUCATION--GRANT PROGRAM--DEPARTMENT--DUTIES--  
24 RULEMAKING.--

25 A. The program shall be composed of:

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1 (1) a healthy soil assessment and education  
2 program;

3 (2) a healthy soil grants program; and

4 (3) other programs established by the  
5 department to accomplish the purposes of the Healthy Soil Act.

6 B. In administering the healthy soil assessment and  
7 education program, the department shall:

8 (1) work through districts, technical  
9 assistance providers or eligible entities to:

10 (a) encourage farmers and ranchers and  
11 land managers to undertake voluntary soil health measurements;

12 (b) raise awareness about desirable soil  
13 health characteristics;

14 (c) facilitate on-site, producer-led  
15 workshops and training sessions to promote and engender soil  
16 health stewardship; and

17 (d) complete a baseline soil health  
18 assessment by testing the carbon content, water infiltration  
19 rate, microbiology and aggregate stability of soils, in  
20 addition to monitoring soil cover or bare ground percentage;

21 (2) establish a statewide network of champions  
22 to promote soil health stewardship, offer guidance to producers  
23 and land managers and encourage teamwork;

24 (3) create a program to provide ongoing  
25 training in soil health stewardship and workshop facilitation

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1 for champions, districts and eligible entities;

2 (4) in collaboration with technical assistance  
3 providers, sponsor soil health workshops and training sessions  
4 at research and learning centers throughout the state; and

5 (5) educate students and the general public  
6 about the importance of soil health stewardship.

7 C. In administering the healthy soil grant program,  
8 the department shall:

9 (1) award grants to districts and eligible  
10 entities to provide technical assistance to producers and land  
11 managers in advancing soil health principles and implementing  
12 supported methods;

13 (2) develop a user-friendly grant program  
14 application and application and reporting processes; and

15 (3) develop criteria for the award of grants;  
16 provided that grants shall be awarded equitably and priority  
17 may be given to districts or eligible entities serving young  
18 producers, small farms or ranches or for projects that benefit  
19 economically or socially disadvantaged communities.

20 D. The department shall encourage producer, land  
21 manager, landowner and interagency collaboration in the  
22 management of healthy soils and shall:

23 (1) work with technical assistance providers  
24 to advance soil health stewardship across private, state,  
25 federal and tribal land jurisdictions by fostering

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1 collaboration among producers, land managers and landowners;  
2 and

3 (2) conduct outreach to producers and land  
4 managers to promote the program and other federal, state or  
5 local grant opportunities that support and promote healthy  
6 soils.

7 E. The department shall support regenerative  
8 economic growth in New Mexico and shall:

9 (1) identify ways to increase the generation  
10 and use of compost to build healthy soils;

11 (2) to the extent permitted by the Procurement  
12 Code, prioritize in-state sourcing of the resources needed for  
13 the program, including testing resources, compost, seeds,  
14 fencing supplies and equipment; and

15 (3) support the emerging market for food grown  
16 in New Mexico under management for healthy soils.

17 F. The department may adopt rules to carry out the  
18 Healthy Soil Act.

19 SECTION 5. [NEW MATERIAL] HEALTHY SOIL ADVISORY GROUP.--

20 A. The department, in coordination with the  
21 commission, may convene a healthy soil advisory group to advise  
22 and assist with the effective implementation of the program.

23 B. Members of the advisory group shall be qualified  
24 and knowledgeable regarding healthy soils and may include soil  
25 health specialists, producers, champions or representatives of

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1 nongovernmental organizations.

2 C. Public members of the healthy soil advisory  
3 group are entitled to receive per diem and mileage pursuant to  
4 the Per Diem and Mileage Act.

