



General Action Team (Food, Hunger, Water, Ag Policy Workgroup) 7.16.20

Opening Plenary: Introduction

Facilitation Team: Lilly Irvin-Vitela

Group Participants (first & last name, organization affiliation):

- Kurt Rager, Lutherin Advocacy Ministry
- Pam Roy, Farm to Table & NM Food & Agriculture Policy Council
- Margaret Strittmatter, RRFB & NMAFB
- Mike Venticinque, NM Farmers' Marketing Association
- Bryan Crawford-Garrett, Thornburg Foundation,
- Natalie Figueroa, NM House Representative
- Andrea Nash, RRFB
- Joanne Ferrary, NM House Representative
- Mary Meghan Snyder, La Semilla Food Center
- Brenda McKenna, Office of US Representative Deb Haaland
- Barbara Leppala, Intern for Representative Stansbury
- Roy Montibon
- Antonio Corrales, Office of the State Auditor
- Steve B., Volunteer for Representative Stansbury
- Brenda Sinfield, Interfaith Hunger Coalition
- Derek Lin, NM Voices for Children
- Diana Gonzales-Pacheco, Assistant Professor, Nutrition, UNM
- Gerry Fairbrother, The Food Depot
- Carlos Navaro, Interfaith Hunger Coalition
- Jane Braithwaite, With Representative Stansbury
- James Povijua, CCP
- Bruce Hinrich
- Katy Anderson RRFB
- Janene Yazzie, Sixth World Solutions
- Zoey Fink, National Young Farmers Coalition
- Sherry Hooper, the Food Depot & NMAFB
- Sarita Cargas, UNM Honors College and Basic Needs Research Team
- Jenny Ramo, NM Appleseed
- Jackie Francke, First Nations Development Institute
- Allison Griffin, Cullari Communication
- Tsiporah Nephesh, NM Thrives & Covenant Pathways
- Matthew Denetclaw, Intertribal Agriculture Coalition
- Valeria Rangel, Fiscal Sponsorship & Outreach Coordinator, NM Foundation
- Jason New, NM Department of Agriculture

- Gerry Fairbrother, the Food Depot
- Ellen Buelow, Interfaith Hunger Coalition
- Patty Keane, Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
- Zak Barela, NMDA

1. Introduction

- Lilly: Hi everyone. We're expecting a large group today. For those of you joining today from computer, we'll pull up a white board. We won't have time for a super personal introduction, but everyone can write their name and the organization you're with on the white board.
- Lilly: If you have any difficulties, you can add your name to the chat and we'll add your information to the white board. Let's get started. Hello everybody, my name is Lilly Irvin-Vitela and I'm the Executive Director and President of New Mexico First. This work group has been a shared labor of love. Representative Stansbury brought together a variety of state and community-based organizations. Today, we're going to reflect on how we're going to work together and build on what we've already done together.

2. Agenda

- Lilly: We're going to have two breakout groups today. We're going to break folks out by policy areas that we identified as priority areas in our work last fall. There are three different kinds of policy: 1) our policies related to the root causes of food and water insecurity, 2) the need to strengthen food and water relief and recovery efforts, and 3) the need to invest in local food systems and resilient agriculture. Then we'll have a quick break and jump back into conversations.
- Lilly: If you're wondering which policy area you'll get to work with, you'll have an opportunity to work with two today. We're going to randomly assign folks because we really want to have cross sector representation, as that's been the strength of our work together. Let's say in breakout session one or two, you are bummed out about what session you got assigned and you don't feel like you have much to add, you can always go back to the main lobby with Xavi and he'll reassign you. But if you want to be brave and talk about new issues, we encourage that bravery.
- Lilly: Any questions about process?

3. Additional Comments

- Rep. Ferrary: When you talk about recovery are you talking about after or during COVID?
- Lilly: I think that includes space for both concepts because we've been impacted very differently across the state. I wanted to give an opportunity for legislators to introduce themselves.
- Rep. Ferrary: I'll start. My name is Representative Joanne Ferrary and I represent House District 37, which is the East side of Las Cruces. I'm just worried about this situation, food security in our state as we're talking about Health and Human Services Committee and our

rural health plan, it became apparent that food insecurity is a big part of people's health and their access to it.

