

CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-69

INTRODUCED BY:

Councilor Jamie Cassutt

Councilor Renee Villarreal

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the New Mexico Legislature passed, and Governor signed the Food Initiative, a \$24.7 million program, as part of the state budget, to increase investment in New Mexico’s food, hunger, and agriculture initiatives; and

1 **WHEREAS**, a March 31, 2021, study released by Feeding America, said that in 2019
2 10.6% of Santa Fe County residents experienced food insecurity¹; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the New Mexico Human Services Department reports that in 2021 17 % of
4 Santa Fe’s children under age 18 repeatedly experienced food insecurity; and

5 **WHEREAS**, according to the New Mexico Public Education Department (“PED”),
6 approximately 333,300 students are enrolled in New Mexico schools and can participate in the
7 school meal programs operated by various schools throughout the state, and more than 241,400 of
8 these students -- 72 percent -- are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the Food Service Director for the Santa Fe Public Schools stated in 2021 that
10 seventy percent of students in Santa Fe County and the City of Santa Fe participated in the school
11 meal program; and

12 **WHEREAS**, in 2022, the New Mexico School Nutrition Association found that, due to
13 inflation, local school meal programs have seen costs for food purchases increase by up to 25
14 percent; and

15 **WHEREAS**, federal funding supports school meals programs through the National School
16 Lunch Program that is funded through the Child Nutrition Reauthorization; and

17 **WHEREAS**, information from PED shows that the National School Lunch Program
18 provides public schools with a reimbursement of \$4.83 for free lunches, \$4.43 for reduced-priced
19 lunches; and \$1.27 for fully paid lunches; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the National School Lunch Program provides public schools with a
21 reimbursement of \$2.82 for free breakfasts, \$2.52 for reduced-price breakfasts, and \$0.65 for fully
22 paid breakfasts; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the Healthy School Meals for All Bill (Universal School Meals Program Act

¹ <https://feedingamericaaction.org/resources/state-by-state-resource-the-impact-of-coronavirus-on-food-insecurity/>

1 of 2021) made school breakfasts and lunches free for all children; and

2 **WHEREAS**, the State’s purchase of New Mexico grown fruits and vegetables for school
3 lunches and senior meals programs in New Mexico and will enhance the diet of school children
4 and seniors and help school and senior meal programs comply with federal rules that require fruits
5 and vegetables on meal plates; and

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

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

12 **WHEREAS**, increased funding from the State Legislature enables senior, early childhood
13 education and school meal programs and local school districts to purchase New Mexico-grown
14 produce, serve more fresh fruits and vegetables to Santa Fe’s children and seniors for their health
15 and well-being, provide related educational materials and experiential learning opportunities, and
16 support economic development and opportunities for local farmers; and

17 **WHEREAS**, seventy-five percent of the funding in the federal Farm Bill is the Supplemental
18 Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which provides food security to nearly 540,000 New
19 Mexicans; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the GusNIP (Nutrition Incentive Program) Double Up Food Buck Program
21 provides important access to locally grown and raised foods in New Mexico; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the Santa Fe Farmers’ Market Institute reported over \$375,000 worth of
23 GusNIP Double Up Food Buck Program and SNAP sales in 2021 that both provided a nutrition
24 benefit to those who are food insecure and an economic benefit to the region’s farmers and ranchers;
25 and

1 **WHEREAS**, the federal Farm Bill Fresh Rx Program provides patients who are at-risk for
2 long-term diet related health outcomes due to unhealthy diets and/or lack of access to nutritious
3 foods fresh fruit and vegetable prescriptions to use at local farmers’ markets; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the Santa Fe Farmers’ Market Institute reported an increase of nearly 400
5 percent in the Fresh Rx program utilization year to date in 2022; and

6 **WHEREAS**, federal Farm Bill programs are designed to provide technical assistance and
7 conservation programs to assist farmers and ranchers in land stewardship and building their
8 businesses.

9 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Governing Body supports the
10 Legislature’s continued funding to expand the New Mexico Food Initiative and programs such as
11 the New Mexico-grown fresh fruits and vegetables for school and senior meals programs, related
12 education programs, the New Mexico Food Security Grant Program, and programs that expand
13 opportunities for farmers and ranchers.