5 SECTION 6. [NEW MATERIAL] USE OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS.--

6 Funds appropriated to the board of regents for the department  
7 to administer the program may be used for:

8 A. the healthy soil grant program;

9 B. the healthy soil assessment and education  
10 program;

11 C. promotion and outreach;

12 D. department staffing support;

13 E. capacity building for the districts and other  
14 eligible entities;

15 F. travel reimbursement and per diem in accordance  
16 with the Per Diem and Mileage Act; and

17 G. other expenditures as determined by the  
18 department to be necessary to support the overall effective  
19 administration of the program.

20 SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION.--Five million one hundred fifty  
21 thousand dollars (\$5,150,000) is appropriated from the general  
22 fund to the board of regents of New Mexico state university for  
23 expenditure in fiscal year 2020 and subsequent fiscal years for  
24 the New Mexico department of agriculture to administer the  
25 healthy soil program pursuant to the Healthy Soil Act. Any

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1 unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a  
2 fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund.

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# New Mexico Healthy Soil Initiative

*A state-level program supporting  
farmers and ranchers in the quest to improve soil health*



The *Healthy Soil Initiative* is striving to engender widespread soil health awareness and stewardship within the state of New Mexico. The health of our soil forms the basis for the vitality of our state's communities, economy and ecosystems, and yet a majority of our working lands are facing significant degradation. By working in greater partnership, coordinating with existing endeavors and enacting new state legislation, this initiative puts in place a robust support network for land managers, including access to resources, education, and financial support.

Soil stewardship can heal the degraded condition of our soils while producing a wide range of economic, ecological and social co-benefits: improved watersheds and water quality, improved water retention and reduced soil erosion, increased resilience to extreme weather events and drought, greater economic viability of farms and ranches, enhanced wildlife and pollinator habitat, sequestration of atmospheric carbon, and overall healthier rural communities.

## ***Healthy Soil Program: Principles***

The *New Mexico Healthy Soil Program* promotes farming and ranching systems that improve the health in the soils of the state according to the following ecological principles: (1) Keep soil covered, (2) Minimize disturbance to soils and external inputs, (3) Maintain living roots, (4) Maximize biodiversity, (5) Integrate animals in farm systems.

Supported methodologies increase soil organic matter, carbon content, aggregate stability, microbiology and water retention, which thereby will improve the health, yield and profitability of the state's soils. Promoted management strategies include e.g. planting cover crops, adopting no-till or low-till farming practices, planned grazing, mulching, compost application, soil microbial inoculation, integrated crop livestock systems, on-farm wetland restoration and vegetation plantings.

The *New Mexico Healthy Soil Program* provides incentives to farmers and ranchers in the form of loans, grants, research, infrastructure, technical assistance, educational resources, and on-farm demonstration projects, to support land management that contributes to healthy soils and results in net greenhouse gas benefits.



### ***Healthy Soil Program: Initiatives***

The *Healthy Soil Program* consists of the following initiatives, to be carried out by the New Mexico State University, the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, the Soil and Water Conservation Commission, and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts:

- Engage farmers and ranchers in soil health measurements.
- Create educational materials, outreach and curriculum on soil health management.
- Develop a statewide network of producers with demonstrated excellence in soil health stewardship, so-called *Soil Health Champions*.
- Ascertain a training program for *Soil Health Champions* and agency personnel.
- Facilitate producer-led workshops on farms, research centers, and demonstration sites throughout the state.
- Establish a financial assistance program in the form of grants, cost sharing and loans, to support land managers in soil health stewardship.
- Institute an equipment loan program specific to soil health management.
- Engage in research and case studies on managing New Mexico's working lands for soil health.
- Encourage soil stewardship on state lands.
- Dedicate a *New Mexico Soil Health Day* to raise awareness of soil stewardship, facilitate annual information sharing among stakeholders and celebrate the cultural, economic, and ecological importance of soil health.

The Soil and Water Conservation Commission administers the *Healthy Soil Program* through a new *Director of Soil Health*, supported by an Administrative Assistant. A *Healthy Soil Task Force*, comprised of producers, scientists and community leaders advises and assists with the establishment and implementation of the *Healthy Soil Program*.

