



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Report: NM could see \$42 million economic boost, feed more hungry Raising Food Stamp participation rates would create jobs, additional spending

***Editor's note:** Gerry Bradley, report author, will take part in the New Mexico Collaboration to End Hunger tomorrow, Oct. 16, at the UNM student union building. The panel begins at 9am and is part of the 25th Annual World Food Day Teleconference. Bradley will be available for interviews immediately following the panel.*

ALBUQUERQUE—If New Mexico could get another 13,700 families enrolled in the federal Food Stamp Program, the state economy would see \$42.3 million in new economic activity. More than 900 jobs would be created from the increased spending and thousands more children would get the nutrition they need for healthy development and to succeed in school.

That's the conclusion of a new report by New Mexico Voices for Children, "The Economic Impact of Increasing Food Stamp Participation by New Mexico Families," to be released tomorrow. Just over 60 percent of the state's families with children that are eligible for Food Stamps currently receive them. Adding another 13,700 families would raise that rate to 80 percent and draw down another \$41.8 million in federal funding.

"Because Food Stamps are funded as an entitlement – meaning funding increases during rough economic times – it acts as an economic stabilizer," said Gerry Bradley, NM Voices Research Director and report author. "It's the kind of program we really need to encourage participation in, especially when low-income working families are being pinched by inflation and stagnant wages," he added.

The vast majority of New Mexicans who benefit from Food Stamps are children, and more than 80 percent of Food Stamp recipients live below the federal poverty threshold. The reasons eligible families do not receive Food Stamps vary, and include fear of social stigma, limited literacy, and lack of transportation.

The report also includes recommendations for removing some of the barriers to access. They include simplifying and shortening the application, lengthening the timeframe in which people must recertify, and reducing worker case loads.

An executive summary of the report is attached as a pdf. The full report will be available online beginning Thursday, Oct. 16, at www.nmvoices.org/fiscalpolicyproject.htm

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New Mexico Voices for Children is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization advocating for policies to improve the health and well-being of New Mexico's children, families and communities.
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