14 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Governing Body supports the federal Child
15 Nutrition Reauthorization programs to benefit New Mexico such as the Healthy School Meals for
16 All Bill, which will provide free breakfasts and lunches for all children and increased funding for
17 programs such as Kids Eat Local Act, the School Food Modernization Act, the Women, Infants,
18 and Children Program (WIC), and WIC Farmers’ Market Nutrition Programs.

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

22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Governing Body supports the New Mexico Food
23 & Agriculture Policy Council’s federal Child Nutrition Reauthorization and Farm Bill
24 recommendations.

25 **PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED** the 14th day of December, 2022.



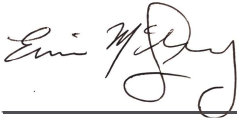
ALAN WEBBER, MAYOR

ATTEST:



KRISTINE MIHELIC, CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



ERIN K. McSHERRY, CITY ATTORNEY

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT**General Information:**(Check) Bill: _____ Resolution: XShort Title(s): Locally Grown FoodSponsor(s): Councilors Cassutt and VillarrealReviewing Department(s): City Attorney's OfficeStaff Completing FIR: Jesse Guillen Date: 10/13/22 Phone: 955-6518Reviewed by City Attorney:  Date: Nov 3, 2022Reviewed by Finance Director: Emily K. Oster Date: Nov 3, 2022
Emily K. Oster (Nov 3, 2022 16:38 MDT)**Summary:**This Resolution supports the New Mexico State Legislature's appropriations for the New Mexico-Grown Fruits and Vegetables for School Meals Program and other related programs.**Departments Affected:**None.**Consequences of Not Enacting Legislation:**If this legislation is not adopted, the Governing Body would not state its support for this program that benefits over 16,000 students in Santa Fe County.**Conflict, Duplication, Companionship, or Relationship to Other Legislation:**The Governing Body has adopted Resolutions in the past that support this appropriation request from the New Mexico State Legislature.**Performance and Administrative Implications:**None associated with this Resolution.**Fiscal Implications:**None identified.**Fiscal Impact**X Check here if no fiscal impact

Expenditures

Expenditure Type	FYE ____	FYE ____	FYE ____	Require BAR (Y/N)	Recurring (R) or Non-recurring (NR)	Fund	3-Year Total Cost
<u>Personnel and</u>	\$ ____	\$ ____	\$ ____	____	____	____	
<u>Benefits*</u>							
<u>Capital Outlay</u>	\$ ____	\$ ____	\$ ____	____	____	____	
<u>Contractual//</u>	\$ ____	\$ ____	\$ ____	____	____	____	
<u>Professional Services</u>							
<u>Operating</u>	\$ ____	\$ ____	\$ ____	____	____	____	\$ ____
<u>Total:</u>	\$ ____	\$ ____	\$ ____				\$ ____

* This includes all staff time associated with executing the job functions of the proposed legislation.

Expenditure Narrative:

None Identified.

Revenue

Revenue Type	FYE ____	FYE ____	FYE ____	Recurring (R) or Non-recurring (NR)	Fund
<u>General Fund</u>	\$ ____	\$ ____	\$ ____	____	____
<u>Special Revenue</u>	\$ ____	\$ ____	\$ ____	____	____
<u>CIP</u>	\$ ____	\$ ____	\$ ____	____	____
<u>Enterprise</u>	\$ ____	\$ ____	\$ ____	____	____
<u>Internal Service</u>	\$ ____	\$ ____	\$ ____	____	____
<u>Trust and Agency</u>	\$ ____	\$ ____	\$ ____	____	____
<u>Federal</u>	\$ ____	\$ ____	\$ ____	____	____
<u>Other</u>	\$ ____	\$ ____	\$ ____	____	____
<u>Total</u>	\$ ____	\$ ____	\$ ____		

Revenue Narrative:

None Identified.



Federal Child Nutrition Reauthorization Policies

What is CNR? The Child Nutrition Act Reauthorization ("CNR") authorizes federal school meal and child nutrition programs including the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, and the Child and Adult Care Food Program, among others. The package of bills that make up CNR is meant to be reauthorized every five years, but the last CNR to pass was the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. That makes this upcoming CNR a **once-in-a-decade** opportunity to strengthen the programs that feed our nation's kids.