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HOUSE BILL  
54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019  
INTRODUCED BY

DISCUSSION DRAFT

AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE TO DEVELOP MARKET OPPORTUNITIES FOR FARMERS,  
RANCHERS AND AGRIBUSINESSES IN NEW MEXICO.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION.--Two hundred fifty thousand  
dollars (\$250,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the  
board of regents of New Mexico state university for expenditure  
in fiscal year 2020 for the New Mexico department of  
agriculture to develop and promote market opportunities for  
farmers, ranchers and agribusinesses in New Mexico. Any  
unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of  
fiscal year 2020 shall revert to the general fund.

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SENATE BILL 102  
**54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019**  
INTRODUCED BY  
Carlos R. Cisneros

AN ACT  
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT  
TO FUND A WORKING GROUP TO IDENTIFY WAYS TO DIRECT INVESTMENT  
AND REINVESTMENT IN FRONTIER COMMUNITIES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION.--Fifty thousand dollars  
(\$50,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the economic  
development department for expenditure in fiscal year 2020 to  
convene a working group, including at least one representative  
from the national center for frontier communities, to identify  
innovative ways to direct investment and reinvestment of state  
resources into frontier communities for the development of  
infrastructure, community and essential services. Any  
unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining in the fund at the  
end of fiscal year 2020 shall revert to the general fund.

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SENATE BILL 39

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019

INTRODUCED BY

Mimi Stewart

AN ACT

RELATING TO TAXATION; CREATING THE SOLAR MARKET DEVELOPMENT  
INCOME TAX CREDIT; REPEALING THE EXPIRED SOLAR MARKET  
DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDIT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 7-2-18.14 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2006,  
Chapter 93, Section 1, as amended) is repealed and a new  
Section 7-2-18.14 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"7-2-18.14. [NEW MATERIAL] SOLAR MARKET DEVELOPMENT  
INCOME TAX CREDIT.--

A. A taxpayer who is not a dependent of another  
individual and who purchases and installs a solar thermal  
system or a photovoltaic system in a residence, business or  
agricultural enterprise after January 1, 2019 may apply for,  
and the department may allow, a credit against the taxpayer's

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1 tax liability imposed pursuant to the Income Tax Act in an  
2 amount provided in Subsection C of this section. The tax  
3 credit provided by this section may be referred to as the  
4 "solar market development income tax credit".

5 B. The purpose of the solar market development  
6 income tax credit is to encourage the installation of solar  
7 thermal and photovoltaic systems in residences, businesses and  
8 agricultural enterprises.

9 C. The department may allow a solar market  
10 development income tax credit of ten percent of the purchase  
11 and installation costs of a solar thermal or photovoltaic  
12 system.

13 D. The solar market development income tax credit  
14 shall not exceed six thousand dollars (\$6,000). The department  
15 shall allow a solar market development income tax credit only  
16 for solar thermal and photovoltaic systems certified pursuant  
17 to Subsection J of this section.

18 E. The department may allow a maximum annual  
19 aggregate of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) in solar market  
20 development income tax credits per calendar year. Completed  
21 applications for the credit shall be considered in the order  
22 received by the department.

23 F. A taxpayer may claim a solar market development  
24 income tax credit for the taxable year in which the taxpayer  
25 purchases and installs a solar thermal or photovoltaic system.

.211050.3

1 To receive a solar market development income tax credit, a  
2 taxpayer shall apply to the department on forms and in the  
3 manner prescribed by the department within twelve months  
4 following the calendar year in which the system was installed.  
5 The application shall include a certification made pursuant to  
6 Subsection J of this section.

7 G. That portion of a solar market development  
8 income tax credit that exceeds a taxpayer's tax liability in  
9 the taxable year in which the credit is claimed may be carried  
10 forward for a maximum of five consecutive taxable years.

11 H. Married individuals filing separate returns for  
12 a taxable year for which they could have filed a joint return  
13 may each claim only one-half of the solar market development  
14 income tax credit that would have been claimed on a joint  
15 return.