- Lilly: Is there anything you want people to keep in mind, as we plan together?
- Rep. Ferrary: Our state, as we're investing in keeping people employed, we need to keep our agricultural provision of food and distribution at the forefront. We need to help people especially now, during the pandemic.
- Rep. Figueroa: My name is Representative Natalie Figueroa and I represent house district 30, which is the Northeast Heights of Albuquerque. I'm a classroom teacher. In the legislature, I'm the Vice Chairs of Commerce and Economic Development, so I really appreciate the broad approach that this group of people take to addressing these issues. We've got to evaluate food and the idea of economic development and as an industry, dealing with health issues around food insecurity and everything in between. And then not trying to solve a problem with one specific tiny approach but looking at a broad system and how we can attack these issues in multiple places at the same time.
- Lilly: Representative Stansbury was not able to make it, but she gave us a really good call to action last time. Let's not get lost in the weeds. Let's trust each other. Let's not focus on things being perfect, but let's really take that family perspective.
- Patty: I'm here on behalf of the governor's office. I've missed some of the progress, so I'm here to catch up. You know, even prior to COVID, the governor was focused on trying to eradicate child hunger in the state and that's also my particular work. And then of course working on emergency response action items.
- Lilly: We recognize the strong work of the governor. Our work here is by no means a critique, but more an acknowledgement of the incredible work that's been done. We all had an incredible challenge to address pre-COVID, but now some of those inequities have intensified during the pandemic. So, we really thank every one of you for taking the time to connect. Now, we're going to separate into breakout groups.

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Priority Area 1: Root Causes of Food and Water Insecurity

Facilitation Team: Lilly Irvin-Vitela

Group Participants

Kurt Rager, Matthew Dennetclaw, Brenda McKenna, Mike Venticinque, Ellen Buelow, Katy Anderson, Roy Montibon, Derek Lin, James Povijua, Bruce Hinrichs, Jackie Frankie, Steven Burnstein, Tiffany Rivera,

Valerie Rangel, Sherry Hooper, Erin Ortigoza, Sarita Cargas, Mag Strittmatter, Donna, Gerry Fairbrother, Jain Braithwaite, Daniel Valverde, Bryan Crawford Garratt, Tsiporah Nephesh, Representative Ferrary, Geneveva, Allison Griffin, Tim Davis

- The importance of trust and good governance, people are empowered to identify waste and opportunities for improvement without fear

- Trust- people see systems behave in predictably positive ways to meet needs in ways that are fair and equitable. It's hard for participants in services and communities that have had inequitable outcomes to trust that systemic response to food and water security are a viable solution.
- Root cause of food insecurity is poverty and not seeing access to food and water as a human right, until we do access and quality will be inconsistent
- We also need to be able to produce, process more food locally to have a reliable supply chain
- We need to look at how to get more income into the hands of people who are income insecure. Income insecurity, housing insecurity and food insecurity go hand in hand. Specific ideas include Working Families Tax Credit, standing strong against a food tax, examining eligibility requirements and how programming is administered to reduce barriers to access and improve participation.
- Another set of strategies for improving income security are community and economic development efforts to create better paying jobs.
- Understand that how we use our natural resources, access to water, and soil health all impact food and water security.
- Think about the mechanisms for targeting resources to those best able to distribute them
- Cold storage is not only an issue for producers and the emergency food relief sector, even within individual homes people do not always have refrigerators or stoves/ovens or ones that are functional
- Lack of access to technology and broadband prohibits peoples' ability to meet verification and prove eligibility for the social safety benefits and even outside of the pandemic having to drive to appointments is a barrier
- Build on gleaning work because how food is used is important and this needs to be balanced with farmers making fair compensation
- We need greater connectivity of data to transport, store, and distribute food so finding a way to connect distribution networks, align programming, and streamlining distribution will save resources
- We need to increase federal funding to NM which requires capacity building across multiple organizations
- Finding win-win solutions to support local food and food relief matters; however we cannot re-direct resources and put conditions on food banks that make it harder to feed the volume of people in need...especially as those numbers will likely grow as PPP and unemployment expire
- We need to take a hard look at rules and regulations that make it hard to share infrastructure like storage and kitchens across community programs that have different funding sources
- We need to learn from the creativity and flexibility that has been afforded in the pandemic related to eligibility, verification, and modes of food distribution
- The way our tax structure is set up, the costs of child care, flat funding for TANF, wage theft and enforcement of minimum wage laws all impact the income people have for food, left unaddressed people will remain food insecure
- Student hunger and the trade-off of education, income, and access to food are real barriers which disproportionately impact people of color, the LBTQIA communities, and veterans
- We must systematically address and improve the many food deserts in NM
- We need to look at the relationship between housing insecurity and food insecurity rental controls especially in communities that are rapidly gentrifying is part of the solution
- We have to understand that inequity is at the root of these issues

