



Hunger in New Mexico

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Thank You for Your Support!

Last Year's Impact:

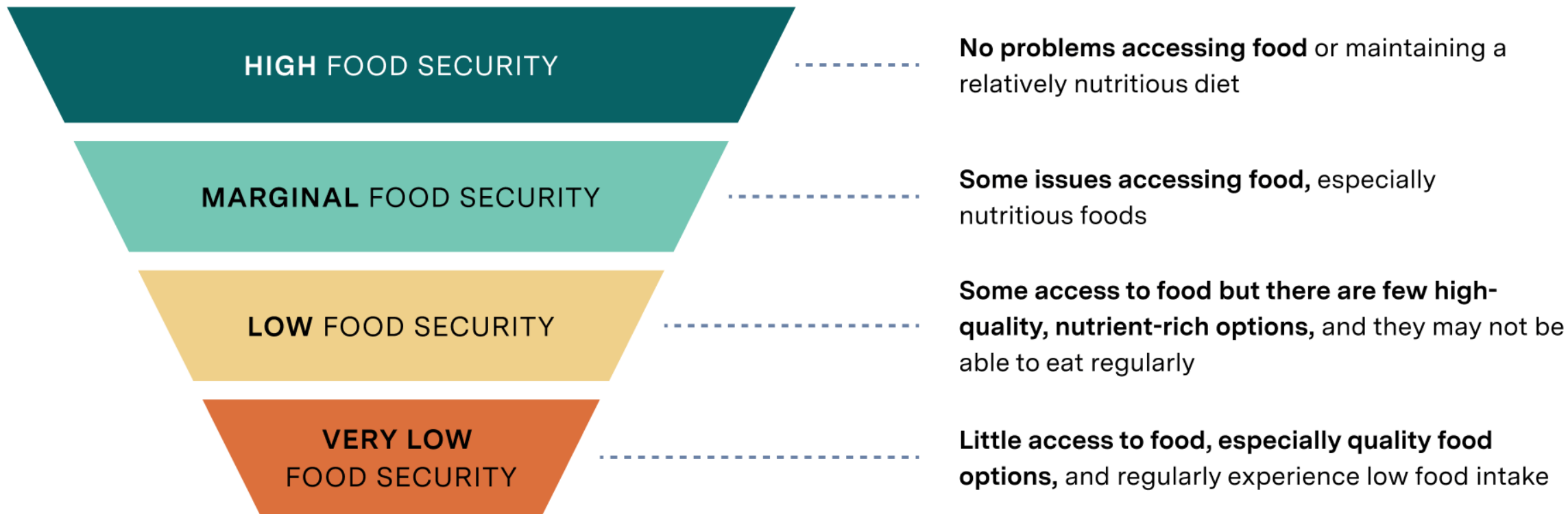
- We are deeply grateful for the **\$5 million** you allocated in last year's **Health Care Authority (HCA) Budget** for New Mexico food banks. This funding enabled us to distribute food to thousands of individuals and families facing food insecurity this fiscal year.

This Year's Request:

- In the upcoming year, the need remains critical. We are requesting an allocation of **\$10 million**, which is included in the proposed **HCA Budget** for Fiscal Year 2026. This funding will allow us to continue meeting the growing demand and ensure that no New Mexican goes hungry.

Together, we can create a food-secure New Mexico!





Hunger in New Mexico:

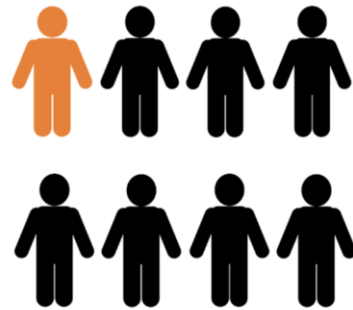
15.2% Food Insecurity



Overall, 321,370 people are facing
hunger
OR
1 in 7 New Mexicans



100,420 are children (0-18)
OR
1 in 5 children



32,200 are older adults (50-59)
OR
1 in 8 older adults



37,500 are seniors (60+)
OR
1 in 14 seniors

Demographic Breakdown of Hunger:



- One in four Native Americans (25%) experience food insecurity
- One in four Hispanic/Latino community members
- One in four Black community members
- One in four active-duty military members

35% of Native American children or 1 in 3 experience food insecurity



This tells us clearly who is facing the greatest challenges in our state:



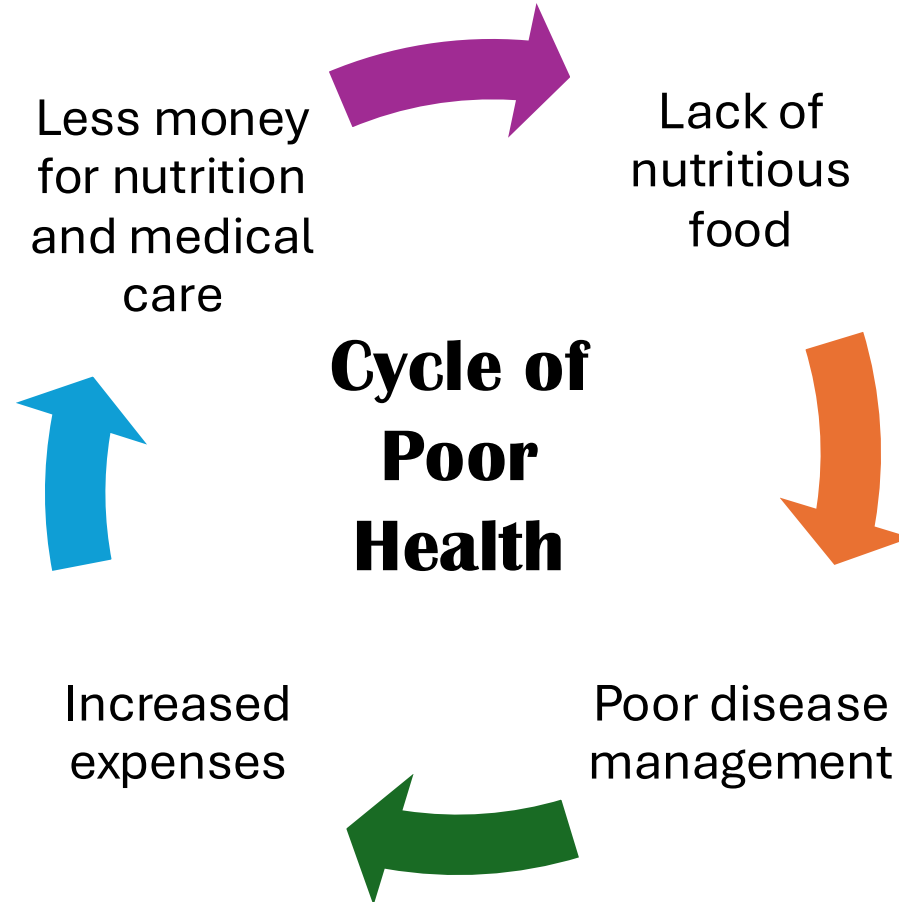
- Families with young children
- Grandparents raising grandchildren
- Caretakers of children and/or seniors
- Community members that identify as Native American, Hispanic/Latino, and/or Black
- Active-duty military personnel and veterans
- Those facing chronic health concerns

Intersection of Hunger & Health

Healthy bodies and minds at every age require nutritious meals

People who are food insecure are at a higher risk of developing:

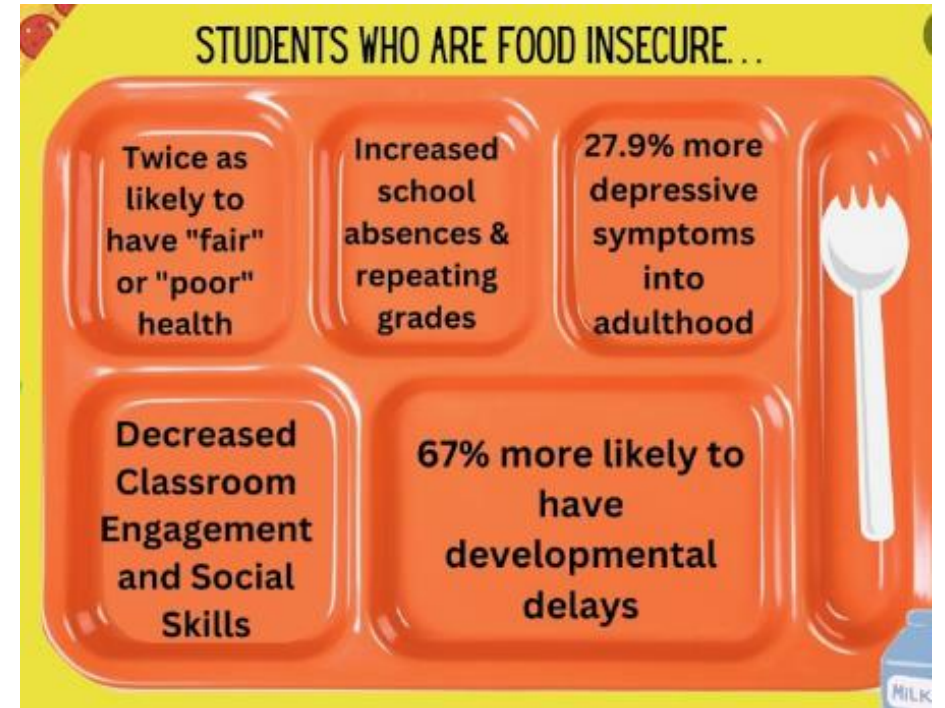
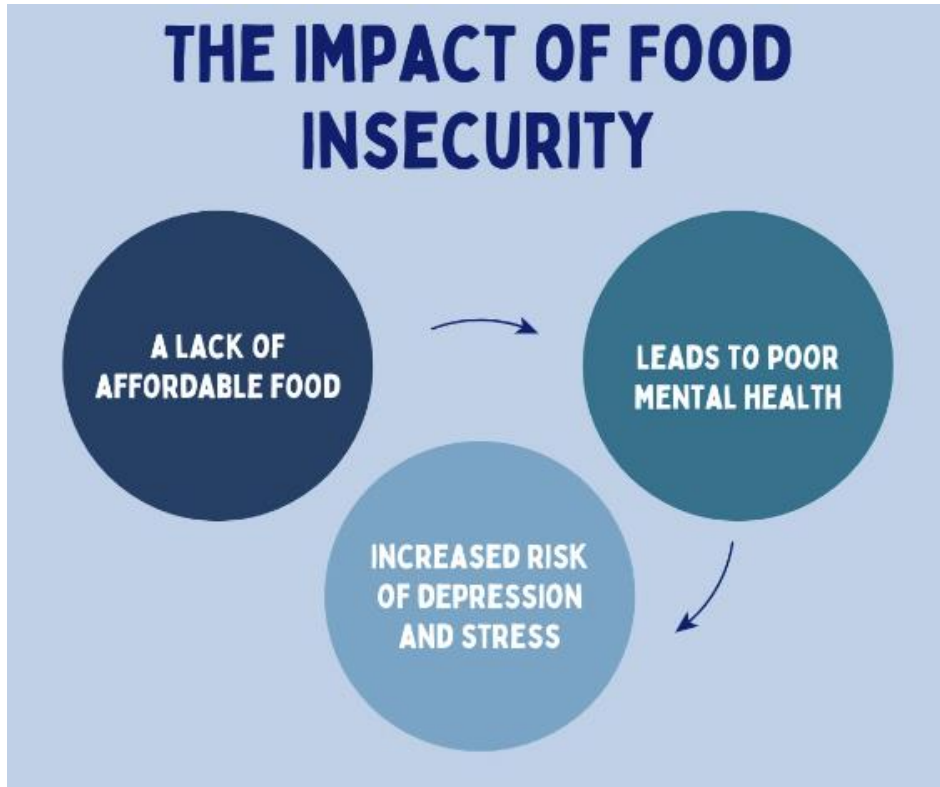
- Type II Diabetes
- High blood pressure
- Heart disease
- Obesity



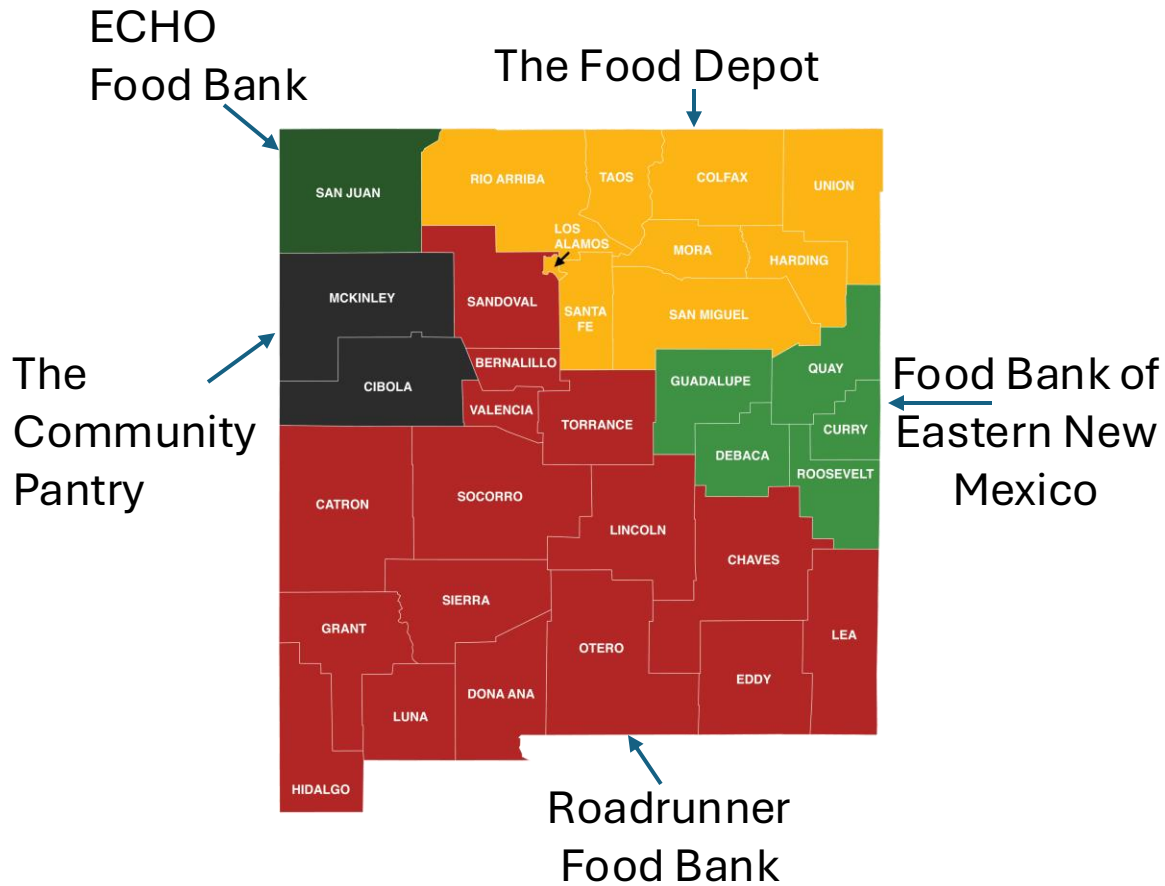
Everything is interconnected. Food insecurity does not exist in a vacuum.