We believe that building the next CNR on **these four shared community values** will move us closer to a just, equitable food system that promotes the health of all school children and benefits producers, workers, educators, and their communities:

- **Economic justice:** Farm to School and ECE isn't just about food miles, it's about the livelihoods of the people who grew, harvested, processed, and prepared this food. We have the chance to build relationships between producers, workers, and consumers in ways that enrich communities and address economic racial injustices.
- **Environmental justice:** Education and the purchasing power of meal programs can shift our food system away from practices that contribute to climate change and pollute communities of color, and towards a more equitable, sustainable use of our soil and water.
- **Health impact:** Farm to school and ECE activities go beyond getting kids the calories they need, but also give them the tools for childhood nourishment and lifelong health. In addition to key nutrients provided by school meals, kids should be empowered with the knowledge and skills to build healthy habits later in life and increase their sovereignty in our food system. School nutrition professionals should receive the equipment, training, and operational support to increase whole-ingredient, scratch cooking of healthier and tasty meals.
- **Prioritizing racial equity:** Progress towards a just food system requires us to address the historic and ongoing structural racism embedded in our food system and to actively promote food sovereignty and racial equity in farm to school and ECE activities.

In order for these values to be realized, it is important that the most impacted stakeholders in our communities have a core role in the development and implementation of the next CNR.

Priorities:

- Recognize the right of every child to nourishing meals by supporting the **Healthy School Meals for All (Universal School Meals Program Act of 2021)** to make school breakfasts and lunches free for all children. [Learn more here.](#)
- Funding that will adequately fund the program and ensure equitable access to the successful USDA Farm to School Grant Program with the **Farm to School Act of 2021.**

Increase immediate opportunities for local- and values-based procurement by supporting:

- The **Kids Eat Local Act**, which would make it easier for schools to source local food for school meals. [Learn more here.](#)
- The **Local School Foods Expansion Act** which gives schools in 14 states more flexibility to purchase more fresh, local, unprocessed or minimally processed fruit and vegetables for school meals through expanding the successful Unprocessed Fruit and Vegetable Pilot Program.
- The **Small Farm to School Act**, which would create a federal pilot of local procurement incentives that give school meal programs more resources to shift to local producers.

Expand scratch cooking training and infrastructure by supporting:

- The **Scratch Cooked Meals for Students Act**, which would provide grant funding for culinary training and technical assistance, kitchen equipment, and infrastructure, prioritizing grants to school districts with a high percentage of students receiving free and reduced-price lunch and districts with labor agreements. [Learn more here.](#)
- The **School Food Modernization Act**, which would provide the funding needed for schools to upgrade their kitchen equipment. [Learn more here.](#)

Support our littlest eaters and their early care and education (ECE) providers with improvements to the Child and Adult Care Food Program, including:

- The **Early Childhood Nutrition Improvement Act**, which would streamline administrative burdens for providers, making it easier for them to participate in CACFP. [Learn more here.](#)
- The **Access to Healthy Food for Young Children Act**, which would increase access to CACFP for kids in day care homes and provide funding for an additional meal or snack on long days. [Learn more here.](#)

The **NM Food & Agriculture Policy Council** and **NM School Nutrition Association** appreciate your consideration of our request. The following New Mexico based organizations have endorsed the **Universal School Meal Program Act** request.*

Diné Food Sovereignty Alliance
Our Lady of Guadalupe
UNM Community Engagement Center
CPLC NM & HELP NM
New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty
New Mexico Coalition of Educational Leaders
Agri-Cultura Network / La Cosecha CSA
Santo Nino Carson Food Bank
Food Bank of Eastern New Mexico
San Martin de Porres Soup Kitchen
Economic Council Helping Others (ECHO), Inc.
Farmington Municipal Schools
Hobbs Municipal Schools
Raices del Saber Xinachtli Community School
Victory Life Church
The Food Depot
El Camino Real Academy After School Program
Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Fe
Cooking with Kids, Inc.
Farm to Table
Los Amigos del Parque
Shiprock Traditional Farmers Cooperative
Rio Grande ATP
Shared Table Food Pantry
Truchas Services Center, Inc.
Gonzales Community School
Bright Beginnings CDC
Eastern Plains CAA, CACFP
New Mexico Association of Food Banks
New Mexico PTA

