Santa Fe City and County, Advisory Council on Food Policy
Thursday, October 8, 2026,
9:00AM-11AM

In Person Location: Santa Fe County Extension Office
3229 Rodeo Road
Santa Fe, NM 87507-4892

A. CALL TO ORDER 10:10am

B. ROLL CALL
Susan Perry, Co-Chair - Present
Peter Ives, Co-Chair – Excused
nate crail - Excused
Eric Renz-Whitmore - Excused
David Sundberg - Excused
Coy Maienza - Present
Emigdio Ballon - Excused
Erica Renaud - Present
Harrison Gibson - Present

We do not have a quorum.

Staff:
Pam Roy, Coordinator
Helen Henry, Scribe

Guests:
James Martinez, Nutrition Coordinator for Santa Fe County Senior Services
Herbert Foster, Planning Team Leader, Santa Fe County
Joseph Scala, Community Planner, Santa Fe County
Catherine Nolte, Policy Specialist, The Food Depot
Diana M Tarasiewicz, Director, Nutrition Services Santa Fe Public Schools
Andrew Neighbour, owner, Desert Verde

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – [ACTION] October 8, 2026
Prioritization and Agenda Order
Did not do - no quorem

D. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – September 10, 2026 [ACTION]
Did not do - no quorem

E. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR
None

F. INITIATIVES AND ACTIONS
1. Local Updates/Federal/State
NM State Legislative Priorities: Discuss updates of the 2027 NM Legislative food and agriculture priorities presented at the last meeting. Once approved by the SFFPC they will be submitted to the County and City [ACTION]
Pam went over the NM Food & Ag Policy Council's legislative priorities, which is an evolving document which reflects a changing landscape, especially for funding.
Catherine shared about a SNAP working group that is looking at various ways that the SNAP program can be shored up at the state level.

- Regional Farm to Food Bank Program – $2,000,000 (recurring request) to continue New Mexico's highly successful Farm to Food Bank Program for New Mexico.
- Approved Supplier Program – $430,000 (recurring request)
- New Mexico Grown Program for Seniors – $1,500,000 for senior center meal program to purchase NM grown and raised food from farmers and ranchers.
- Double Up Food Bucks Program – Up to $3,000,000 to the NMDA and is managed by the New Mexico Farmers' Marketing Association. The NM Legislature approved $1,000,000 for FY2027.
- Healthy Universal School Meals, FY2027 funding levels are $42.2 million and $5.1793 million
- Healthy Food Financing Fund -- $4,000,000 (recurring request), This is a priority of the NM Economic Development Department (NMEDD) that will be requesting an increase in funding (recurring) due to the demand and successes of the Program. FY2028 request will include technical assistance component. The NM Legislature funded the program at $2,000,000 for FY2027.
- New Mexico Department of Health Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs – $2,500,000 (recurring request) The NM Legislature funded the program at $1,000,000 for FY2027.
- Agriculture Water Resilience Program - $20,000,000 (recurring request) for FY 2028, This is a priority of New Mexico State University. The Program received $10,000,000 for FY2027.
- New Mexico Food Recovery, Organic Waste Reduction and Composting Act
- Introduction by the NM Healthy Soil Working Group. Introduced in 2026 NM Legislative session.
- NM Acequias and Soil & Water Conservation Districts Programs and resources that benefit farmers and ranchers including soil and water conservation and acequia infrastructure projects, water resilient resources for farmers and ranchers, and other support programs such as but not limited to:
    - Funds to provide to Soil & Water Districts trainings and staff
    - River stewardship funding
    - A Memorial on water restoration programs
    - Land Grant-Merced Acequia Infrastructure Act

- Update New Mexico's Land Conservation Incentives Act for our Land, Water, Economy & Culture

Pam and Kirsten Hansen will be putting together a roundtable of farmers and ranchers that will be meeting at Albuquerque nextTuesday with the Senator to talk about fuel prices.

Andrew is interested in being able to expand the capacity to produce food through aquaponics and hydroponics because it is the best way to produce food without extensive water inputs.

Pam mentioned having to work around the anti-donation clause requirements, which create additional barriers to funding.

2. Update Food Plan from Food Plan Committee
Drafts of proposed maps for Food Plan (nate crail and County team).

Erica shared the current version of the working document. The document has moved from the initial three areas to six areas.

Joseph gave an update on the mapping aspect of the Food Plan. His department has been having conversations with Commissioner Bustamante about what information the maps need to show. He would like to invite their GIS person to the next meeting.

Pam talked about next steps in evolving the Food Plan. Questions about how to make this both strategic for the Council's work and how to eventually make it public facing.

Sue suggested that we take one goal to begin with and go in depth into the goal with the stakeholders at the table who can help us hone in on the outcomes.

Andrew was interested in having the document be as inclusive as possible and would be happy to work on this.
Erica and Joseph both commented that the timing of this document intersects with other efforts at the city and county level, such as being able to address the Urban Ag ordinance.

Erica suggested that we assign a leader to each of the six goals so that these people can give updates. We can do this at the next Food Plan meeting.

When do we want to have the final product ready?

Next meeting: Thus, Nov 5, 1-3pm at the County building with an option to join virtually.

G. PRESENTATIONS:
Diana M Tarasiewicz, Director, Nutrition Services
Santa Fe Public Schools: "Great Ingredients, Great Cafeteria Food, New Mexican Grown".

This presentation highlighted many of the farmers that they work with directly.

Diana gave an overview of the providers that they work with. They receive $75,000 as a New Mexico grown grant, and from that, they spend 40% on meat only, and the rest has to be fruits and vegetables.

Reunity Resources picks up all of their food waste as well as growing food for the district.

They have salad bars in every school. They buy their beef raw and cook it themselves. Even when they can't get local produce, they supply a salad bar with American-grown produce.

Our budget is so limited, because we're not funded by the school district. We're only funded by reimbursements for meals that we serve. Oh, wow. So… and food is becoming more expensive, but yet reimbursements are staying the same.

James Martinez, SF County Senior Services Nutrition Manager: Santa Fe County Seniors and New Mexican Grown Food.

James gave an update on the Senior Service program in terms of what they offer and how they meet the needs of seniors in the county, challenges and programs. They provide congregate and also home delivered meals. Meals provide nutrition but also serving meals is an important way to provide connection between people. They follow strict standards for meal preparation and food safety. The focus on having variety while also keeping the menus familiar. They work with the concept that food is medicine. They received $30,000 from NM Grown this year.

They serve about 1500 people per day. He will send more specific numbers and also send the slides.

H. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Website re-build and transfer- Draft presented Helen Henry

Did not have enough time for this.

I. ITEMS FROM THE COUNCIL

Member update

Harrison's membership has been approved.

J. ITEMS FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

1. New member update
2.. Next Meeting: November 12, 2026: Hybrid
4. Topics for future presentations

November: Catherine said that Cecilia and Natalie, The Food Depot navigators,can do a presentation.

K. ADJOURNMENT 11:13am

These notes were taken contemporaneously and may contain errors and omissions.
Signed by _____Helen Henry_____ Helen Henry.

I verify that these notes have been approved by a quorum of members of the
Santa Fe Food Policy Council.
Signed by Susan Perry, Co-chair or, Peter Ives, Co-chair

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