Overall Impacts



How State Funding Comes to the Food Banks and What Counties They Serve with Those Funds:



Food is:

- Donated
- Purchased
- Rescued from retailers
- Received through contracts



Food Banks pick up and receive truckloads of food every week.



Food is distributed to each of New Mexico's 33 counties.

Volunteers help:

- Box
- Sort
- Repack
- Relabel

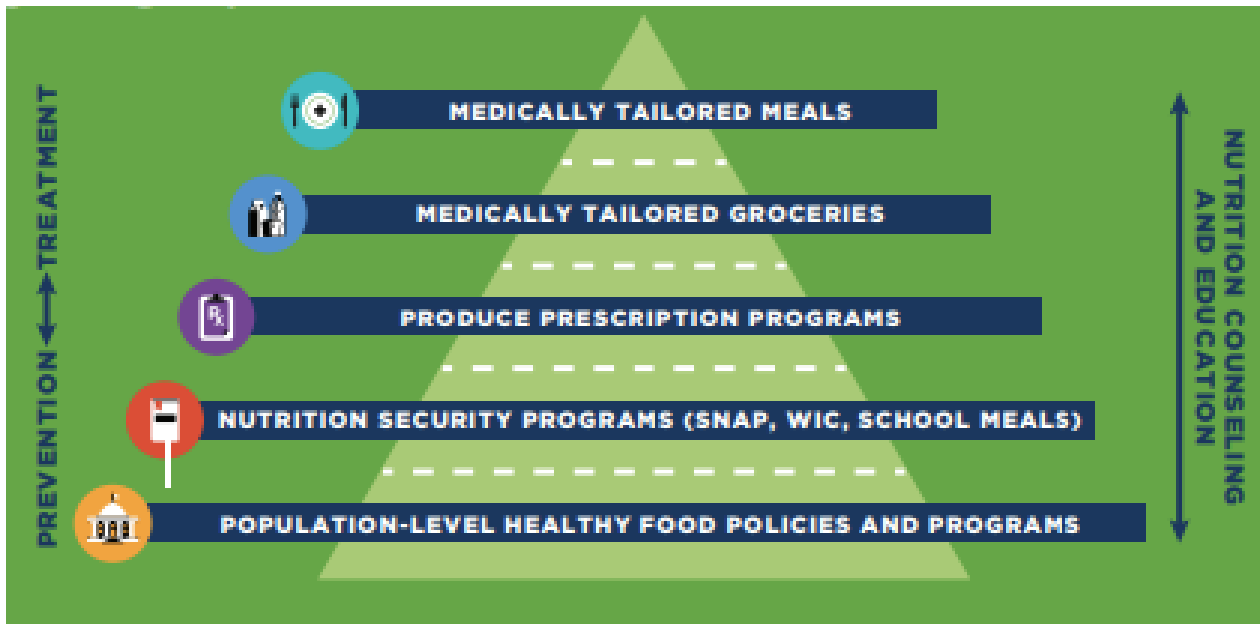


Hunger relief is provided to **tens of thousands of New Mexicans each week.**

Food is supplied to free food programs including:

- Food Pantries
- School Partners
- After-school Programs
- Community Kitchens
- Daycare Centers
- Emergency Shelters
- Soup Kitchens
- Senior Meal Sites
- Low-income Housing
- Chapter Houses
- Health Partners

