



THE ROADRUNNER ROUNDUP

SUMMER 2026



Message from the President & CEO

As we head into the heart of the summertime here in New Mexico, Roadrunner Food Bank tends to fade from people's thoughts. The winter holidays are typically the time when people really think about hunger and supporting food banks. Summertime? Not as much. And that is a problem for us. Hunger does not have seasons; it is a year-long reality.

Summer is, in fact, an incredibly challenging time for children who are out of school. When the school year ends, so do school meals. It is a sad reality that breakfast or lunch at school can be the only real meal many kids get. Parents and caregivers have seen their budgets stretched to the breaking point as prices across the board continue to be stubbornly high. For every child you see around you in your daily comings and goings, just know that one in four face hunger here in New Mexico.

What can we do about it? Here at Roadrunner, we plan to help provide extra summer food distributions throughout the state and continue our work with our pop-up produce distributions and our new *Fresh Stop Mobile Market* program.

Launched in February as a strategic initiative to address gaps of food access in some of the most rural and geographically isolated communities, *Fresh Stop Mobile Markets* are designed as a "we come to you" model. The program delivers both fresh produce and shelf-stable dry goods directly to communities that face significant barriers to food access like long travel distances, limited retail infrastructure and transportation challenges because of the extremely rural nature of that community. To date, the program has served 4,834 households more than 270,000 lbs. of food at 76 different locations!

By bringing nutritious and high-quality food directly into these communities, *Fresh Stop Mobile Markets* are decreasing access barriers and closing gaps by

meeting communities where they are. As the program continues to grow, it has the potential to become a fundamental model for rural food distribution for families who wonder where their next meal will come from — especially this time of year.

There are also several ways that you and your family can help this summer. Here is a Family Action Checklist to help address Summer Hunger:

- **CREATE** a donation jar and start contributing money when you can.
- **BUY** a few extra food items to donate each time you shop.
- **SHARE** food with someone you know who could use a little extra support.
- **INVITE** a friend to volunteer with you at Roadrunner.
- **READ** a book or news article that deals with hunger or other related issues.
- **ORGANIZE** a community or neighborhood food/fund drive.
- **CONTACT** us and ask how else you can help, or visit www.rrfb.org.
- **YOUR FAMILY'S OWN IDEA:** _____

This summer, everyone at Roadrunner is working hard to ensure that kids and families have enough to eat. Thank you, as always, for all you do to support our work and for being part of the Roadrunner family.

Dana Yost
President and CEO



Flexible Pickup for Busy Lives

In its first year, Roadrunner Food Bank's Food Pantry and Community Resource Center has become one of the largest in the state. Though serving thousands of households during regular operating hours, an unmet need became clear — the limited hours left too many still unable to access help, demonstrated by the amount of after-hours walk-in requests.

To address this, Roadrunner Food Bank is piloting a food locker system, the first of its kind in New Mexico. "Food lockers have seen great success in other parts of the country and we are very excited to pilot the first one here," says Food Pantry Manager Marissa Brown.



"Locker pickup is a good option for those with transportation and schedule challenges that make getting help more difficult. Scheduling barriers like work schedules, vehicle availability, medical conditions, or other household situations can prevent shopping in person. Now, with this program we can offer flexible pickup for busy, complicated lives."

People can pick up from the lockers between 4:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. using a one-time pin code. The code pops open two lockers, one with a box of non-perishable, shelf stable items and one refrigerated containing a box of fresh, assorted produce and cold or frozen items like dairy, meat, or prepared meals. **Our neighbors can navigate a simple screen and take home nutritious food at the touch of a button!**

The menu screen is easy to operate and can be displayed in five different languages, with more to come. Currently, English, French, Vietnamese, Spanish, and Chinese are available to meet the communication needs of Albuquerque's diverse communities.

Meeting these needs and removing barriers to food access is a main pillar of this pilot. With many potential uses, this locker system can grow to help meet the needs of more rural communities where food access is limited and distributions are less frequent. Roadrunner Food Bank hopes to help rollout food lockers to partners in other parts of the state.

Roadie Knows

Here are some facts about The Roadrunner Food Pantry and Community Resource Center that Roadie wants you to know!

As of April 2026, the Roadrunner Food Pantry has served 4,608 households since we started last year in April! To be more specific we have served:

- 2,148 seniors
- 6,152 adults
- 3,218 children

Here are a couple more facts about the pantry!

- We serve about 500 households a week
- We have a weekly drive thru distribution each Saturday

Our Community Resource Center has also become a staple in helping our community gain access to food assistance. We offer application assistance for SNAP, LIHEAP, TANF, Medicaid, and Medicare Savings Program. We connect people from all 33 counties to food pantries near them. We also set up appointments for the Roadrunner Food Pantry. We help find the right fit for resources, depending on the person's situation and program availability.

— Roadie



SNAP Changes Bring Cost Increases to States

The One Big Beautiful Bill was signed into law July 4, 2025 and the bills therein involving food banks are soon going into effect.

Starting October 2026, federal funding for state SNAP administrative costs will be cut from 50% to 25%. This means New Mexico, along with every other state, will have to pay 75% of administrative costs. This increase could range anywhere from \$11 million to \$47 million annually, as reported by the Center for American Progress, an independent, nonpartisan policy institute.

Another increase to states comes from the Farm Bill changes included in the One Big Beautiful Bill. As it was designed, SNAP is a Federal Program to help Americans with low or no income. The Federal Government has always covered 100% of the cost of SNAP food benefits. Starting October 2027, most states will have to pay up to 15% of SNAP benefit costs.

However, there are eight states (plus D.C.) — New Mexico, Alaska, D.C., Florida, Georgia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York and Oregon—that are getting a grace period to allow for time to ‘lower error rate.’ This

grace period ends in 2029, or fiscal year 2030.

If New Mexico were required to cover just 10% of SNAP benefits starting in fiscal year 2030, the cost would be \$102 million, according to Feeding America National Office’s estimate.

The Push for Cost Shift Delay

RRFB joins the Feeding America National Office, the Food Research and Action Center, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and food banks around the country in urging Congress to institute a two-year delay in Cost Shifts.

VP for Strategy, Partnerships, and Advocacy Katy Anderson and Director of Advocacy and Public Policy Jason Riggs attended Sen. Ben Ray Lujan’s Affordability Roundtable discussion in Albuquerque on April 7th. The Senator supports Cost Shift Delay even though New Mexico is among other states that have a two-year reprieve.

In states without federal delegate support, their governors may support the delay without it.

Monthly Giving Helps Our Neighbors Year Round

Become a voice for our neighbors facing hunger by joining our monthly giving program — **The Roadrunner Club**. A recurring gift can provide dependable support to our neighbors facing hunger and make a lasting impact across our state every single month. Our monthly donors provide stability, helping ensure that we will be here to serve New Mexico’s neighbors — the moment help is needed.

Programming supported with the help of our monthly donors include providing food to seniors, children and families, people facing food insecurity and health-related issues, communities affected by disasters, offering job skills to people seeking training inside the food bank, mobile food and pop-up produce distributions, assistance in finding resources and much more. **Our vision is that everyone has enough to eat, and we need your help to achieve it.**

To join, choose your monthly amount, input your information once, and your gifts will happen automatically — without any extra action needed. Plus, monthly gifts allow you to spread out your giving, which can be easier on your finances than donating one large gift. Remember, your monthly gift, no matter the size, will help us provide food to families in need and build a brighter future for New Mexico together.

Learn more at www.rrfb.org/monthly or scan the code to join today!



Listening Sessions Feedback Builds Agency Capacity

Recently, we told you about Roadrunner Food Bank's Community listening sessions. Members of our Strategic Support Team traveled to dozens of areas to gather feedback on what hunger and food access looks like in communities across New

Mexico. There, they heard from participants from our partner agencies in those areas to learn about what they see and what they need to better serve their neighbors experiencing hunger.

Here's what we've accomplished so far!

Through Q3 in FY26 (July 2025-March 2026), our agency capacity building initiative has provided:

-  7 Vehicles – including refrigerated vans for food rescue and home delivery, and a truck for hauling a mobile shower unit and delivery of dry goods boxes and food to the unhoused.
-  More than 1,100 additional cubic feet of refrigerated and frozen storage at more than 15 partner sites across the state.
-  An additional 600 sq. ft. of dry storage at a key partner in Carlsbad.
-  Assorted heavy and small equipment such as electric pallet jacks, shelving, carts and other items necessary for hosting a food distribution.
-  Operationalizing cold storage at Mescalero warehouse for more robust hunger relief activity and disaster relief/preparedness.



Maximize Your Impact

This summer, we encourage you to think about the different ways you want to make a difference for our neighbors experiencing hunger. Consider donating stock or cryptocurrency, giving from your IRA (if you're 70.5 or older), or recommending a grant from your Donor-Advised Fund (DAF) because **you can support New Mexicans and your finances.**

Getting ahead of the year-end rush means your support for Roadrunner Food Bank is as impactful and tax-efficient as possible.

Make your smart gift at
rrfb.org/smartgiving-freewill

FREEWILL



The ROADRUNNER ROUNDUP

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