16 I. A taxpayer may be allocated the right to claim a  
17 solar market development income tax credit in proportion to the  
18 taxpayer's ownership interest if the taxpayer owns an interest  
19 in a business entity that is taxed for federal income tax  
20 purposes as a partnership or limited liability company and that  
21 business entity has met all of the requirements to be eligible  
22 for the credit. The total credit claimed by all members of the  
23 partnership or limited liability company shall not exceed the  
24 allowable credit pursuant to this section.

25 J. The energy, minerals and natural resources

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1 department shall adopt rules establishing procedures to provide  
2 certification of solar thermal and photovoltaic systems for the  
3 purposes of obtaining a solar market development income tax  
4 credit. The rules shall address technical specifications and  
5 requirements relating to safety, code and standards compliance,  
6 solar collector orientation and sun exposure, minimum system  
7 sizes, system applications and lists of eligible components.  
8 The energy, minerals and natural resources department may  
9 modify the specifications and requirements as necessary to  
10 maintain a high level of system quality and performance.

11 K. A taxpayer allowed a tax credit pursuant to this  
12 section shall report the amount of the credit to the taxation  
13 and revenue department in a manner required by that department.

14 L. The taxation and revenue department shall  
15 compile an annual report on the solar market development income  
16 tax credit that shall include the number of taxpayers approved  
17 by the department to receive the credit, the aggregate amount  
18 of credits approved and any other information necessary to  
19 evaluate the credit. The department shall present the report  
20 to the revenue stabilization and tax policy committee and the  
21 legislative finance committee with an analysis of the cost of  
22 the tax credit and whether the tax credit is performing the  
23 purpose for which it was created.

24 M. As used in this section:

25 (1) "photovoltaic system" means an energy

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1 system that collects or absorbs sunlight for conversion into  
2 electricity; and

3 (2) "solar thermal system" means an energy  
4 system that collects or absorbs solar energy for conversion  
5 into heat for the purposes of space heating, space cooling or  
6 water heating."

7 SECTION 2. APPLICABILITY.--The provisions of this act  
8 apply to taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2019.

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HOUSE BILL 126  
54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019  
INTRODUCED BY  
Candie G. Sweetser

FOR THE ECONOMIC AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

AN ACT  
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT FUND  
TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES OF THAT FUND.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION.--One million five hundred  
thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) is appropriated from the general  
fund to the economic development grant fund for expenditure in  
fiscal year 2020 and subsequent fiscal years to carry out the  
purposes of that fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance  
remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not  
revert to any other fund.  
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## NM Food & Farms and School Nutrition Day – 2019 NM Legislative Session

### January 23<sup>rd</sup> - Civic Engagement Training

**Location:** Santa Fe Farmers Market Pavilion, 1607 Paseo del Peralta, Santa Fe, 87501

The Civic Engagement training will focus on the New Mexico Legislative session (and beyond) through an equity lens and upstream approaches to engaging policy makers and working on policy initiatives. Through an interactive approach we will engage participants in the 2019 New Mexico Legislative Session and how to participate from your varying roles and situations. It will be attended by multiple groups, from private and public sectors, with similar and varying needs and interests. Materials for NM Food and Farms and School Nutrition day will be provided.

### January 24<sup>th</sup> - NM Food & Farms and School Nutrition Day and Awards Ceremony

**Location:** New Mexico State Capitol, Santa Fe, NM

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>8:00 AM</b>             | Possible hearing and/or logistics "walk about"<br>**We may have a hearing for one of our legislative bills   |
| <b>8:00 AM – 12:00 PM</b>  | Tabling in the East Wing next to the Rotunda   |
| <b>9:00 AM - 10:00 AM</b>  | Award Ceremony in the Rotunda  |
| <b>10:00 AM – 12:00 PM</b> | Senate/House chambers and Office visits for educational discussions with legislators, Memorial presentations in the House and Senate, and Rostrum Introductions of awardees and others   |
| <b>12:00 PM</b>            | Photo Eastside of Capitol  |
| <b>12:30 – 2:00 PM</b>     | Luncheon and presentation at the Rio Chama<br>Location: 414 Old Santa Fe Trail, parking in the rear and across the street (next to the Capitol) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governor Lujan Grisham to attend</li> <li>• Introduction of Awardees and Dignitaries</li> </ul> **Completely Full |
| <b>2:00 PM</b>             | Adjourned<br>** For those who may want to follow up with more office visits at the Capitol, we can accommodate.  |