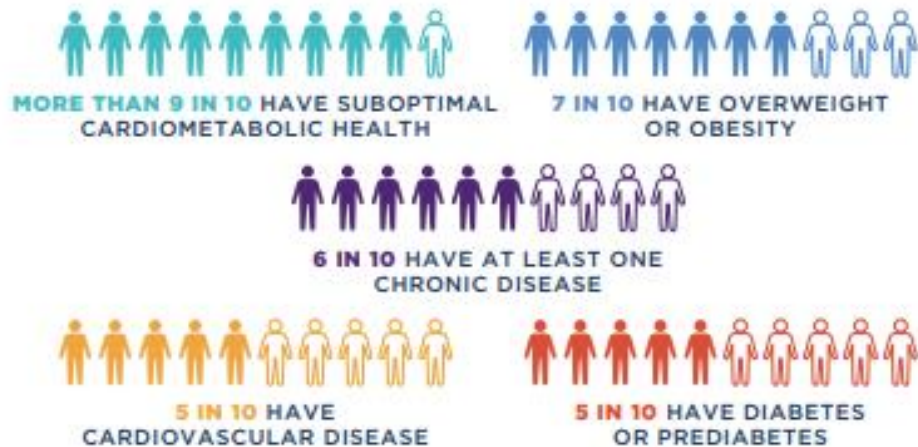




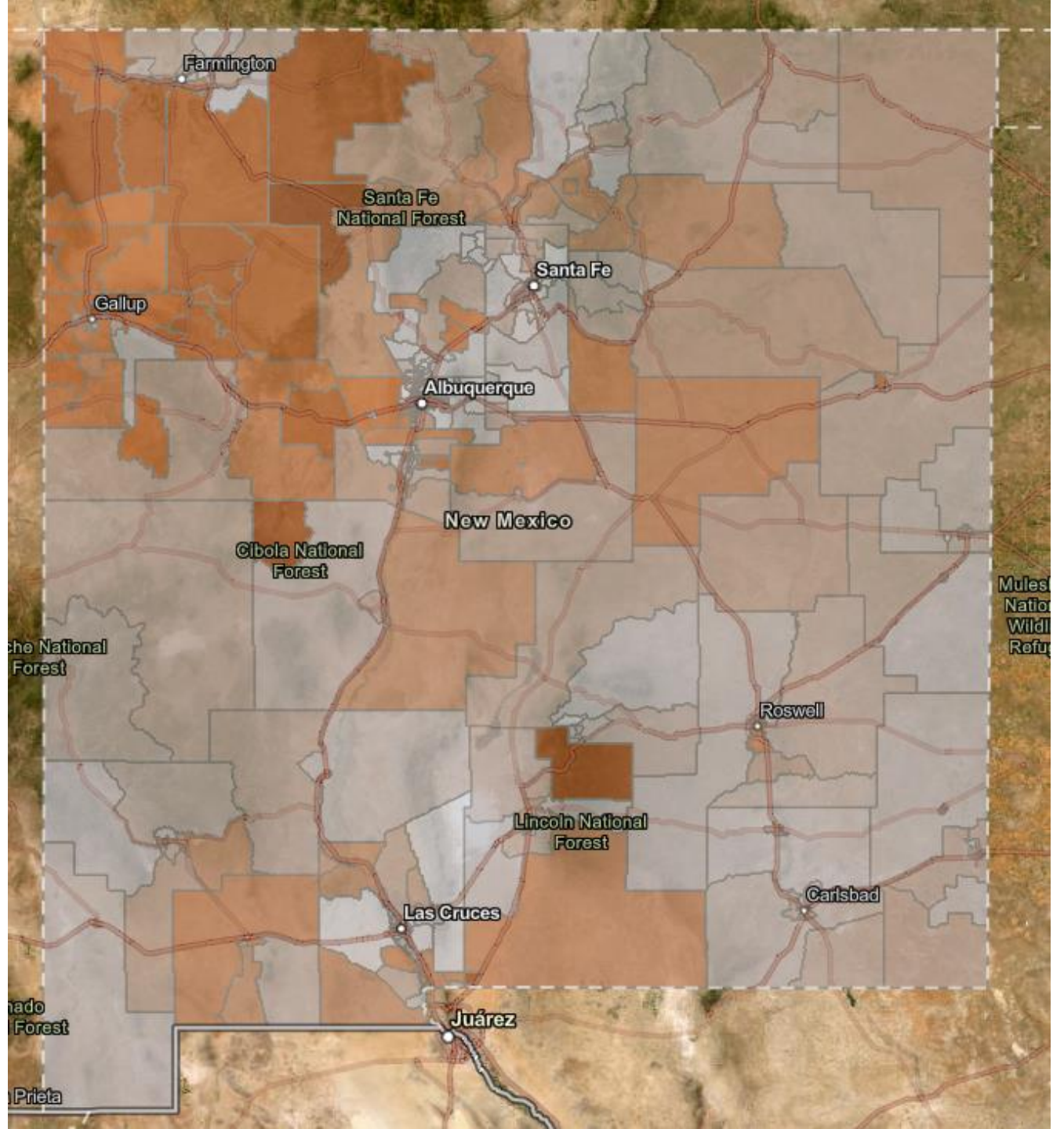
Food Is Medicine

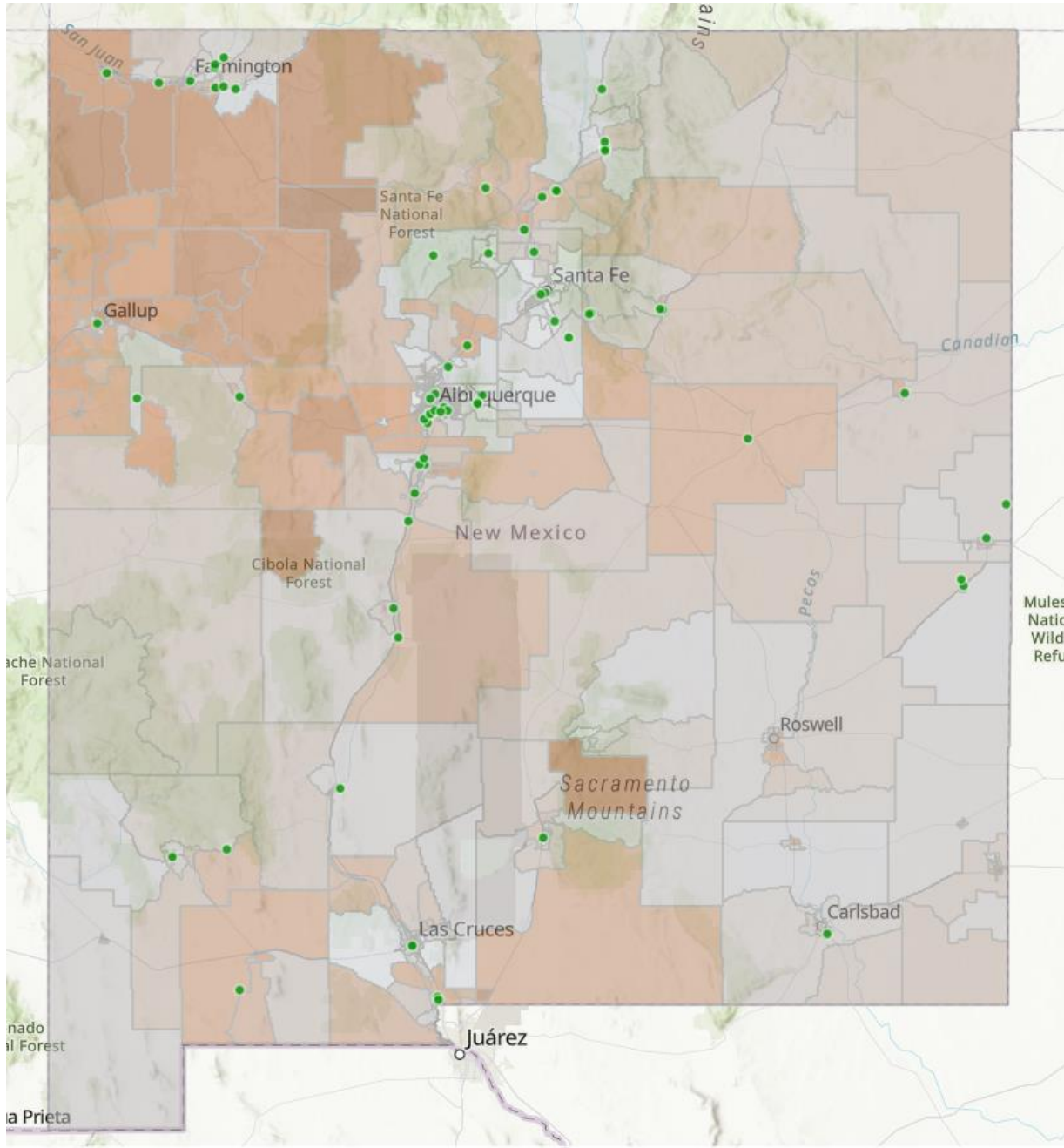
“Food is Medicine (FIM) interventions reflect the critical link between nutrition and health, integrated into health care delivery. These include programs that provide nutritionally tailored meals, groceries, and produce to support disease management, prevention, or optimal health and are linked to the health care system as part of a patient’s treatment plan.”