- Access to education, child development, family supports, and healthcare are also interrelated and hungry people cannot learn as well
- People to not earn sufficient wages to support their families
- The cost of medical care and prescriptions is in direct competition with food in family budgets
- Regenerative agriculture is important to build reliable food systems
- A bill in Utah that is related to COVID ties food systems and ag production to food security
- Access to water and other natural resources impacts peoples ability to have food sovereignty
- Creating a NM version of a food box program with tiered quality and safety such as the PED farm to schools efforts and the Aging and Long Term Services Department's farm to senior center programs are great examples of how we can build stronger systems that gets healthier food to local people and benefits our local economies
- We need an emergency agriculture plan
- We need a food and farm bill that builds on existing capacities like agricultural experimentation stations
- We need to figure out more local processing options including meat processing and cold storage
- If we were able to get more local produce, eggs, meat, and cheese to food banks it could be a win-win
- Ag education and literacy are a critical part of the infrastructure

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Priority Area 2: Food and Water Relief/Recovery

Facilitation Team: Melanie Sanchez Eastwood and Wendy Wintermute

Group Participants (first & last name, organization affiliation):

- Sherry Hooper, Food Depot
- Mag Strittmatter, RRFB
- Andrea Nash, RRFB
- Katy Anderson, RRFB
- Allison
- Patti, Governor's Office
- Pam Roy, NM Farmers Marketing Association
- Mary Meghan
- Geneva
- Carlos Navarro, Interfaith Hunger Coalition
- James Povijua, Center for Civic Policy

1. What programs, policies and assets should we protect in our advocacy efforts?

- Can we work with State departments to eliminate some of the State-imposed regulations and requirements they have in place on federally funded programs like Summer Food

Service Program? They make it so difficult for sponsors to do the programs with the additional rules, reporting and other paperwork. Why are we not just meeting the requirements imposed by USDA?

- As a food bank representative, we would ask that our assets be protected, so we can continue to source a variety of foods. We know there will be an increase, we don't know the breadth or depth. Feds pulling back from TFAP and CFAP boxes at the end of the year.
- From a federal perspective, SNAP is extremely important. There's a large concerted effort nationally to protect SNAP and increase the SNAP allotment, not just during the emergency.
- Keep maximum SNAP benefits; this is absolutely huge, from an on-the-ground perspective. Serving 500+ cars at our food pick-up events, we saw a noticeable difference in the people attending and needing extra support once that was put in place. Having that extra funding for their families made a huge difference.
- All the federal nutrition programs are critical for us, esp. with the budgetary challenges we're facing. We need to maximize all the federal resources we have.
- We need to protect the things we're learning through the adaptations in COVID-19. We should think about what we're learning now from COVID and protect that additional flexibility, e.g., adjusting to intergenerational feeding programs; allowing schools to continue to modify how they get food to students; adequately paying for those costs.
- Several different federal programs support senior nutrition, also some state entities. We want to make sure that whatever assets are in place for seniors stay in place and protected. Things like the SNAP supplement for seniors. Adapt it to allow others to benefit from this program.
- Child hunger is something we need to continue to support and expand, e.g., P-EBT. Protecting the subsidies for reduced price co-pays for school lunches for low-income students was a success. We need to maintain and expand those. This is a priority for the Governor.
- Don't let tax on food happen. That would really be harmful.
- It would be incredibly helpful to this group and to the advocacy community at large to have a full list of programs that need to be protected.

