



Agenda

Regular Meeting of the Santa Fe City and County Advisory Council on Food Policy

November 13, 2025 at 9:00 AM

Santa Fe Farmer's Market

1607 Paseo De Peralta, Santa Fe

Hybrid Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88440927276?pwd=XI2c2bsfnf6TITFt4THgf a9bA0upK9.1>

Procedures for Santa Fe City and County Advisory Council on Food Policy Meeting

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
 - a. November 13, 2025 [ACTION].
 - b. Prioritization and Agenda order.
4. Approval of Minutes
 - a. September 11 and October 9, 2025, [ACTION].
5. Communications from the Floor
6. Initiatives and Actions
 - a. Federal Updates.
 - b. Critical Timeline of the impacts of Federal funding cuts in the state [ACTION].
 - c. Update to the Food Plan-summary comments [ACTION].
7. Presentations
 - a. Santa Fe County Connect (Invite Sent, waiting for confirmation).
8. Staff Communications
 - a. 2026 Calendar of meetings [ACTION].
 - b. Website re-build and transfer—Update from Helen Henry and Sue Perry.
9. Items from the Council

- a. Member check-in.

10. Matters from the Committee

11. Items from the Chair

- a. SFFPC Progress Reports to City Council and County BCC-start date?
- b. New Member Update.
- c. Next Meeting: December 11, 2025-Hybrid.
- d. Topics for future presentations.

12. Next Meeting:

- a. Thursday, December 11, 2025-Hybrid.

13. Adjourn

Closed captions are provided for this meeting. Persons with disabilities in need of additional accommodations, contact the City Clerk's office at 505-955-6521, five (5) working days prior to meeting date.

Santa Fe City and County, Advisory Council on Food Policy
Thursday, September 11, 2025,
9:00AM-11AM

In-Person: Santa Fe Farmer's Market Institute:1607 Paseo De Peralta, Santa Fe, NM 87501
and on Zoom

A. CALL TO ORDER 9:04am

B. ROLL CALL

Nate Crail - Present

Maria Sanchez-Tucker - Present

Eric Renz-Whitmore - Present

David Sundberg - Present

Susan Perry - Present

Emigdio Ballon - Excused

Tejinder Ciano - Present

Said Assali - Present

Jasmine Meyer - Excused

Peter Ives – Present

Coy Maienza - Present

We have a quorum.

Staff:

Helen Henry

Ram Roy is on vacation

Guests:

Harrison Gibson (and Josephine)

Marko Alarid White, New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty

James Martinez, SF County

Joseph Scala, SF County

Amanda Bregal, Food Depot

Hvtce Miller, SF County

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA –September 11, 2025 [ACTION]

Prioritization and Agenda Order

Motion to approve the agenda with the removal of item G: David

Second: Sue

Approved

D. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – August 14, 2025 [ACTION]

Motion to approve: Said

Second: Sue

Approved

E. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

None

F. INITIATIVES AND ACTIONS

1. Federal Updates
2. Critical Timeline of the impacts of Federal funding cuts in the state. [Action]

Hvtce shared that he doesn't have any updates as we are still waiting for things to sort themselves out. He added that the changes to the work requirements to SNAP are expected to go into place in October 2026.

The Federal Budget Stabilization Committee (of the NM Legislature) is has been conducting monthly meetings, leading up to a special session in October.

From the chat from Marco: The excepted categories for the work requirements are changing but we need more clarification concerning categories like "Indian" and "Urban Indian" in terms of what that will look like in practice.

Action: Hvtce will send out the timeline that LFC is providing for this to the interim committees.

Question from David about SNAP benefits and helping people navigate the changing landscape around applying, etc.?

Marco said that these changes are effective as of July 4th (2025), and then that started the 120-day grace period so looking at November for these changes coming into effect.

David said that the whole focus seems to be to get people to not stay with their benefits by being discouraging and confusing for people and that is causing people to go into panic mode for insurance trying to draw out as many of their benefits for Double Up Food Bucks as they can now.

Marco: Some of the exclusion categories are going to change broadly. Hopefully we will be able to have this sorted out soon.

Amanda: (reporting from a hearing that took place on 9/10) The Health Care Authority until about a few weeks ago was focused the cost sharing that was going to be active in 2027 and so they're just now starting to share with LFC about the numbers of New Mexicans that are going to be losing SNAP and the narrowing of benefits beginning in October of 2025. The state is working to fix the error rate so that we have to pay less of the cost share. The takeaway is that more things will kick in faster than we thought.

Amanda: The Food Depot and Roadrunner have been asking for numbers from HCA about numbers of people who are being kicked off SNAP. The general presumption was there would be about 58,000 people who would be kicked off SNAP. The state creating a temporary program to help specific groups who could be losing benefits because of their classification, but the timeline of people losing those benefits is what's still confusing as well as where those people are located, which is something the food banks need to know in order to increase services.

David said that because people need to update their information so that they don't get disenrolled, this is an advocacy effort that needs to happen.

Amanda, from the chat: HCA reports an estimated 16,220 New Mexicans could lose SNAP benefits due to their immigration status. HCA states about 55,750 New Mexicans receiving SNAP will be newly subject to work requirements, with 20,070 New Mexicans likely to lose SNAP benefits due to work requirements. HCA reports approximately 20,077 New Mexicans could see a reduction in SNAP benefits due changes in deduction allowances.

David said that the GSNIP program which supports Double Up Food Bucks, NMFMA got an extension through Sept 2026, so this program will continue to be funded and it also has some state funding which will support people to shop at farmers' markets. They've also been trying to get an exemption to some of the rules so that proteins such as pecans will be allowed to be included as proteins as well as exemptions for some culturally-appropriate foods such as chiles.

David also mentioned a pilot program for proteins at some farmers' markets (similar to Double Up Food Bucks) which has been very popular. So this could be a really good advocacy focus for Santa Fe Food Policy Council which can support health and nutrition within the community and also support our local economy as well. The advocacy effort would need to be in conjunction with New Mexico Farmers Marketing Association, because they're the holders of the GUSNIP grant, so supporting their efforts through letters of support, etc.

Hvtce asked if there was anything the Council would like to put forward before the special session?

Peter said that letting the legislators know that we are available to support their efforts is important.

Action: Hvtce is available to work with anyone on the Council to put something together.

3. Update to the Food Plan -summary comments [Action]

Peter suggested putting together a committee to work on this to get broader input.

Peter can participate on this committee.

Action: Helen will send out the links to the Plan again.

Action: Helen will send out a summary of the suggested changes to everyone for feedback.

Sue and Helen will be meeting next week to discuss the website redesign. Much of the website is about the Food Plan so we will be doing these two things in tandem.

G. PRESENTATIONS:

Senator Trujillo (invited) or alternate?

H. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Website re-build and transfer- Deadline for bios and head shot from Council members

Action: Eric will check on the progress of the application for the website redesign and Food Plan updates. We've received photos and bios for everyone on the Council

I. ITEMS FROM THE COUNCIL

Member check-in

Maria announced that the city's Senior Services Division has had 3 senior managers retire. They have a nutrition manager position open at the Senior Center which is posted. They will also be looking for an overall program manager for the Senior Services Division. The senior centers serve about 200 meals/day and about 700 meals are delivered to people's homes.

Amanda shared that the Food Depot is upgrading their food bus program which brings food into communities and allows people to choose what they want. They will be doing a launch soon.

Peter will circulate a water report to everyone.

Sue gave an update on people who are being trained by the PEARLS programs to be able to help older people who are isolated.

J. ITEMS FROM THE CHAIR

1. SFFPC progress Reports to City Council and County BCC-start date?
2. Discussion of Public Education meeting

3 New member update

We are working on having someone to replace Shana.

4. Next Meeting: October 9, 2025: In-Person Santa Fe County Extension (Zoom available)

6.Topics for future presentations

David mentioned that there are programs around the state that are supporting agricultural initiatives, like Healthy Soil Program, Farmer Innovation Program, Healthy Food Finance Initiative, etc. These could serve as a way to more deeply focus discussion and show how there's a lot of alignment between these Action: David will send an email to the Executive Committee about this.

Peter also brought up that there are ongoing discussions about meeting the needs of people who do not have housing in light of the situation around the future of Pete's Place.

Peter has contacts with people who could present on this.


K. ADJOURNMENT 10:12am

David moved

Sue seconded

Approved

These notes were taken contemporaneously and may contain errors and omissions.

Signed by  Helen Henry.

I verify that these notes have been approved by a quorum of members of the Santa Fe Food Policy Council.

Signed by Susan Perry, Co-chair or, Peter Ives, Co-chair

Santa Fe City and County, Advisory Council on Food Policy
Thursday, October 9, 2025,
9:00AM-11AM

Hybrid meeting: In-Person at Santa Fe County Extension offices: 3229 Rodeo Road,
Santa Fe, NM,87507 and on Zoom

A. CALL TO ORDER 9:13am

B. ROLL CALL

Nate Crail - Present

Maria Sanchez-Tucker - Present

Eric Renz-Whitmore - Present

David Sundberg - Present

Susan Perry - Present

Emigdio Ballon - Excused

Tejinder Ciano - Not present

Said Assali - Excused

Jasmine Meyer - Excused

Peter Ives – Excused

Coy Maienza - Excused

We do not have a quorum.

Staff:

Helen Henry

Pam Roy

Guests:

JoDee Powers

Michelle Stizza, NMSU Cooperative Extension Office

Hvtce Miller, SF County

Catherine Nolte, Advocacy and Policy Specialist at The Food Depot

Amanda Bregel, The Food Depot

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA –October 9, 2025 [ACTION]

Prioritization and Agenda Order No quorum

D. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – September 11, 2025 [ACTION] No quorum

E. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Our host from the Cooperative Extension Office, Michelle Stizza, welcomed everyone.

Guest Catherine Nolte, new Advocacy and Policy Specialist at The Food Depot introduced herself.

F. INITIATIVES AND ACTIONS

1. Federal Updates

Pam and Eric. shared out about the Santa Fe Forward survey. Peter is involved with this. Some people are going to an upcoming convening in Denver around this hosted by the Lincoln Institute. It would be good if we could all contribute and make sure that food is really integrated very well into the plan.

Pam and Hvtce spoke about the NM Legislature's special session which was called to address changes at the federal level in the federal reconciliation (budget) bill that will have significant impact on New Mexico. Food assistance was a big part of the special session. The reconciliation bill created gaps in food assistance (SNAP) and medicaid funding which will leave a massive discrepancy in basic on the ground support for people in NM. The reconciliation bill has also created big changes in agriculture and conservation programs. There are some things in the reconciliation bill (such as the commodities program) that initially sound good, but do not necessarily support small and medium scale farmers, especially in our state.

Of note: Per this reconciliation bill, S Corporations can now benefit from federal subsidies. The grants that are available benefit large farmers who can have shareholders who get the benefit of this money. This comes at the expense of security net programs like SNAP. We need to focus on what we can do at the local level in order to offset these changes.

Pam mentioned that Farm toTable is reporting out on a lot of the changes at the federal level in a publication called [Field Notes: AgriPolicy Brief](#).

In a recent development, USDA staff have been moved out of DC to an office in the midwest, which means that a lot of career employees will leave the agency. Our closest regional office will be in Denver. FSA offices have lost staff.

Because of the tariffs, larger crops such as soybeans are not being purchased from other countries now and will now possibly be focussing on the new commodities program.

Pam talked about the new Field Notes: AgriPolicy Brief newsletter and the roundtables which connect people working in NM with federal delegates to create a synergy and feedback loop to keep important conversations going.