Among U.S. Adults:⁴



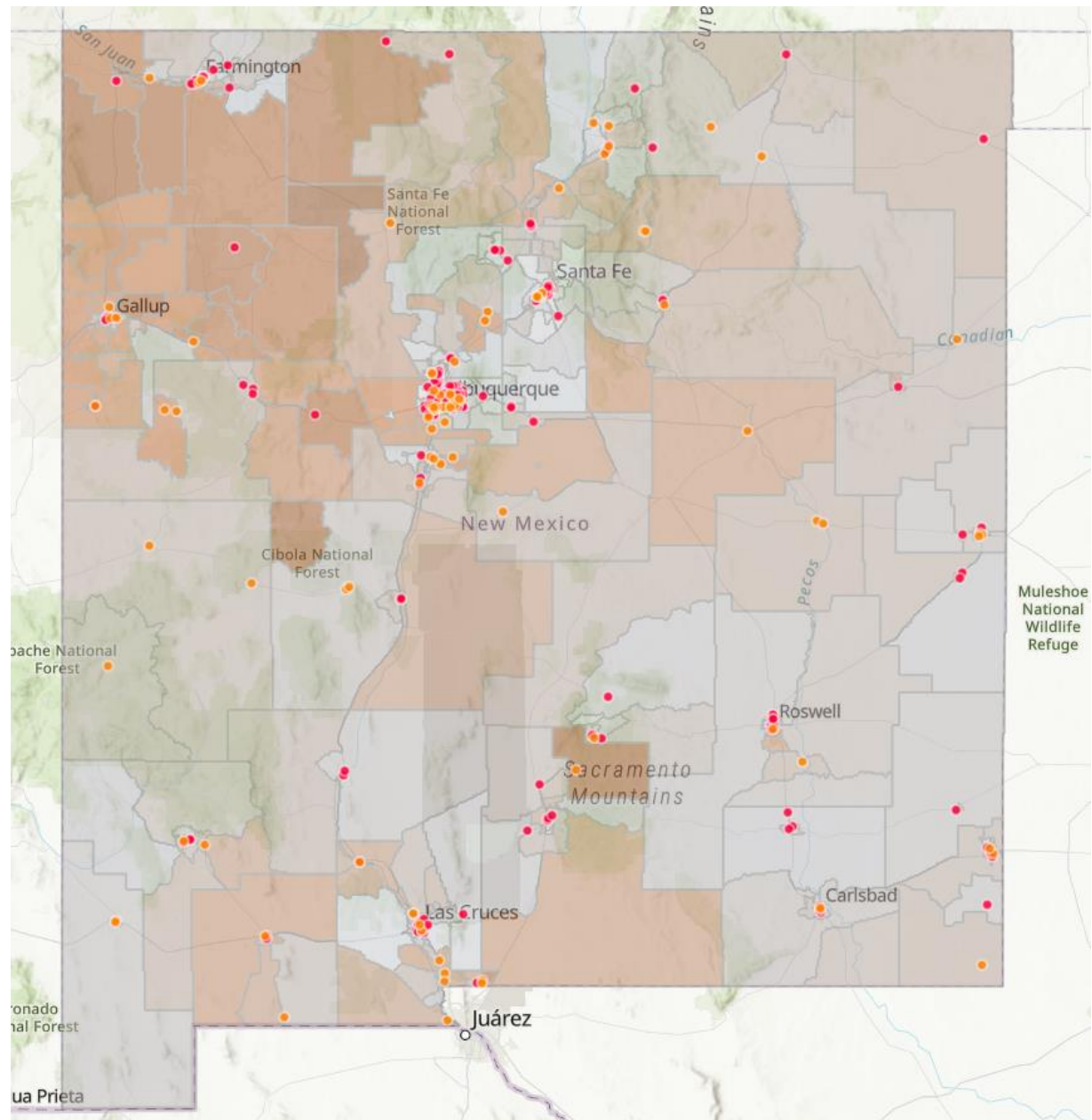
Need By Census Tract Map



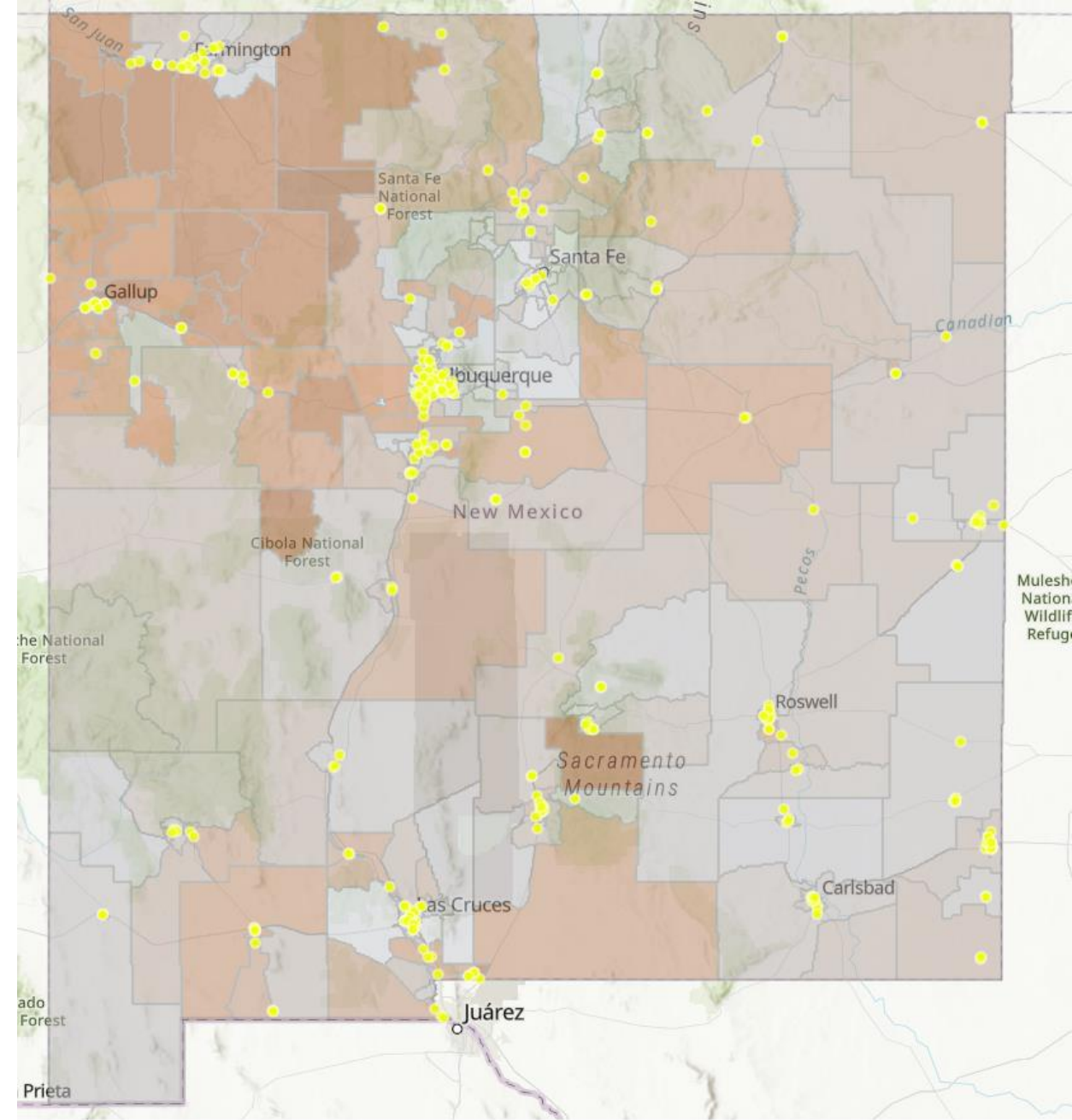
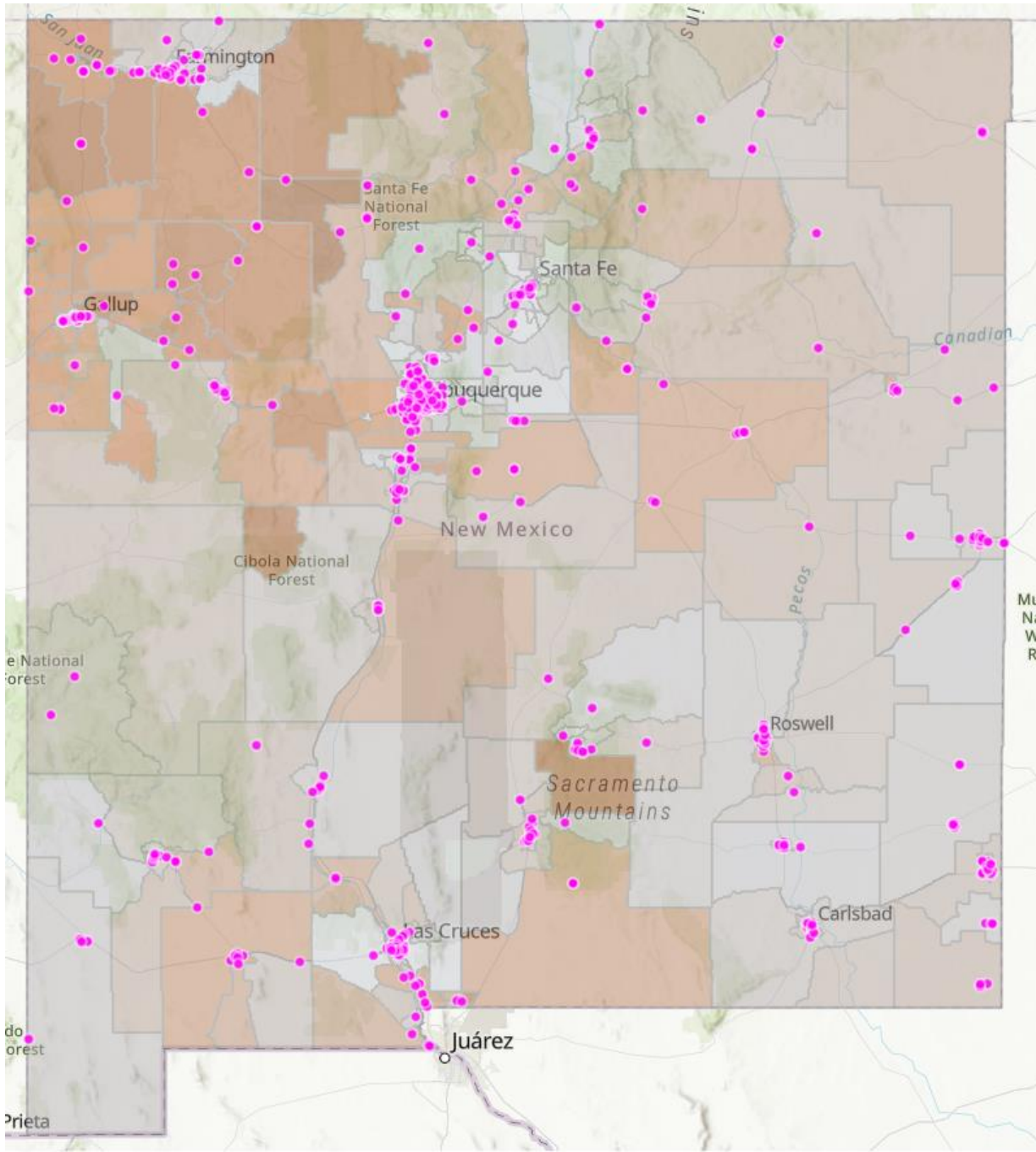