2. What are key components of a strong food and ag infrastructure "farm" bill?

- Gleaning Workgroup established by a Senate Memorial at the last regular session. Pam, Joe, Sherry are serving on this. The group just started researching this. Sherry was on the phone with another state to get information on their program. The group should have specifics in few months. This serves our producers to prevent food waste and provides another way to feed hungry folks.
- Focus on ag workforce, not just producers but those working on programs like the gleaning program.
- There are lots of currently closed or underutilized facilities that have cold storage, kitchens, trucks on the road. We need to map out these assets now and see how it fills out our infrastructure. Work is underway by the NM Foundation and SF County

- Build out the infrastructure around food processing. The Auditors Office has a report on how to build out more marketing options for farmers, ranchers, and food processors. How can we best connect business to the infrastructure?
 - It's frustrating to see so much food leaving the state. If we don't have the ability to move our products out, it will go bad. More processing and storage facilities will help here.
 - La Semilla has drafted a bill to facilitate production and distribution of affordable food through loans, grants, forgivable loans for site acquisition, equipment, etc.
 - My question is a bill always the right avenue for all things, or can some administrative measures be effective?
3. What are ways that we need to re-imagine, re-engineer and reconfigure existing assets to address food and water insecurity?
- Everyone has different information systems and data that don't talk to each other. We need to have somewhere where the information can be shared, so that when people come up with solutions we're all working with shared, accurate data.
 - This all ties into healthcare. Malnourishment has a domino effect on health care. It all needs to tie together and get us all working together.
 - What we use water for is very big decision, with oil and gas using copious amounts. If we want to help farmers, they are going to need water. We don't want to have a shortage. Who is watching this Who is going to have the last say on where that water is going?
 - A major constraint in marketing and development to promote the viability of ag in NM is the lack of value-added. We're very good at production – beef, dairy, pecans – but there is a serious lack of value-added, consumer-oriented goods. Some grants are available USDA Rural Development. Add value-added grants at State level. Getting into ag is expensive. We can lead on state for LEDA funding for capital improvements. But for ag, that poses challenges. A lot of times increasing output doesn't always equate to jobs. That's a key component behind LEDA.
 - We have a lot of federal funding in place, not COVID related. We need to bring more of these funds home.
4. How are students, younger children being cared for and having access to food?
- The plans submitted to PED from school districts include how they're going to continue to provide food to all school children. PED is working directly with the schools to identify the best way forward. That's going to look different for each school district. School districts are coming up with innovative methods. In Deming, they're going to have different students on different days, so students will be picking up meals for multiple meals to take home. The Governor's Office is working on how best to support schools. That said, we do hear from schools that there are a lot of challenges. How are they going to package meals within the budget, costs that weren't in the budget 6 months ago?
 - The Food Bank, Roadrunner, is working with 94 schools through a childhood hunger program, providing pre-packed boxes for students to take home. The boxes include both shelf-stable foods as well as produce.

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Priority Area 3: Healthy Local Food Systems and Resilient Ag

Facilitator/Notes: Sharon Berman

Group Participants: (first & last name, organization affiliation):

- Bryan Crawford-Garrett, Thornburg Foundation
- Valerie Rangel, New Mexico Foudation, Santa Fe
- Janene Yazzie, International Indian Council, Gallup
- Andrea Nash, Roadrunner Food Bank, ABQ
- Sarita Cargas, UNM Honors College, Food & Housing Project
- Donna Griffin, interested citizen, has done bill analysis
- Gerry Fairbrother, Retired professor of health services & policy
- Erin Ortigoza, ESHIP Rio Grande through Forward Cities in association with Kaufmann Foundation
- Carlos Navarro, Interfaith Hunger Coalition
- Representative Ferrary, Las Cruces
- Diana Gonzales-Pacheco, UNM – dietetic internship
- Daniel Valverde, NM Appleseed
- Zoey Fink, National Young Farmers Coalition

1. What programs, policies and assets should we protect in our advocacy efforts?

- Local Food Promotion Program
- Double Up Food Bucks,
- Farm to School Program
- Farm to Senior Center
- Healthy Soils Act / Programs
- Agriculture Workforce Program
- Rural Broadband
- Regional equity trainings, particularly for the dept of ag but all state departments
- Set aside funds for historically disadvantaged and disenfranchised farmers
- Reject reinstitution of a food tax in New Mexico
- Food Bank distribution and cooperation with all the programs to avoid duplication.
 - Food infrastructure for people in need – senior centers, soup kitchens, shelters
- Protect and expand subsidies for school meals
- Protect and expand SNAP supplement for seniors.
- Double up food bucks, SNAP, EBT
- Students not to have to pay for meals. Use the senior SNAP model to expand existing programs for students.

