



the new mexico collaboration to end hunger

Q & As

1. What is “food insecurity”?

The USDA uses the term to describe a person who does not know where they will get their next meal. “Hunger” is the term previously used by the USDA.

2. How many New Mexicans are food insecure?

- 1 in every four of our children is food insecure.¹
- 1 in every ten of our seniors is food insecure.²
- New Mexico is the fifth worst state in the nation for food insecurity.³
- Over 80% of New Mexicans who qualify as food insecure *have* an income.

3. Why are so many New Mexicans food insecure?

- New Mexico has a high level of poverty compared to other states.
- New Mexico is a rural state. 32 out of 33 counties are considered “rural” by USDA standards. It is estimated that the average New Mexican travels 29 minutes each way to a grocery store, many of which are convenience stores with little or no refrigeration and charge higher prices than in larger cities.

4. Why was the New Mexico Collaboration to End Hunger created?

In 2006, New Mexico was named as the worst state in the nation for food insecurity. Concerned New Mexicans found this ranking unacceptable and drafted a three-year plan to address ending hunger in New Mexico. The New Mexico Collaboration to End Hunger was formed in March 2007.

5. Who are the members of the Collaboration?

The Collaboration is comprised of over 80 organizations and individuals from both the private and public sectors who have joined together with a goal of ending hunger in New Mexico through collaborative efforts. A complete listing of Collaboration partners can be found at: <http://www.endnmhunger.org/work/partners>.

6. What has the Collaboration accomplished?

The Collaboration has made significant progress in ending hunger in New Mexico. It accomplished its major goal of moving New Mexico from being the worst in the nation in hunger to the 5th worst in the nation. Factors contributing to this success include:

Growth and Investment. In three years, the Collaboration has grown to more than 80 organizations and individuals which have and continue to invest time and resources

¹ Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count survey, 2009.

² Meals on Wheels Association of America, Senior Hunger in the United States study, 2009

³ USDA annual study, November 2009

to end hunger in New Mexico. During this time, the organization has raised funds to accomplish the goals of the Collaboration's successful Three Year Plan to End Hunger and is moving forward on the developing the next Plan to End Hunger.

Resources and Advocacy. The Collaboration established a toll free number (1.888.363.6642) to provide resources to New Mexicans who are hungry and to organizations who serve them. The Collaboration has successfully advocated on a number of hunger-related policy issues within local, state and national government. It has also created a comprehensive website to provide resources and information on the issue of hunger.

Summer food program. Summer months are the highest hunger months for children because they are not in school receiving breakfast and lunch. The Collaboration has for four summers successfully coordinated one of its major initiatives, the annual *Intergenerational Summer Food Program*. This summer, 7,600 children received free USDA-provided meals at 62 sites across New Mexico. Many sites included planting, tending and harvesting gardens and nutritional education and cooking programs. Over 500 volunteers participated in the *2010 Intergenerational Summer Food Program*.

7. What is the Collaboration currently doing to end hunger?

The Collaboration is leveraging its successful efforts of the past three years by developing a comprehensive Five Year Plan to End Hunger. Community meetings will be held in seven NM cities to obtain statewide input for the plan and engage individuals in doing what they can to end hunger in their community.

8. Why is the Collaboration holding Community Meetings throughout NM?

The development of the next New Mexico Plan to End Hunger is underway. Community meetings have been scheduled for seven rural and urban New Mexico communities between October and November 2010 to obtain statewide input for the Collaboration's Five Year Plan to End Hunger. The objectives of these community meetings are:

- to increase community awareness of local hunger issues
- to increase understanding of the Collaboration and its role to end hunger
- to engage local partners and other stakeholders in developing effective strategies to end hunger in their communities and across the state.

9. Where and when will the Community Meetings be held?

City	Meeting Date & Time
Silver City	Thursday, Oct 14, 5:30 -7:30 PM
Las Cruces	Tuesday, Oct 26 4:30-6:30PM
Hobbs	Wednesday, Oct 27, 1 - 3 PM
Albuquerque	Week of Nov 8
Farmington/Bloomfield	Tuesday, Nov 9 , 10AM-12
Santa Fe	Nov 18, 10AM -12
Taos	Wednesday Nov 17, 10 AM- noon

For a complete listing of dates, locations, and the host organizations and contacts, please go to the Collaboration's website at: www.endNMhunger.org.

10. What will happen at the Community Meetings?

Specific data on hunger in each community will be presented and group discussions will be held to determine just what's working, what's not working and what would really make a difference in ending hunger. Participants will be asked to "Take the Pledge" to make a difference in ending hunger in New Mexico by committing to taking one key action step in their community.

11. Where can I get more information? How can I help?

Please go to the Collaboration's website: www.endNMhunger.org or call 505-883-6240 to reach the Collaboration office located at the Albuquerque Community Foundation.