

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
SANTA FE COUNTY
RESOLUTION NO. 2019-143

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS BY THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE FOR NEW MEXICO GROWN FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES FOR SCHOOL AND SENIOR MEAL PROGRAMS AND RELATED EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOLS AND FARMERS

WHEREAS, New Mexico has a vibrant food and farming culture that is significant to our rural economies and provides employment opportunities on farms and in the direct, wholesale and retail markets, as well as in food processing, distribution, and value-added businesses, all while adding to the health and well-being of New Mexicans; and

WHEREAS, the dollar value of New Mexico's agriculture production is \$2.18 billion with \$96.3 million in fruits and vegetables providing approximately 10,000 jobs and \$900 million in annual wages; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that for every dollar that goes to local agricultural producers, \$1.80 is circulated in the local economy; and

WHEREAS, if every New Mexican consumer purchased 15 percent of their food from New Mexico farmers and ranchers, farm income would increase by \$328 million; and

WHEREAS, in New Mexico, 324,000 people, one in every four adults, experience food insecurity, including 118,030 children; and

WHEREAS, the annual cost to feed people experiencing food insecurity in New Mexico is estimated to be \$158,536,000, at an average cost of \$2.87 per meal; and

WHEREAS, 12.4 percent of Santa Fe County residents, approximately 18,000 people, experience food insecurity; and

WHEREAS, the annual cost to feed people experiencing food insecurity in Santa Fe County is estimated to be \$10,499,000, at an average cost of \$3.36 per meal; and

WHEREAS, in New Mexico approximately 98,000 seniors fall below 185 percent of the federal poverty income guidelines, and approximately 56,000 seniors fall below 130 percent the federal poverty income guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the National School Lunch Program makes it possible for all school children in the United States to receive a nutritious lunch every school day; and

SFC CLERK RECORDED 12/09/2019

WHEREAS, many children consume at least one-half of their daily calories at school, and for many, food served at school is the only meal eaten daily;

WHEREAS, approximately 333,300 students are enrolled in New Mexico schools and can participate in the school meal programs operated by various schools throughout the state, and more than 241,400 of these students -- 72 percent -- are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals; and

WHEREAS, more than 16,000 students in Santa Fe County and the City of Santa Fe participate in the school meal program; and

WHEREAS, local school meal programs have seen costs for food purchases increase by of an average of 25 cents to 75 cents per meal, with fruits and vegetables representing as much as a quarter of the increased cost; and

WHEREAS, the National School Lunch Program provides a reimbursement of \$3.31 for free lunches, \$2.91 for reduced-priced lunches; and \$0.39 for fully paid lunches; and

WHEREAS, the National School Lunch Program provides a reimbursement of \$1.79 for free breakfasts, \$1.49 for reduced-price breakfasts, and \$0.31 for fully paid breakfasts; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County has implemented an Accountable Health Community, in partnership with the City of Santa Fe, with the vision that that all County residents regardless of income have access to high-quality health care and are linked to resources they need for health and well-being, including food; and

WHEREAS, increasing consumption of healthy food is a priority in the *Santa Fe County Health Action Plan*, including increasing the percentage of adolescents and the percentage of adults within the County consuming five or more fresh fruits and vegetables a day; and

WHEREAS, promoting healthy food habits and increasing consumption of healthy food is a goal in the *Santa Fe County Senior Services Strategic Plan*, including integrating fresh produce into meals provided at County senior centers; and

WHEREAS, the purchase of New Mexico grown fruits and vegetables will enhance the diet of school children and seniors and help school and senior meal programs comply with Federal rules that require fruits and vegetables on meal plates; and

WHEREAS, there is an agricultural sector of fruit and vegetable farmers that can respond to these new food markets for local produce in the school and senior meal programs, as well as in grocery stores; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County has launched The AgriGate of Santa Fe County, the region's new online platform for cultivating connections within our local food community, that will allow food producers, including farmers, ranchers, and gardeners, to link with local food buyers, with access to financial and technical support and other resources; and

WHEREAS, food and agriculture education programs and experiential learning are key to increasing student access to and relationship with fresh and local produce, as well as to introducing students to possible career paths; and

WHEREAS, increased funding from the State Legislature enables senior and school meal programs and local school districts to purchase New Mexico grown produce, serve more fresh fruits and vegetables to our children and seniors for their health and well-being, provide related educational materials and experiential learning opportunities, and support economic development and opportunities for our local farmers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County join with the Santa Fe City and County Advisory Council on Food Policy, New Mexico Food and Agriculture Policy Council, New Mexico School Nutrition Association, and other agencies and organizations, in requesting that the New Mexico State Legislature appropriate funds to support New Mexico grown fresh fruits and vegetables for school and senior meals programs, related education programs, and programs that expand opportunities for farmers and ranchers.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 26 day of November, 2019.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SANTA FE COUNTY

By: Anna T. Hamilton
Anna T. Hamilton, Chair

Attest:
Geraldine Salazar
Geraldine Salazar, County Clerk

Approved as to Form:
Rachel Brown
Rachel Brown, Interim County Attorney



SFC CLERK RECORDED 12/09/2019

COUNTY OF SANTA FE
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

BCC RESOLUTIONS
PAGES: 3

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for Record On The 9TH Day Of December, 2019 at 03:02:05 PM And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1903926 Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Deputy Estrella Martinez County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM