

## Hunger and Poverty in New Mexico

- New Mexico ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 50 states for Food Insecurity
- One in six (16.1%) are not sure they have enough money to buy food for their families
- 5.8% did not have enough to eat at least once during the month
- Rural stores are often more expensive. \$85 @rural, \$50 @ in-town food store for same amount of food
- 41% of hungry families are working families
- More than half own their home
- 75% have working cars and /or transportation to work
- 34.2% are children
- 9.5% are seniors
- 358, 125 (19.3%) of New Mexicans live in poverty
- 122,000 (24.7%) of NM children live in poverty
- 74.64% of students eligible for free and reduced price lunches
- New Mexico has the nation's third highest child poverty rate
- Households with children are more likely to face poverty
- 158,197 school children receive free or reduced price school lunch
- 101,811 of those eat school breakfast
- 36,371 receive summer meals
- 37,000 New Mexican seniors live in poverty
- Many seniors are on a fixed-income of less than \$700 per month
- Many seniors are raising their grandchildren
- One day of hospitalization costs more than one year's supply of food for a senior
- Many seniors get just \$10 per month of food stamps
- 14.6% of seniors live below poverty (25% in Grant County)
- 17,260 participate in the Commodity Supplemental Food Assistance Program
- 41% of families served by food banks are working families
- For many families, every penny of each paycheck is committed of essentials
- Price of natural gas has risen 30% in 2008

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- The cost of electricity has increased by 20% in 2008
- Medical costs increased by 6.9% in 2007
- \$12,100 is the average annual family insurance premium
- More than 25% said that housing problems resulted from medical debt, including the inability to make rent or mortgage.
- The cost of unleaded gasoline has risen by more than 60% since 2000
- 35% of households receiving emergency food have no access to a working car
- The cost of food has risen more than 30% in the last 18 months
- The price of fresh fruits and vegetables has increased by 74.6% since 1989 and the price of sugar products has decreased 33.1% in the same time period
- A worker must earn \$12.66/hr or work 78 hours a week at minimum wage to afford the average 2 bedroom unit
- 41% of working families have to choose between buying food or paying for utilities
- 30% of working families have to choose between buying food or paying the rent/mortgage
- 28% of working families have to choose between buying food or paying the healthcare

Sources: USDA, Food and Nutrition Services, New Mexico Association of Food Banks, Faces of Hunger 2005