Exhibit "3"

## **NM Food & Farms and School Nutrition Day Awardees**

### **Farmer of the Year: Buzz Graves - Graves Farm and Garden, Roswell**

Contact: Buzz, Ronda and Andrew Graves

Email: [gravesfarmandgarden@yahoo.com](mailto:gravesfarmandgarden@yahoo.com), [gravesfarm123@gmail.com](mailto:gravesfarm123@gmail.com)

Certificate: Graves Farm & Garden

### **Outstanding Organization of the Year: La Montañita Food Cooperative - Albuquerque/Santa Fe**

Contact: Benjamin Bartley, James Esqueda

Email: [benjamin.bartley@lamontanita.coop](mailto:benjamin.bartley@lamontanita.coop), [jamese@lamontanita.coop](mailto:jamese@lamontanita.coop)

Certificate: La Montañita Cooperative Distribution Center

### **Educational Program of the Year: Aldo Leopold Charter School, Silver City**

Contact: Harry Browne

Email: [Hbrowne@aldocs.org](mailto:Hbrowne@aldocs.org)

Certificate: Aldo Leopold Charter School

### **School Garden of the Year: James Elementary School, Portales**

Contact: Caron Powers/Johnnie Cain

Email: [caron.powers@yahoo.com](mailto:caron.powers@yahoo.com), [jcain@portalesschools.com](mailto:jcain@portalesschools.com)

Certificate: School Garden at R.M. James Elementary School

### **School Food Service Director of the Year: Marie E. Johnson, Farmington**

Contact: Marie Johnson

Email: [mjohnson@fms.k12.nm.us](mailto:mjohnson@fms.k12.nm.us)

Certificate: Marie E. Johnson, School Food Service Director, Farmington Municipal Schools

### **Farmers' Market of the Year: Española Farmers' Market, Española**

Contact: Sabra Moore

Email: [Sabramoore25@windstream.net](mailto:Sabramoore25@windstream.net)

Certificate: Espanola Farmers Market/ Sabra Moore, Market Manager

### **Double Up Food Bucks Champion of the Year: Santa Fe Farmers' Market Institute, Santa Fe**

Contact: Kierstan Pickens

Email: [kierstan@farmersmarketinstitute.org](mailto:kierstan@farmersmarketinstitute.org)

Certificate: Santa Fe Farmers' Market Institute

### **Thank You to Our Sponsors!**

NM Farmers' Marketing Association, Con Alma Health Foundation, NM Healthy Kids Healthy Communities Program (NMDOH), UNM Community Engagement Center, FoodCorps NM, CPLC New Mexico, Inc., Farm to Table, Beestro & Atalya Café, McCune Charitable Foundation, NM Department of Agriculture, NM Public Education Department's Student Wellness and Success Bureau, New Mexico Farm to School Alliance, NM Food & Agriculture Policy Council, NM School Nutrition Association, Presbyterian Healthcare Services, Thornburg Foundation, National Farm to School Network & PNM

You can park in the **State Capitol Parking Garage** free (if you get there early). It is located on Galisteo Street off Paseo de Peralta and just past Manhattan on the right (heading one way towards downtown Santa Fe).

### **For more information please contact:**

Pam Roy, Farm to Table and the NM Food & Ag Policy Council

505-660-8403

[pam@farmtotablenm.org](mailto:pam@farmtotablenm.org)