



THE ROADRUNNER ROUNDUP

FALL 2023



MEMBER OF
FEEDING
AMERICA

Legislation Influences Funding for Programs that Touch the Lives of our Neighbors in Need

In 2023, the Farm Bill will be reauthorized by Congress. You may ask, why do food banks care about the Farm Bill? Reauthorization comes around every five years or so and it is considered an omnibus (a multi-year law that covers an array of agricultural and food programs). The Farm Bill is critical in terms of investment in infrastructure, economic development, conservation, and nutrition, particularly for underserved communities across the country. It is broken down into 12 different titles, each of which is quite broad and includes numerous programs. Title IV includes nutrition programs.

Decisions made about the Farm Bill impact hundreds of thousands of low-income people in New Mexico and influence the funding threshold caps set and established by the legislation for multiple years. Many of the programs administered through Title IV of the bill ensure access to healthy food for families in need. These include:

- The Supplemental Nutrition Access Program (SNAP). The program improves economic security for people who apply and qualify for the benefit based on income. SNAP helps low-income people buy nutritious food through a monthly benefit at participating grocery stores.
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) allows for food purchased by the USDA to be made available to low-income communities through food banks, food pantries, and other community-based organizations. Roadrunner receives all TEFAP foods for its 16-county direct service area and equitably distributes it across our service area weekly.



- The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) makes USDA foods available to low-income individuals living in indigenous communities and families living in designated areas nearby.
- The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) provides nutritious pre-boxed USDA foods to low-income seniors who are at least 60 years old through a variety of nonprofits across the state.

The Nutrition Title of the Farm Bill makes up about 80 percent of the total legislation and is a vital aspect for rural and urban communities alike. Low-income individuals rely on Farm Bill programs to feed their families, and ranchers, farmers, and growers rely on the Farm Bill to provide food to the nation. In addition, the nonprofits who partner with government entities carry out the logistical aspects of the program to quite literally put meals on the tables of our neighbors in need. For Roadrunner Food Bank, USDA foods complement what we purchase and what we receive as donated food items from the community. Each are so important in helping us provide a variety of healthy and nutritious food items including fruits, vegetables,

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Roadie Brings Joy into the World

It is smiles all around when Roadie shows up. The food bank's mascot has been active this past year getting out and bringing a little joy to the lives of everyone Roadie comes into contact with. Roadie pops into the warehouse to thank volunteers, helps out in making our corporate donors feel special and recognized, and brings a pep to the steps of staff walking miles and miles around the warehouse daily.

Our special ambassador also loves to attend food distributions. These special visits catch people we serve by surprise - they never expect to be greeted and amused while waiting in line for food. The staff member who plays Roadie said of the experience, "My day job at the food bank keeps me in an office. Being able to provide this unique experience to so many is really a fun treat for me too. Roadie gets to help spread some happiness

and brighten someone's day. You never know what people are going through and often they light up when they see Roadie coming."



Follow Roadie's Visits:

-  roadrunner.food.bank
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Thoughts from our Supporters

"I was watching the news when a fundraising campaign came on. I felt the need to give back to those in need. I feel so blessed myself that I don't know the hardship of not knowing when my next meal will be. I can't imagine children and families having that worry. God spoke to my heart. I am so pleased that I could do my small part to help someone else."

— Joan

"Thank you for the work you do. I grew up in poverty and often lacked sufficient food. I'm grateful for the fact that I no longer have to worry about food insufficiency in my life. I know that there are many who still struggle and am happy to be able to help."

— Jeanne

Legislation Influences Funding for Programs that Touch the Lives of our Neighbors in Need *continued*

and other shelf-stable food items to people and partners we serve.

As the Farm Bill goes through committee and is debated and discussed, there is sometimes a desire to cut nutrition programs or include provisions and requirements that make SNAP and other nutrition programs more difficult to access and administer. It is our hope that we can count on you to help advocate for programs that reach children, seniors and families and lift them up in difficult situations.

For example, SNAP benefits our economy in a number of ways. According to research from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, \$1 in federal SNAP benefits available during an economic downturn generates \$1.50 in local economic activity.¹ These dollars benefit all parts of the food chain: farmers, food manufacturers, truckers, grocery stores, grocery store employees,

and people who receive these benefits. In 2021, research showed SNAP lifted 64,000 people above the poverty line. SNAP is also key in improving health outcomes and lowers healthcare costs by reducing food insecurity, which increases the opportunities for families and people on the program to purchase healthier food items, and frees up resources for other critical needs.²

While this legislation is still making its way through, we encourage you to act. Visit www.rafb.org/farm-bill. The links on the website will take you to a specialized portal to send an email, make a phone call or tweet our congressional delegation and encourage them to bolster federal nutrition programs.

¹ A Closer Look at Who Benefits from SNAP: State-by-State Fact Sheets | Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (cbpp.org)

² SNAP Is Linked With Improved Health Outcomes and Lower Health Care Costs | Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (cbpp.org)

Fellowship of the Desert Extends a Helping Hand by Volunteering

Roadrunner Food Bank is fortunate enough to count on the gracious support of many organizations in the community. One such group is the Chavurat Hamidbar, or Fellowship of the Desert in English.

The Fellowship was formed in 1973 by a group of young families who re-envisioned Jewish communal worship and social life outside the framework of traditional synagogues and Jewish denominations. The Chavurah was formed to provide an “extended family” for Jewish life in services, celebrations, education, and community without a structured congregation such as a building and paid professional clergy.

The group has volunteered since March and shared that it lines up extremely well with the Jewish tradition of G’milut Chasadim (acts of loving-kindness), which includes personal service performed without expectation of a reward.

Some standout moments from Fellowship members include volunteering alongside children and grandchildren. Members also shared the feeling of being useful, participating in a productive social event with others, and meeting volunteers from the rest of the community.

Member Barton Whol shared, “Jump in! You can make a difference with as little as two hours of volunteering a week. Affiliate with a group if you can. Camaraderie and familiar faces make it more pleasant. Becoming a part of a community where no matter what limitations you think you might have - there is a place for you to help, be appreciated, and give back. Most of all, when you leave your shift you walk away with a smile knowing you did your part in making the community a healthier place to live, and people will sleep better after having good food to eat.”

Thanks to every volunteer who joins together in service. Visit www.rrfb.org/volunteer or email volunteer@rrfb.org for questions.



Feeding Hope: Clinic Hosts Food Drive for 7 Years



Small businesses play a role in providing food to the people we serve. Journey Pediatrics has been hosting a food drive in their clinic for the past seven years.

Their team understands the crucial role nutrition plays in the health and development of children. They ask parents making appointments to consider donating food at their next visit, and try to raise 2,000 pounds of food annually.

Dr. Koil shared memories of meeting families in need where children were failing to thrive. Dr. Koil said, “It’s in these moments that the impact of resources like food pantries and food banks are also needed, as federal food programs like SNAP don’t always meet all of a family’s needs.”

Journey Pediatrics hopes that bringing awareness to childhood hunger will encourage more families of the clinic to be inspired to help.

Dr. Koil shared, “Stand up for the community. Our children are our next generation. For them to become healthy, productive adults, they need their tummies filled with good nutritious foods. So use any circle of influence possible, whether it’s a church, community center, or workplace to bring awareness to child hunger.”

Learn more: www.rrfb.org/fooddrives

Roadrunner Food Bank's Truck Receives New Wrap Sponsored by ExxonMobil

Roadrunner Food Bank partnered with ExxonMobil, who sponsored a brand-new truck wrap for one of Roadrunner Food Bank's vehicles. This trailer is part of our fleet which travels across the state, bringing food for New Mexicans facing hunger.

This gift is part of ExxonMobil's new initiative in New Mexico. "We're very excited about our partnership with Roadrunner Food Bank. What's important to us at ExxonMobil is that we tackle the issues in the communities where we live, work, and play. And we understand that folks in New Mexico go hungry, and we're deeply committed to solving that problem with Roadrunner Food Bank," said a spokesperson for ExxonMobil.

The new trailer was unveiled at a ceremony at the food bank in June with representatives from ExxonMobil and the food bank.

Joe Phyl, chief operating officer at Roadrunner Food Bank, said, "We are very thankful for this new truck wrap. Our trucks travel more than 600,000 miles every year bringing hope to New Mexicans experiencing hunger. They see our vehicles coming into their communities and know it's providing an important source of nutrition. We are thrilled that ExxonMobil is joining us and helping bring our services to people facing hunger all across the state."



Creative Ways to Give Back



Roadrunner Food Bank invites you to learn more about several unique ways you might consider making a non-cash gift and extending the impact of your support.

- **Do you have appreciated stock?** This is a great way to give while helping you save on two types of taxes. Scan the QR code or visit **FreeWill.com/Stocks/RoadrunnerFoodBank** to transfer your stock and make a powerful impact on our work this year.
- **Are you 70.5 or older?** You can make a tax-free donation to Roadrunner directly from your traditional IRA, reducing your future tax burden and helping fulfill any required minimum distribution you may have. Visit **FreeWill.com/QCD/RoadrunnerFoodBank** or scan the QR code to get started.



Scan codes using your phone's camera.

Ideas to Get Involved!

October is Car-tober: A vehicle donation can drive support to the organizations you love! Learn more at **www.rrfb.org/cardonations**

Nov. 18 (tentative): Letter Carriers Food Drive in Albuquerque. Leave bags filled with non-perishable food near your mailbox prior to the mail arriving. Your letter carrier will pick it up on our behalf.

Nov. 28: It's #GivingTuesday. It is a global day of giving! Join in! Bring together your family, friends, business or organization to do something for the community and in the community ... together! Visit **www.givingtuesday.org**

December: Thanks to the Abram and Ray Kaplan Foundation, Smith's Food and Drug Stores, and Jackalope, your contributions have twice the impact. Together, the three donors are matching a total of \$125,000 to the food bank.

Feb. 3: Souper Bowl 2024! Tickets will be on sale soon for our annual soup and dessert sampling event! They also make a great stocking stuffer! Visit **www.rrfb.org/souperbowl** for ticket details.