- Schools start in most districts remotely. For hunger – school districts are going to have to start using school summer meal program to serve food. Transportation will be an issue – using buses has been very effective. Looking to do this as school starts.
 - Retention of WIC, SNAP, P-EBT, having some of the waivers and waivers that are simplifications of SNAP application retained after the pandemic to make it easier to obtain SNAP
 - Support work by tribal farm boards to get similar waivers and exceptions that will open up qualification requirements for farm bill funding
 - Step down SNAP benefits as salaries rise back up. During normal times, people are on SNAP, even at 200% poverty rate. How to avoid the cliff effect?
 - Increase awareness about the vast amount of food insecure undergraduate students. UNM has a new pantry that the university barely supports financially.
 - We need to increase SNAP access, change the FAFSA, institute programs such as Swipe out Hunger, etc.
 - Open up facilities in rural areas as aggregation and distribution points. Example: senior centers. Ratify policies to use them as aggregation as well as distribution points – could we look at opening them up?
 - Keep all education efforts that are currently funded. A lot of groups involved in teaching. It would be a shame to lose existing educational efforts.
 - Examples: everything from how to grow own food to systems.
2. What are key components of a strong food and ag infrastructure “farm” bill?
- Helping with advocacy efforts – recognizing traditional ecological practices around ag and livestock rearing
 - Testing water soil and water quality and increasing regulatory capacity of the state to ensure the testing happens. Reminder: today is anniversary of the Trinity Bomb and the Church Rock Spill.
 - Regarding what Valerie suggested, I'm working on a Green Amendment for NM that will protect overall any pollutants that cause toxicity to our environment.
 - Capital funding for potential build projects targeted at infrastructure – cold storage, loading docks, hubs – to bring networks into that region.
 - Rep. Ferrary said they tried to bring funding to infrastructure in the last session.
 - Erin said it could be a two-way distribution – food going into rural areas, and when it is produced rurally, bringing it to urban areas. Viability for growers, getting their produce into town in food safe way
 - We need to enhance rural warehousing capacity, particularly cold storage capacity.
 - Focus on smaller scale and mid sized producers – they are hurting
 - Healthy food financing – La Semilla and Poverty Center
 - climate change adaptation and mitigation
 - Rural broadband

- A component could be amendments to rules & regs. If they are truly obstacles to food distribution, then we need to change them. Rep Figueroa hopes this will come out of our group. Legislators need to know from people on the ground.
 - One piece would be to preserve the emergency flexibility beyond COVID that we allowed in statute during COVID. If we can identify what serves NM people and explain why we need to keep it beyond pandemic times.
 - E.g., a memorial that states that NM Legislature asks Congress for flexibility for very specific programs. As Congress moves into other things next year, NM is lined up to ask our congressional leadership to advocate for specific things.
 - Rep. Figueroa didn't think a memorial would be effective. She said she loves this group and all the expertise of its cross-sector membership. Rep. Figueroa thought a message from the group would be just as powerful as a memorial, if not more.
 - Bill that focuses on coordination on infrastructure.
 - Keep all education efforts that are currently funded. A lot of groups involved in teaching. A shame to lose existing educational efforts.
 - Examples: everything from how to grow own food to systems.
3. What are ways that we need to re-imagine, re-engineer and reconfigure existing assets to address food and water insecurity?
- Understand network of existing routes, look at redundancies. Example: trucks going to same place on same day – collaborate among service providers to reimagine schedules, so free up redundant truck to seed new route.
 - financing to augment cost of rainwater catchment and solar grids in extremely remote areas where people are food
 - water quality with regards to water coming off grazing lands and farms, the use of fracking wastewater as well as groundwater/well testing for farmers. Many farmers have expressed concerns with former military testing on their farmlands and the need for soil testing.
 - Need to re-imagine from policy perspective connecting local production to food insecurity.
 - We have a lot of schools, universities, students. We need ways to build independent student/grant writing mentorship program that matches students with expert grant writers to help farmers and producers write grants and deal with things such as GAP certification. Students would help grant writers with their grants and they team up with farmers/producers to secure grants.
 - Simplify rules & regs
 - Tweak idea from another state for NM application – repackaging school lunch food that is disposed of when not consumed by students. Repackaged, turned into frozen meals for students to eat at home.
 - The importance of recognizing traditional agricultural practices and livestock rearing. Having conversations across state departments, particularly the NDMA, re: racial equity and how to move towards a more equitable world. Conversations in all of our policy work. Setting aside funding for this. Developing rural broadband.
 - Exceed weightbearing limits on trucks. Need to look at that to get food to those in need quickly and effectively. Federal limits need to be examined.