Green dots represent Farmers Markets that accept SNAP

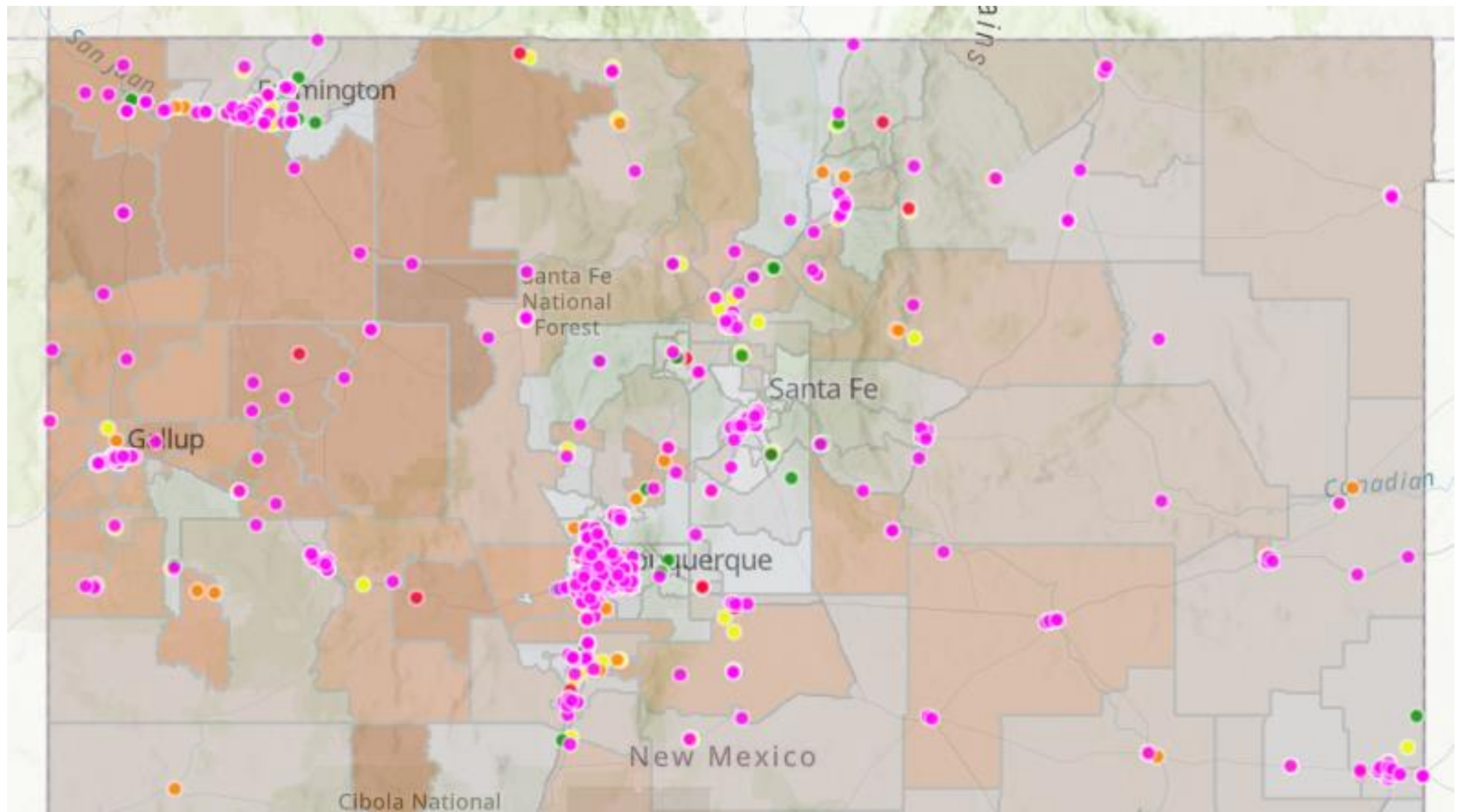
Orange dots represent small grocery stores and red dots represent full-service grocery stores that accept SNAP



