

**SANTA FE COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024- 140**

Introduced by: Commissioner Camilla Bustamante

---

**A RESOLUTION TO IMPLEMENT THE SANTA FE FOOD POLICY COUNCIL  
REPORT ON STRENGTHENING AND EXPANDING FOOD, NUTRITION,  
AND AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS IN SANTA FE**

---

**WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 2008-5 was a joint resolution that established a food policy council for the City of Santa Fe (City) and Santa Fe County (County) and created the Santa Fe City and County Advisory Council on Food Policy (the Council); and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the Council is to integrate all departments of the City and County as well as non-profit organizations and food and farming businesses in a common effort to promote food security, improve access to retail outlets that offer healthy and affordable food, encourage healthy eating by all residents to reduce obesity and diet-related diseases, and protect the natural resources necessary to produce food; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council recommends food policies that pertain to the direct service of food, lobbying, and advocacy before state and federal legislatures and agencies, referral to social services, economic development, and nutrition and health education; and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners (Board) passed Resolution No. 2014-131, which adopted the 2014 Santa Fe Food Plan *Planning for Santa Fe's Food Future: Querencia, a Story of Food, Farming and Friends*, which provides recommendations in three categories: Getting Food, Growing Food, and Learning About Food; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2019, the County launched the AgriGate of Santa Fe County program and digital platform <https://www.agrigatesfc.org> to connect local food producers with local food buyers and agricultural resource providers; and

**WHEREAS**, New Mexico has a vibrant food and farming culture that is significant to our rural, urban, and tribal economies 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**, there is a wide variety of agricultural production in the City and County, that includes traditional farming and ranching, greenhouse production, hydroponics, aquaponics, hoop house growing, community gardens, and backyard gardening; and

SFC CLERK RECORDED 11/13/2024

**WHEREAS**, in 2022, the dollar value of New Mexico’s gross receipts sales from crops and livestock production was \$3.71 billion, 17 percent above 2021.<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS**, according to the 2023 Feeding the Economy report, New Mexico’s food and agriculture industry had an economic impact of \$40.23 billion <sup>2</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, studies have shown that for every dollar that goes toward local agricultural producers, \$1.80 is circulated in the local economy; and

**WHEREAS**, 15,420 individuals in Santa Fe County, or 10% of the population are food-insecure<sup>3</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, in New Mexico, 13% of seniors fall below the poverty level<sup>4</sup>, while approximately 98,000 seniors fall below 185% of the federal poverty income guidelines, and approximately 56,000 seniors fall below 130% the federal poverty income guidelines<sup>5</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, 17,803 students in 45 Santa Fe Public Schools<sup>6</sup> and 2,287 students in seven Moriarty-Edgewood schools<sup>7</sup> are eligible to participate in the school meal program; and

**WHEREAS**, many children consume at least one-half of their daily calories at school,<sup>8</sup> and for many, food served at school is the only meal eaten daily; and

**WHEREAS**, increasing consumption of healthy food is a priority in the County’s Health Action Plan, including increasing the percentage of adolescents and percentage of adults within the County consuming five or more fresh fruits and vegetables a day, and

**WHEREAS**, promoting healthy food habits and increasing consumption of healthy food is a goal in the County’s Senior Service Strategic Plan, including integrating fresh produce into meals provided at County senior centers; and

**WHEREAS**, long-term, recurring, and consistent funding for these programs is imperative, and

**WHEREAS**, the County’s Strategic Plan recommends continued collaboration with and support of local farmers to provide fresh, locally grown produce and products; and

---

<sup>1</sup>[https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/New\\_Mexico/Publications/Annual\\_Statistical\\_Bulletin/2022/2022-NM-Ag-Statistics.pdf](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/New_Mexico/Publications/Annual_Statistical_Bulletin/2022/2022-NM-Ag-Statistics.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://losalamosreporter.com/2023/03/21/report-reveals-new-mexico-food-agriculture-sector-has-40-23-billion-economic-impact/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://thefooddepot.org/>