- Looking at workforce. High unemployment, H2A Visa. It's relatively unworkable right now.
- Research emergent technology and what types of efficiencies we can gain in food quality, such as water sufficiency's and technologies. Research going on in collaboration with Israel (similar arid environment) using little water. Netherlands and greenhouse productions.
- Create efficiencies, focusing on enhancing agricultural sustainability in our state.
- Perhaps the complexity of the set of organizations in food insecurity is excessive, leading to inefficiencies and communication challenges. Bruce Hinrichs' point about education and infrastructure makes great sense. But should there be a stronger top-down hierarchy where the state gives stronger financial support to the food banks for cold storage, transportation, and distribution to food pantries. Give the state a more significant role in giving assistance to food banks.
- Imbalance in types of food available
- Santa Fe Community College has a hydroponics greenhouse.
- Need to look at barriers in the anti-donation clause that could be changed to strengthen food systems initiatives and infrastructure. Look to see if there are options, barriers to address so we have more leeway to work.

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Closing Plenary: Reflections

Facilitation Team: Lilly Irvin-Vitela

Group Participants (first & last name, organization affiliation):

- *Same as Opening Plenary: Introduction*

Group 1 Summary (Rep. Ferrary / Lilly / Allison)

- Rep. Ferrary: Brian was mentioning a Utah bill, where they leveraged federal dollars to address food insecurity in the state. Then, I was mentioning about the Community Solar Bill and including programs that provide refrigeration in rural areas, but also programs like the insulation retrofitting of homes. And framing it so people can get refrigerators.
- Lilly: A couple of other big ideas. We were able to think in a systems way. We talked about good governance and making sure that we're using resources in the best way possible and that there are protections for folks who, if they have concerns about how things are happening, they can raise those issues. The other was around infrastructure issues: cold storage, food distribution, and how those issues both impact the emergency relief programs and agriculture. There was a discussion about the ability to maintain and protect natural resources and use them to grow our own food. In terms of innovation, we also talked about thinking different about the systems and policies in place to put more income back into people's pockets so they can afford food or access public benefits in a way that's more effective. That way people can have stability and improve their economic well-being, health, education, etc. Did anyone else have anything to say?

- Allison Griffin: I also think that technology, although not a root cause, acts as another barrier. For example, lot of the assistance programs are moving to online applications and I think that technology or the lack thereof is a barrier we should include in this list.

Group 2 Summary (Wendy)

- Wendy: We talked about an order of things we need to protect first. First thing to protect is the ability of our food banks to respond to people's needs and keep that food coming. Everything from protecting SNAP and the other federal nutrition programs, but we have to keep that food supply coming. One program of particular interest was the P-EBT and supplying food for children when they're not in school. We talked about protecting the lessons we've learned and the flexibility that has been awarded during this emergency. In terms of specific bills, we learned that there's a gleaning workgroup that's working on a bill to facilitate gleaning. There's an immediate need right now to map facilities that have things like cold storage, trucks on the road, and kitchens, so we can fill the infrastructural gaps. We need to know what the existing infrastructure looks like, and where the assets and the gaps are. In terms of redesigning, the main thing that came up was that everyone has information systems, but they don't talk to each other. So is there some way we can get everyone sharing accurate, trustworthy information. We talked about water. Oil and gas use a lot of water and there are going to have to be some tradeoffs at the state level. Who's going to make that decision about whether the water goes to someone else.