David said the Administration announced that states will have to roll out the new SNAP benefits by Nov 1. The struggle with that, for multiple reasons, is that states are going to be charged a percentage of the SNAP benefits that are provided to state recipients based on the number of mistakes they make. Pam thinks that there may be some leeway for NM as it works to reduce the error rate.

Hvtce said that they have been discussing solutions at the legislature, for example, like the software that they utilize to reduce the error rate, but these kinds of things take time to implement, train staff and educate the recipients have to understand the reporting requirements. And this is complicated by not knowing when timelines or guidelines are going to change. Communication is key for us in this situation.

Pam gave a number of statistics that the state addressed in their special session funding. The funding from this session goes through June 30th of 2027, but the Governor vetoed some things related to this timeline which might give the legislature a little more leeway when they come into this session if they want to add more money in.

Amanda said that they are in the process of working through the problems that are induced by federal changes/cuts. There are waivers that may apply to us but people are still trying to figure where things stand.

David said that with the federal shutdown, the initial statement was that SNAP benefits are funded at the federal level through October. But the money's not in the bank for November. So if the government continues to stay shut down and there's no one in office or funds to be transferred over, even though people haven't technically lost their benefits, they may not receive payments on... for their SNAP benefits or other other types of subsidized programs starting November 1.

WIC is also being affected. Kellogg Foundation has stepped up to fill the gap but they can't do this forever.

The state also bolstered Workforce Development to help people meet the new work requirements.

The federal program - Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) - has been discontinued but we are advocating for the farm to food bank to be supported and for the state legislature and the Office of the Governor to prioritize this program, and to fund it. We are also advocating for two bills at the federal level that would support this.

Hvtce - the question is when will these funds be available? We're required to expend the money, but getting it is a challenge. This is creating an administrative burden. We don't want to have a lapse in funding because then we need to catch up.

David mentioned that they had gotten a Regional Food System Infrastructure grant to purchase refrigerated trailers, then sublet out for free to farmers, but because of timing (three years collapsed in five months) and financial resources, this will be difficult to get off the ground. Administratively, this is a huge burden. It would be good to have access to resources to fill emergency funding gaps.

The cost of fixing problems is greater than preventing them.

Hvtce said that the message that they are receiving is to use the money that they have available right now, although for the county, for example, is making sure to set aside money for emergencies that may happen. This will need to be available now and in the future.

Pam also mentioned water issues - there will be a comment period for the water security planning act. Also issues around the use of produced water from the oil and gas industry.

Action: We follow up with Hvtce to get a resolution to the City and County.

2. Critical Timeline of the impacts of Federal funding cuts in the state. [Action]
3. Update to the Food Plan - summary comments [Action]

Action: Move to next meeting

G. PRESENTATIONS:

Tour of Santa Fe County Extension grounds and services
(Michelle Stizza)

H. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Website re-build and transfer- Update from Helen Henry and Sue Perry
In progress: Funding has been approved and still needs to go through all the processes to get the money to us, hopefully next week.
Sue and Helen met. Helen will send out the production document to everyone on the Council for comments.

I. ITEMS FROM THE COUNCIL

Member check-in

J. ITEMS FROM THE CHAIR

1. SFFPC progress Reports to City Council and County BCC-start date?

Peter was absent, so no updates.

2. New member update

We are starting the process of getting Catherine Nolte join the Council. Cooking with Kids is still in the process of hiring someone to replace Shana and then we can start the process for that person to join the Council. In addition, there is one more open seat, so recommendations are welcome.

3. Next Meeting: November 13, 2025: Hybrid

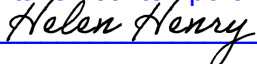
Possible future meeting at The Food Depot.

4. Topics for future presentations

Action: Pam suggested that we have a presentation from the Connect program.

K. ADJOURNMENT 10:27am, those on site will continue with the tour.

These notes were taken contemporaneously and may contain errors and omissions.

Signed by  Helen Henry.

I verify that these notes have been approved by a quorum of members of the Santa Fe Food Policy Council.

Signed by Susan Perry, Co-chair or, Peter Ives, Co-chair