*Ref: Center for Science in the Public Interest and FRAC

Find more information: Pam Roy, New Mexico Food & Agriculture Policy Council,
pam@farmtotabenm.org, 505-660-8403, <https://nmfoodpolicy.org/>

NEW MEXICO Food & Agriculture POLICY COUNCIL

Farm Bill Priorities August 2022

The New Mexico Food & Agriculture Policy Council is focused on the 2023 Farm Bill and Child Nutrition Reauthorization. As we consider a wide range of Farm Bill priorities, we appreciate the opportunity to share and highlight how programs are working in New Mexico and some recommendations to consider for the upcoming Farm Bill that may provide more equitable access to programs by individuals, families, communities, farmers, ranchers, support organizations, and agencies.

We want to thank New Mexico's Congressional Delegation and staff for the opportunity to meet in person with our group of farmers and support organizations to share our Farm Bill and Child Nutrition program highlights from our specific experiences and to provide a few recommendations.

Over Arching Recommendations:

- 1) Provide equitable access to Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) who may have been historically discriminated against or marginalized, to all USDA programs and resources;
- 2) Provide a sliding scale approach to USDA programs access such as decreasing required matches depending on applicants' budgets and provide "turnkey" grants (no match required) for program requests less than \$50,000 for one-year requests;
- 3) Urge set asides for specific programs especially in Tribal and underserved communities;
- 4) Make funding available within the year of an approved loan or grant contract; and,
- 5) Increase USDA staff and technical assistance to meet the needs of all people and communities;
- 6) Strengthen protocols used in the determination of minority preference.

Teresa: start us off with hunger and access in NM

II Conservation Programs (Lawrence and Roger – please add your suggestions here)

- The importance of increased funding and targeted **EQIP in NM** that meet the needs of farmers, ranchers, and acequia participants
- Requesting options to make the **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)** more flexible
- **Conservation Technical Assistance** - Lawrence

- **Natural Resource Conservation Service Micro Loan Program - Jaime**
- **Grazing Lands Conservation Program - Lawrence**
- **Agriculture Resilience Act:**
 - Supports soil health programs, on-farm renewable energy, food loss and waste programs, pasture-based livestock, and farmer viability through **LAMP**.
- **Lawrence. Anthony**

Title IV Nutrition

- **Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP)**
 - New Mexico's seniors and farmers have benefited from the Senior FMNP for close to two decades. Federal fund for the Senior and WIC FMNP leverage important federal funding. In 2020, 60,000 low-income residents purchased NM produce with federal and state dollars totaling \$408,351 (ref: NM Farmers' Marketing Association)
 - **Recommendations:**
 - Make the program accessible to all state to apply based on low-income and food insecure senior populations.
 - Increase funding to \$50 million annually (currently at \$25 million)
 - Additional Admin Funds for the use of Full Time employees, as the vision for the NM Senior Program is to expand our program and have 1-2 staff in each region to assist Markets, farmers and participant with a large Outreach to all Senior Programs within their Region.
 - Advertising Funds- Facebook has been a great help, however we would love to provide our Markets, Farmers, Senior Program, Community Programs, advertisement information of our program.
 - Additional Funding for Seniors- to issue more than the \$50.00 for the Season. NM WIC & Senior Program issues once per year starting In July and we have many food insecure Seniors that have been asking if there is any possibility of receiving funds on a monthly basis as it truly helps them fill their fridges and canning storages
 -

- **GusNIP – Nutrition Incentive Program - Kierstan**

The Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP) provides grants on a competitive basis to projects that help low-income consumers access and purchase fresh fruits and vegetables through “cash” incentives that increase their purchasing power at locations like farmers

markets. GusNIP consists of subprograms for both traditional “SNAP incentives” projects and “Produce Prescription” projects.

Recommended reforms:

- Increase funding for SNAP incentives and Produce Prescription projects to \$200 million/year or 1% of total SNAP spending

- Reduce match requirements for SNAP incentives and Produce Prescription grants to 10%
- More targeted Technical assistance and outreach to BIPOC / socially disadvantaged communities and organizations.
- Clarify program design, that all 3 redemption models (produce for produce, SNAP for produce, produce for SNAP) should be allowable
- **Provide dedicated funding for existing, statewide programs**
- Allow states to embed incentive directly on state EBT/SNAP card
 - Led by Senator Stabenow
- **Geographic Preference for School Meals – *Kids Eat Local bill language***
 - Clarifies and simplifies to improve on past efforts to increase local purchasing
 - Sponsored by: Senator Brown & Congresswoman Pingree
 - **USDA Farm to School Grant Program**
- **USDA Farm to School Grant Program (In the Child Nutrition Reauthorization) - Marie**
 - Farm to School Grant Program, administered by the Food and Nutrition Service, awards competitive grants of up to \$500,000 to schools, school districts, state and local governments, Native American tribal organizations, non-profits, and agricultural producers. This funding supports a wide range of activities that support the healthy development of children in ECE settings and students across the nation, including activities that increase diet quality and improve long-term nutrition skills. Farm to school activities help to develop partnerships, establish supply chains, create new menu items, provide nutrition education, establish school gardens, encourage increased consumption of fruits and vegetables, and organize field trips to agricultural operations. Farm to school activities have also been found to increase student and teacher meal participation.

Recommendations:

- Increase funding
- Maintain turnkey granting of \$50,000 or less
- Decrease 1 for 1 match to a sliding scale based on applicants' annual budget
- **Produce Procurement Reform - NEW – Pam & Kendal**
 - Learning from the pandemic, there is a opportunity to create a new fresh produce emergency distribution program prioritizing local, small & mid-sized, BIPOC producers based on the successful contracts from the **Local Food Purchase Assistance Program**. New Mexico just received a **Local Food Procurement Agreement Project** (more than \$2 million over two years), an example of what a federal program like this can do to benefit New Mexico's food insecure individuals and communities New Mexico provide market opportunities

for farmers, a partnership between the NM Department of Agriculture, NM Farmers' Marketing Association and the NM Association of Food Banks.

- **Healthy Food Financing Initiative**
 - As part of the NM Food Farm and Hunger Initiative, the State has appropriated funds that can match federal dollars to support healthy food retail and food hub operations to strengthen and expand New Mexico local food systems and farming economy.
- **Community Food Project Grant Program** has been a long-standing program that has helped many NM communities get food system initiatives off the ground including food hubs and rural grocery initiatives, increasing food access initiative in rural and underserved urban areas, farm to school programs.
- **Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations**
 - Recommendation: provide local preference option

VI Rural Development

- **Value Added Producer Grants (VAPG)**
 - Increase funding
 - Reduce match for producers earning less than \$250,000, AGI to 25%
 - Create new lending and loan guarantee authority for producers to purchase equipment and construction of facilities for value added products
 - Allow for loans to non-rural projects if a primary purpose is to benefit rural communities/producers
 - Priority for projects benefitting underserved communities
 - Loan and guarantee appropriations authorization of \$10 million/year
- **Rural Energy Assistance Program (REAP):** used by farmers and ranchers in NM.
- **Support set aside for conservation programs.**

- **Value – Added Infrastructure: marker bill ideas** (follow the law – program already exists. Higher transaction should be a grant to communities in need (low-income demographic) USDA Rural Development Guaranteed Loan Program)

Emergency Loans:

Will farmers and individuals be taxed for their emergency funds

X Horticulture

- **Local Agriculture Marketing Program (LAMP)**

- LAMP is an umbrella program that consists of the following separate subprograms: the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program (FMPP and LFPP), the Value Added Producer Grant (VAPG) Program, and the Regional Food Systems Partnership (RFSP) Program.
- **Recommendations:**
 - **Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMPP) - Kierstan**
 - Increase funding
 - Create turnkey grants for common projects of less than \$100K with no match requirement
 - Provide AMS authority to award priority points to ensure geographic diversity
 - Reduce match to 10% for organizations with annual budgets of less than \$350K
 - Allow for a limited amount of grant funds to be used for equipment
 - **Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP) - Kierstan**
 - Increase funding
 - Create turnkey grants for common projects of less than \$100K with no match requirement
 - Provide AMS authority to provide priority points to ensure geographic diversity
 - Reduce match to 10% for organizations with annual budgets of less than \$350,000
 - Allow for a limited amount of grant funds to be used for equipment
 - **Regional Food Systems Projects (RFSP) - Pam**
 - New Mexico is one of the first recipients of this new program at close to \$1 million in grant funding over 4 years matched by state and private funds.
 - **Recommendations include:**
 - Increase funding
 - Ensure that regional food chain coordination is a recognized activity for all programs

Farm & Ranch Support Programs - Yani

- **Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach Program (FOTO)**, established in Section 12301 of the 2018 Farm Bill. The FOTO program merged the authorities for the **Beginning Farmer and Ranchers Development Program (BFRDP)** and the **Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers** (also known as 2501). The \$10 million funding request would meet increased needs for the effective combination of education and training models designed to support new farmers and historically underserved producers.

- **Prioritize programs that support veterans in farming and ranching:**

- Continue to fund the military veteran's agricultural liaison position, and make sure the person holding that title has that role as their sole responsibility and support staff.
 - Continue to support the enhancing agricultural opportunities for military veterans (agvets) grant program.
 - Support the National Agrability Project
- Requesting support for the **Small and Very Small Processor Support Programs and FSIS Fees for small scale meat processing such as the** C4 Farms ranch near Tierra Amarilla.
- **USDA Meat & Poultry Inspection Readiness Grant:** Agriculture Secretary, Tom Vilsack, announced on Nov. 22, 2021 that the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) would invest \$32 million in grants to 167 meat and poultry slaughter and processing facilities to support expanded capacity and efficiency. New Mexico awardees include C4 Enterprises Inc., award \$198,000 near Tierra Amarilla and the MGS Enterprises Award Amount: \$200,000 in the Four Corners Area.

- **Concern:**

- Strengthen protocols in determining minority determination and priority of programs
- Some land-owners who are well resourced may lease land to people who qualify for the resources but the land owner receives the resource.
- *Ask Casey Holland, Chispas Farm, how she was able to work with NRCS and the landowner she leases from.*
- **Look at National Young Farmers Coalition Farm Bill priorities**

XII Miscellaneous

- Urban Agriculture: numerous NM organizations and farms have applied to this new grant program.

Agriculture Labor: (Pam added)

We support agricultural labor standards including:

- Worker protection standards regarding wage rates, health, safety, and housing conditions to migrant, seasonal, minority and other farm laborers and for education of their children;
- A right to organize; and,
- A livable wage that includes all compensation (includes wages, housing...)

- This helps to modify the Fair Labor Standards Act (of 1938) and the National Relations Act (of 1936)

We support the creation of a program, similar to the Fair Food Program, assuring a voluntary, worker-driven collaborative process between farms and workers on farms to deliver certifiable, market rewarded, and market-enforced payment of products to benefit wages, profits, and livelihoods of workers and farmers.

We ask USDA to create incentives for participation in the program. Programs like these could allow workers to gain more market share towards wages, accountability of employers for fair standards and hearing grievances, and buy-in from food product end users to ensure that goods are not purchased at low-production cost and labor rates.

Forest Management

- We urge the implementation of the appropriate management of our forests.
- We support appropriate and full compensation for those harmed by loss of control of management practices, whether by mismanagement or “Act of God”.

Child Nutrition Reauthorization – School Nutrition Programs: Marie

We support:

- Supporting Universal School Meals: Need higher reimbursement rates to cover all food, staff, and supplies
- Prioritizing culturally significant foods – grain alternatives such as starchy vegetable additional such as corn potatoes and tubers
- Allowing protein alternative’s and increase funding
- Making it easier to have milk/dairy alternatives
- Increasing funding for equipment
- Prioritizing locally grown preferences
- Reducing administrative burdens

The **New Mexico Food & Agriculture Policy Council** continues to research and refine its **Farm Bill and Child Nutrition Reauthorization recommendations for 2022 – 2023**. We look forward to continued education and unifying our priorities to share with **NM’s Delegation** and the New Mexico Delegation for your support and leadership.

Recommendations and suggestions as of August 22, 2022

Contact: Pam Roy, Farm to Table and the NM Food & Agriculture Policy Council, 505-660-8403, pam@farmtotablenm.org, <https://nmfoodpolicy.org/>