Group 3 Summary (Sharon)

- Sharon: So, the assets to protect included local food promotion programs, doubled up food banks, farm to school / farm to senior programs, the healthy soils act, and agricultural workforce programs. Other things were regional equity trainings. Reject the reinstatement of a food tax, so that's not really an asset to keep, but something to keep aware of. School meals and thinking about programs as schools remain remote and supporting the transportation of meals via school buses, which was something previously very effective. One of the things that I heard would be a key component to an ag bill is keeping everything that's currently funded. Another thing would be keeping it flexible. Emergency changes and flexibilities have served New Mexican people. We should keep all education efforts that are currently funded, such as all the groups that are teaching all sorts of areas of agriculture and nutrition. In addition to that, recognizing traditional ecological practices around Ag and livestock rearing. We also talked about understanding the network of existing routes, looking at redundancies, trying to figure out where things can be reapplied. Connecting local production to food insecurity and gosh there's so much more

Next Steps

- Notes will bring themes back to action teams that are addressing those issues.
- We will continue to report out to entire group and continue thinking together
- Research what other states/countries are doing to address food scarcity and access.
 - Action plan to promote community gardens.

- Gardening projects in elementary, middle- and high schools. (Brenda)
- Enhancing communication between all – daily – to figure out obstacles.
- Valerie: The one issue not highlighted was race equity. This needs to be looked at in policy perspective.
- To address root causes you need to look at what affects a family's food budget. This includes people getting paid for the work they do, and how much they are getting paid. Tim said he heard agreement in his group. To fix that, make sure state has investigators.
- TANF hasn't been increased since 1996. While we raised the min wage, we didn't raise the TANF cut-offs. There's still an exception for farmworkers, but they may be some of the most needy in terms of food security.
- Stephanie Rogus: Thank you everyone for your help with the NM Food Access and Security Survey that was conducted by NMSU and UNM. We are working through the data and expect to have some initial results to share toward the end of next week.
- Rep. Ferrary: As we raised the minimum wage, we didn't raise qualifying threshold. With minimum wage, there is exception for farm workers. We might think about changing that.
- Do we need to think bigger and bolder: Universal Basic Income?
- Zoey Fink: Thanks all! I have to jump off for another call. Appreciate all of these conversations. My email is zoey@youngfarmers.org and cell 505-328-3642. Please be in touch.
- Tsiporah: We're assuming a deficit. But there's talk about tapping the emergency fund, which may increase funding. Also, the federal government may pass more recovery assistance. So, there may be more money, not less. We may want to think about working with more, rather than less. And there are already resources we don't tap. How to we expand our capacity to go after what's there and what could be there?
- Sherry: There's the anti-donation clause – we could see if anything could be done to eliminate barriers to public/private partnerships, which are so important in our work. Can legislators look at that to determine?
 - Tsiporah: There is a workgroup forming. Please contact me: Tsiporah@nmthrives.org
- James Povijua (CCP): I appreciate the optimism of ideas of moving away from a scarcity mindset to one that is based in bounty. It's important to understand the opposition especially when considering issues such as minimum wage. Industry in general opposes things that we, in this sector, think make common sense. How can we work together to combat that?
- Patty Keane: I appreciate what everybody is doing, and I'm glad to be able to attend.
- Rep. Figueroa: This coalition of voices across sectors and industry is powerful and illuminating and hopefully out of this group, will come legislative and federal changes that we need and a call to our federal delegation to make the changes we need. Voices and problem solvers who really know the group. I look forward to advocating for the legislative changes the group suggests.
- Rep. Ferrary: I am in awe of the expertise that has gathered for this policy group. When it comes time to make our case for departments to include in their budgets, we need to do that earlier rather than later. Even starting in August with LFC. What we want to promote (funding, ideas). All of us need to be there as advocates and speak up.

- Sherry: I failed to mention this opportunity. Can we work with state departments to eliminate some of the state-imposed regulations and requirements they have in place on federally funded programs like Summer Food Service Program? They make it so difficult for sponsors to do the programs with the additional rules, reporting and other paperwork. Why are we not just meeting the requirements imposed by USDA?
- Brenda Mckenna of US Representative Deb Haaland: If anyone has federal changes in mind, please send them to Brenda brenda.mckenna@mail.house.gov