



The Community Pantry  
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Dear Friend of The Community Pantry,

We are living in uncertain times. The people we serve and the funding that enables us to serve them are both facing serious threats. One of the most pressing concerns is the significant reduction in SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits. Federally, the U.S. is confronting \$300 billion in proposed SNAP cuts. Today, over 41.2 million people rely on these benefits. Over the next decade, that equates to a staggering loss of approximately **\$12,296.69 per recipient**.

Here in McKinley County, where 26,370 individuals receive SNAP assistance, this reduction represents a critical blow—impacting a region already grappling with high unemployment, limited shopping options, and minimal transportation infrastructure. The effects could be devastating for a community already struggling to meet basic food needs.

In addition, federal cuts to the **2025 Local Food Purchase (LFP) Program** have dealt another blow to our efforts. This program had been a success story—supporting New Mexico's farmers, ranchers, schools, and food banks. Now, the loss of approximately **\$3 million** in TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program) purchases for the state means The Community Pantry will lose about **\$366,000** in purchased food—resources we count on to serve the Gallup and Grants communities.

Are we feeling the impact? Absolutely! These losses mean we must find alternative ways to source food. Without additional support, we face the heartbreaking possibility of having to serve less food to those who rely on us. In a region already in crisis, where **3 out of 5 children are food insecure**, that is not an option we are willing to accept.

Our elderly, our veterans, our homeless population, and our working families are all at risk. That's why we are reaching out to you—our community of supporters.

If you feel moved to help us during this challenging time, we ask you to consider making a financial contribution. Your support will directly impact our ability to continue feeding our communities and ensuring that every child, elder, and family in need has access to nourishing food.

At The Community Pantry, we do our best with what we have—and with what we have, we give so that others may thrive. Thank you for your continued support. With your help, we will remain a pillar of strength and hope for our community.

With gratitude,

Alice Perez, Executive Director

The Community Pantry

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**"BECAUSE NO MOTHER'S CHILD SHOULD GO HUNGRY"**