Pink dots represent convenience stores that accept SNAP

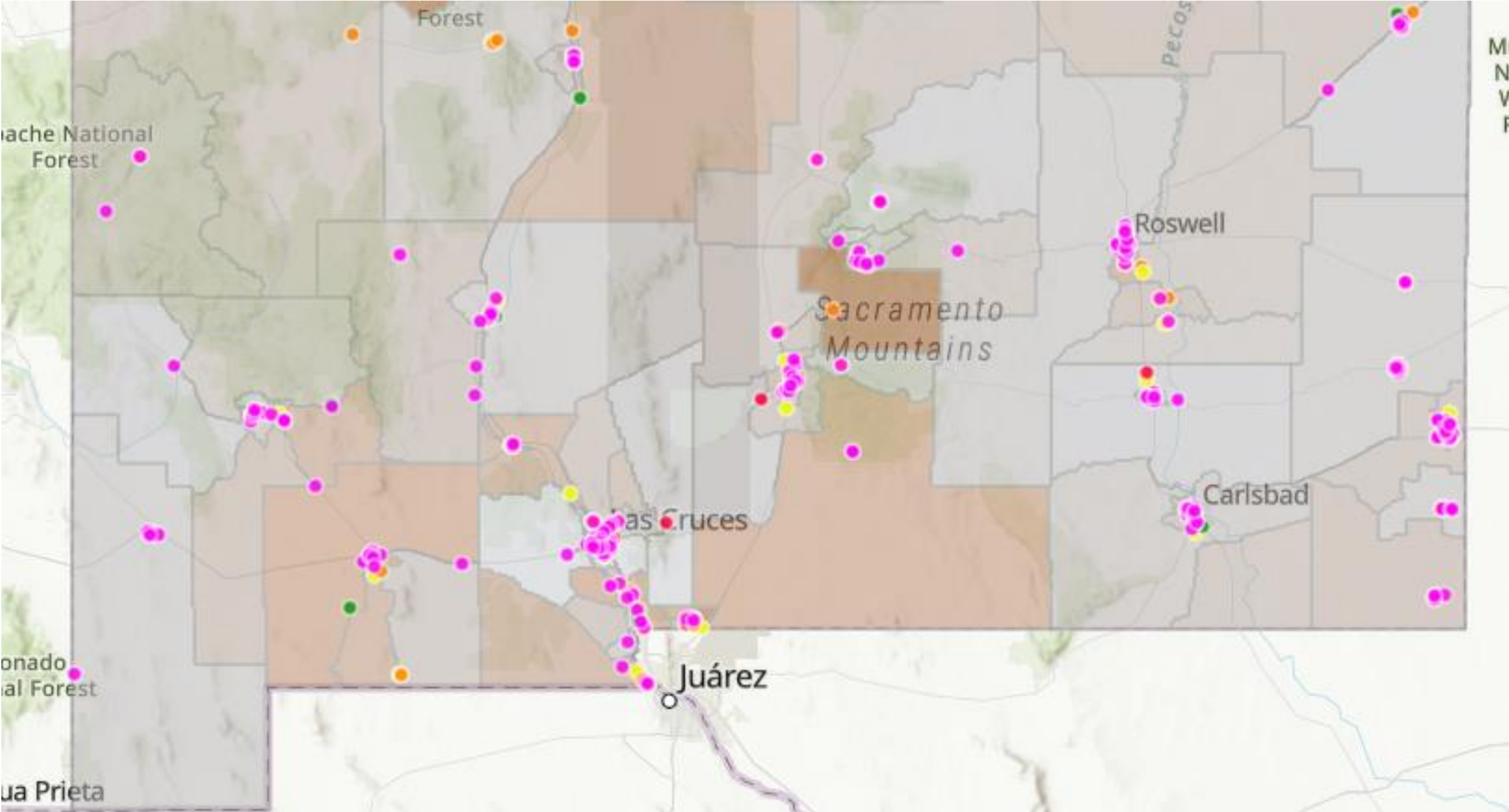


Yellow dots represent dollar stores that accept SNAP

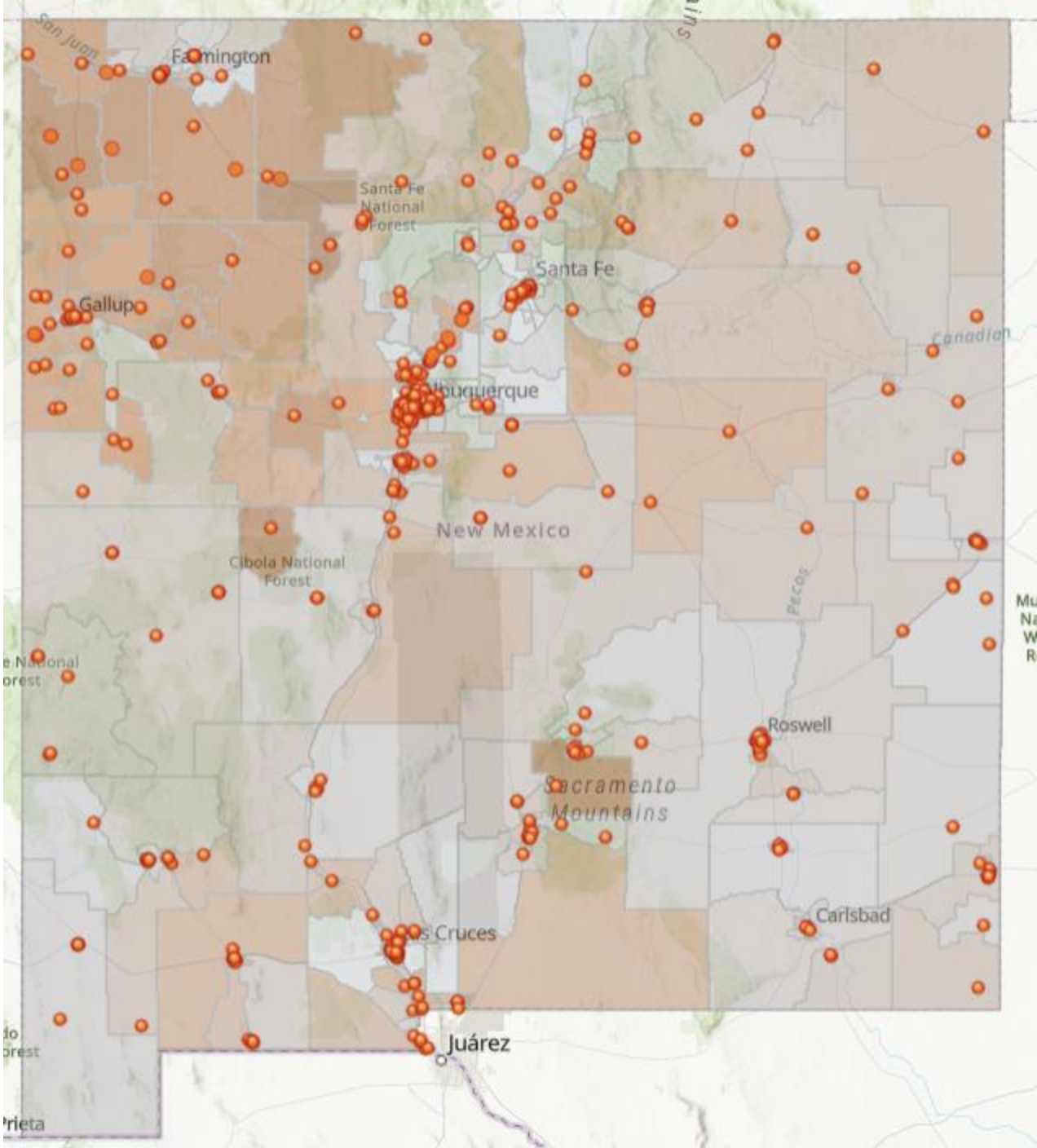


Represent all SNAP-enabled retailers in the Northern half of New Mexico

Represent all SNAP-enabled retailers in the Southern half of New Mexico



Represents all food distributions in the state of New Mexico





There are 228 full-service grocery stores

Industry average is 5,000 people per full-service grocery store

With NM's population, we should have 420

We are at 54% of the industry average per capita

Obstacles/Challenges:



**LACK OF NECESSARY
INFRASTRUCTURE**



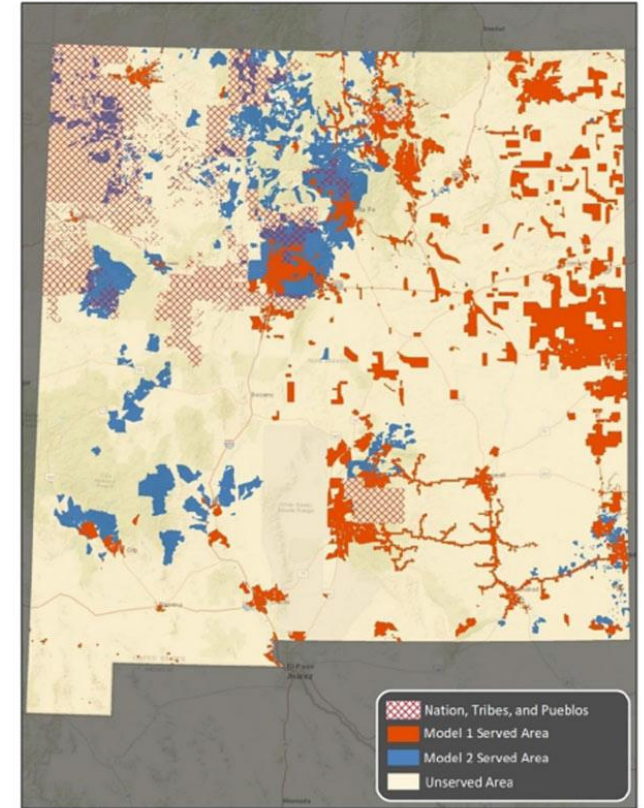
Transportation



Reaching populations outside of
children and seniors



Lack of
Healthy
Food
Access



Lack of Broadband



Obstacles/Challenges:

25 million meals are
still missing for
New Mexicans

New Mexico Regional Farm to Food Bank (RF2FB)



New Mexico received a USDA grant through the Local Food Purchasing Assistance (LFPA) Program, to operate the RF2FB initiative



The program purchases fresh, locally produced foods at fair prices, which are distributed by food banks across the state, creating healthier access to food for New Mexicans in need



The Food Depot implements the program on behalf of the New Mexico Association of Food Banks



The problem is large, we need to think bigger

Big solutions require multi-faceted strategies



The Roadrunner Coalition to End Hunger is creating a Blueprint to End Hunger in New Mexico to be published in fall 2025

- A group with 76 Collaborative, Agency, and Individual members from across the state, nearly 100 people
- An additional 75 participants regularly attending calls and meetings