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/measures/poverty\\_sr/poverty\\_sr-other/NM](https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/measures/poverty_sr/poverty_sr-other/NM)

<sup>5</sup> New Mexico Human Services Department [https://www.hsd.state.nm.us > wp-content > uploads](https://www.hsd.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads)

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.publicschoolreview.com/new-mexico/santa-fe>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.publicschoolreview.com/new-mexico/moriarty-edgewood-school-district/3501890-school-district>

<sup>8</sup> <https://voicesforhealthykids.org/impact/success-stories/making-the-school-day-healthier-in-new-mexico>

**WHEREAS**, the New Mexico Food Initiative, a set of food, farm, and hunger initiatives across eight state agencies, creates the greatest impact by increasing healthy food access and food security for all residents, while providing for farm and food job opportunities, expanding sustainable growth and resilience in food and farm enterprises; and

**WHEREAS**, Legislative resources are important to state agencies such as the NM Departments of Agriculture, Economic Development, NM State University, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Aging and Long-Term Services, Public Education Department, Early Childcare and Education, and the Office of the State Engineer, and

**WHEREAS**, state funding for these departments is essential to soil, water, acequia conservation, and agriculture workforce programs, including other support programs that are critical to the environmental and economic sustainability of New Mexico farmers and ranchers; and

**WHEREAS**, expanding funding for the Food Initiatives is essential, as these funds are allocated annually, some of these programs did not receive sufficient or any funding in the FY2025 budget; and

**WHEREAS**, the Food Initiative includes important programs such as: Healthy Universal School Meals, NM Grown for senior, schools, and early childcare meal programs, NM Senior and WIC Farmers Market Nutrition and Programs, and more; and

**WHEREAS**, these programs benefit food insecure and marginalized individuals and families, children, seniors, farmers and ranchers, Tribal communities, institutional food and nutrition programs, support organizations and agencies.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of County that the County will implement recommendations, to the extent feasible, from the Santa Fe City and County Food Policy Council's 2024 Report on the New Mexico Food Charter and Annual 2023-2024 Report Card including:

1. The County shall strive to support programs that benefit the long-term economic viability and well-being of individuals, entities, and businesses engaged in New Mexico's food system;
2. The County shall advocate for beneficial food and agricultural programs through state legislative actions that support the Food Initiative and other related programs such as but not limited to:
  - a. Healthy universal school meals,
  - b. New Mexico Grown for K-12, early childhood and senior centers,
  - c. Farm to Food Bank,
  - d. Food Is Medicine – Medicaid Waiver for medically tailored meals and produce prescriptions also known as the Fresh Rx Program,
  - e. Approved Supplier Program (farmers and ranchers food safety training program) budget increase,

- f. Senior & WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs,
  - g. Water initiatives and farmer programs;
3. The County shall seek opportunities to advocate for long-term, recurring, and consistent funding, that capitalizes the Food Initiative and other related programs; and
  4. The County shall support legislation that prioritizes soil and water conservation, acequias, and agriculture workforce programs that are critical to the environmental and economic sustainability of New Mexico farmers, ranchers, and communities.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED ON THIS 12<sup>th</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2024.**

**SANTA FE COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

By: *Hank Hughes*  
Hank Hughes, Chair



ATTEST:  
*Katharine E. Clark*  
Katharine E. Clark  
Santa Fe County Clerk

Date: 11/13/2024

Approved as to form:

*Peter Valencia for*  
Jeff Young  
Santa Fe County Attorney

SFC CLERK RECORDED 11/13/2024

COUNTY OF SANTA FE ) BCC RESOLUTIONS  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO ) ss PAGES: 4

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for Record On The 13TH Day Of November, 2024 at 11:23:03 AM And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 2046517 Of The Records Of Santa Fe County



Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office  
Katharine E. Clark  
Deputy *[Signature]* County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM