

FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR OLDER AND DISABLED NEW MEXICANS IS UNDER THREAT

LFC recommended eliminating the State SNAP Supplement



New Mexico has one of the highest rates of food insecurity among seniors in the country.¹

46% of New Mexico seniors report having to choose between buying food, and paying for utilities (compared to 35% nationally).² The State Supplement addresses this fact by ensuring that 13,679 low-income older and disabled New Mexicans with net monthly income of no more than \$908 receive at least \$25 a month³ in SNAP/Food Stamps to put food on the table.

\$1.2 Million is needed to keep this important program going.

When the federally-funded SNAP benefit that an individual receives is less than \$25, state funding raises it to \$25.

The minimum federal SNAP benefit is \$16 per month. This does not take into account the special needs of older and disabled individuals that can increase their food costs: diet restrictions, no working stove, inability to cook due to health problems, or difficulty getting to an affordable (or any) store.



The State Supplement makes a difference! Here's what \$9.00 can buy:⁴

Sam's	
111 Paseo De Peralta 505-255-2828	
MILK 1/2 GLN	\$2.00
EGGS 1 DZN	\$1.50
BREAD, WHITE	\$1.50
APPLES 1 LB	
@ \$1.40/LB	\$1.50
CHICKEN, 1.6 LB	
@ 1.50/LB	\$2.50
SUBTOTAL	\$9.00
TOTAL	\$9.00

SNAP Spending Spurs Economic Activity

SNAP benefits are urgently needed, so recipients spend them quickly—97% of benefits are redeemed by the end of the month of issuance – spent almost entirely on local purchases. Experts estimate that every dollar of SNAP results at least \$1.70 in economic activity. Protecting SNAP benefits supports healthy communities and local economies now - when both need all the help they can get.

¹ NM Department on Aging and Long Term Services, *available at* http://www.nmaging.state.nm.us/uploads/FileLinks/bfde5e90da214f88a7211f760f5b9620/ALTSD_General_FY13_3_3_14.pdf

² *Id.*

³ Net monthly income for a one person household. This program has already been cut. In 2011, the minimum benefit dropped from \$30 to \$25/month.

⁴ Bureau Of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index, *available at* <https://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/surveymost?ap>

County	New Mexicans Receiving the SNAP Supplement
Bernalillo	4409
Catron	212
Chavez	487
Cibola	200
Colfax	128
Curry	279
DeBaca	21
Dona Ana	1448
Eddy	327
Grant	4
Guadalupe	69
Harding	4
Hidalgo	27
Lea	27
Lincoln	145
Los Alamos	8
Luna	314
Mckinley	462
Mora	56
Otero	387
Quay	116
Rio Arriba	342
Roosevelt	129
San Juan	617
San Miguel	318
Sandoval	493
Santa Fe	733
Sierra	238
Socorro	227
Taos	308
Torrance	191
Union	19
Valencia	560