SNAP Outreach:

Getting more food to your clients
LET'S TALK ABOUT HUNGER

Confused by the language of food crises? Learn how to spot them early and understand how your action can help save lives.

FOOD SECURITY
When all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to meet their dietary needs for an active and healthy life.

- <5% of the population is acutely malnourished
- means of earning an income
- >15 liters of water per person per day
- >2,100 calories per person per day; consistent quantity and quality of food available
FOOD INSECURITY
When people’s access to food is minimally adequate and they have trouble meeting their basic needs.

- 5-10% of the population is acutely malnourished
- Unsustainable means of earning an income
- About 15 liters of water per person per day but unstable
- 2,100 calories per person per day; barely adequate diet
ACUTE FOOD AND LIVELIHOOD CRISIS

When there is a critical lack of access to food coupled with high levels of acute malnutrition—or when people can meet minimal food needs only by selling essential possessions.

10-15% of the population is acutely malnourished
Serious interruption to the means of earning an income
7.5-15 liters of water per person per day
Unable to meet 2,100 calories per person per day without extreme measures; limited food choices
HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY

When there is a severe lack of access to food, high and increasing acute malnutrition, excess deaths, and people face an irreversible loss of their means of earning an income.

15–30% of the population is acutely malnourished

Critical and irreversible interruption to the means of earning an income

4–7.5 liters of water per person per day

<2,100 calories per person per day; access to 3 or fewer food groups
FAMINE
When people face a complete lack of access to food and other basic needs and experience mass starvation, death, and destitution.

>30% of the population is acutely malnourished

Complete loss of the means of earning an income

<4 liters of water per person per day

An extreme shortage of calories per person per day; access to 1-2 food groups
Consequences of Hunger

- Weakens the immune system
- Adversely affects productivity
- And concentration
- Increases the risk for developing diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular complications, anxiety, and aggression

**Vulnerable populations:**
- Expectant mothers
- Children
- Seniors
Food Insecurity in New Mexico

- Higher than the national average in both food insecurity and childhood food insecurity
- 17.3% food insecurity rate
- Ranked 49th in the nation for child wellbeing
  - 28% of our children are food insecure
  - 1 in 3 children in the state are hungry


Source: NM Data Collaborative, 2015.
What is SNAP?

• Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
• Formerly known as “food stamps”
• Used by 48 million people nationwide (about 1 in 7)
• Used by 441,000 New Mexicans (1 in 5)
• Provides monthly benefits to help low-income people purchase food
How SNAP Works

Federal Level
United States Department of Agriculture
- Federal funding
- Federal policies

State Level
Human Services Department:
**Income Support Division (ISD)**
- Process applications
- Make determinations

Provides outside assistance
Roadrunner Food Bank
- Does NOT work for ISD
- Assists with applications
- No control over outcomes
The Benefits

• Administered on an EBT (Electronic Benefit Transfer) card
• The benefits are modest:
  • $1.50 per person per meal, on average
• Benefits are used up quickly:
  • Nearly 80% of SNAP benefits are used within the first half of the month
• SNAP dollars help families put nutritious food on the table
  • 85% of benefits are spent on fruit and vegetables, grains, dairy, meat, and meat alternatives
SNAP Helps!

• SNAP reduces food insecurity and improves child health outcomes.
• Adults who grew up with access to SNAP benefits in utero and early childhood experienced:
  - 16% decline in the likelihood of being obese.
  - 18% increase in the likelihood of completing high school.
• Counting SNAP as income kept 4.7 million people out of poverty in 2014, including 2.1 million children.
• SNAP benefits allow individuals to spend money on health and preventative medical care.
How SNAP Outreach Helps

• SNAP 2016 Impact Calculator from FA:
   5 assists Equals:
    ➢ $17,586 estimated SNAP benefits generated
    ➢ $31,479 economic impact generated
    ➢ 6,064 meals

• Addresses the 44,100 eligible individuals not currently participating in the program in New Mexico

• Increases awareness of SNAP in the community

• Increases self-sufficiency and purchasing power of the hungry

• Dispels myths about the program
A Brief History

- **1939: Food Stamp Program (FSP) created**
  - $1 worth of orange stamps = 50¢ worth of blue stamps
  - Blue used for surplus

- **1943: FSP suspended**
  - The program ended "since the conditions that brought the program into being- unmarketable food surpluses and widespread unemployment- no longer existed."

- **1964: Food Stamp Act made FSP permanent**
A Brief History

1990s-2004: EBT cards replace paper stamps
  • Increases the efficiency of the program
  • Cuts back on fraud

2008: Food Stamp Program renamed “SNAP”
  • Attempt to reduce stigma of “food stamps”
  • States can adopt their own name for the program
SNAP Myths

• SNAP is only for families.
  • SNAP is for anyone who meets the eligibility criteria including: individuals, families, the elderly, children, the homeless, the disabled, etc.

• People stay on SNAP for as long as they can.
  • Half of SNAP participants leave after 9-10 months. Most leave within two years. For New Mexicans, 15 months is the average time on SNAP.
SNAP Myths

• People who use SNAP are lazy and don’t want to work.
  • The majority of able-bodied non-elderly adult SNAP participants are working or actively looking for work

• You cannot get SNAP if you own a home or car.
  • New Mexico is not currently using an assets test. You can own a home, a car, have savings in the bank and still be eligible for SNAP.
SNAP Myths

• I am taking benefits away from others who need them more.
  • Everyone who is approved for SNAP benefits will receive them. You are not taking them away from someone else.

• SNAP benefits are used to purchase nonfood items.
  • SNAP can only be used to purchase products designed for human consumption
  • SNAP cannot buy: alcohol; cigarettes/tobacco; prepared deli foods; non food items such as medicine, toiletries, etc.
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By the way.....a few words on the T.A.N.F. program.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), known in New Mexico as NMWorks, provides cash assistance to families who qualify.

or

General assistance can provide cash assistance for dependent needy children and disabled adults who are not eligible for assistance under a federally matched cash assistance program, such as New Mexico Works (NMW) or the Federal program of Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
SNAP Facts

- $1 SNAP equals $1.79 in local economic impact

- Children of undocumented immigrants can receive SNAP if they are citizens or LPRs

- US citizens and certain "qualified immigrants" can receive SNAP
  - Lawful Permanent Residents (green card holder)
  - Certain refugees and individuals seeking asylum
  - Battered spouses and children
  - Cuban/Haitian entrants
Jason’s Client Story

And

Questions