What Can We Do?

- Continue to Fully Fund Important State and Federal Nutrition Programs like Healthy Universal School Meals, SNAP, WIC, NM Grown, and many more
- Fully Fund and Support Food Is Medicine Work
- Expand Food Distributions in Areas with Low-Food Access
- Invest in Food Access Infrastructure Including Cold Storage
- Invest in Food Sovereignty Projects in Native Communities
- Invest in Unique and Innovative Place-Based Projects to Address Food Insecurity
- Invest in Local Food Systems, such as the Regional Farm-to-Food Bank Program

What Can We Do?

- Tax incentives for grocery stores built within low-income, low-access areas
- Funding for Healthy Community Stores and Healthy Corner Stores to increase healthy food access for low-income communities
- Increased funding for public transit allowing residents to more easily access food options that are not within walking distance
- Funding mobile grocery stores and food trucks that bring nutritious foods to those who need them most
- Provide funding for programs seeking to reach and feed food insecure New Mexicans
- Work with existing retailers to get as much locally-produced product on their shelves as possible
- Investing in food hubs with cold storage providing support to local agriculture as well as food distribution partners
- Government-sponsored gardens and urban farming initiatives can bring food production into low-income communities where nutrition is often lacking

What Can We Do?

Funding for Food Banks is
Crucial to Meet the Need
in Many New Mexican
Communities

- Ensure that \$10 million is included in the HCA budget for the 2025 Session
- Work toward a longer-term goal of a fund that provides money year over year