

GRANT COUNTY

Resolution No. 2012-03

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE STATE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO PROVIDE FOOD FOR LOW-INCOME ELDERLY AND DISABLED NEW MEXICANS

WHEREAS, the County of Grant recognizes that one out of three New Mexicans do not have enough food to eat, the second highest rate for food insecurity in the United States, and;

WHEREAS, the County of Grant recognizes many of its residents who are elderly and disabled rely on federal assistance programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/Food Stamps) to put food on the table, and;

WHEREAS, the County of Grant acknowledges that an additional \$9 per person would ensure 4,500 low-income elderly and disabled New Mexicans receive at least \$25 of SNAP benefits per month in 2012, and;

WHEREAS, the County of Grant acknowledges that by issuing SNAP benefits, New Mexican communities also receive a boost in their local economy through food purchases.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Grant County Board of Commissioners supports the “Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program State Supplement” in the General Appropriations Act of 2012, allotting \$650,000 to continue providing food for low-income New Mexicans and addressing food insecurity in Grant County and across the State.

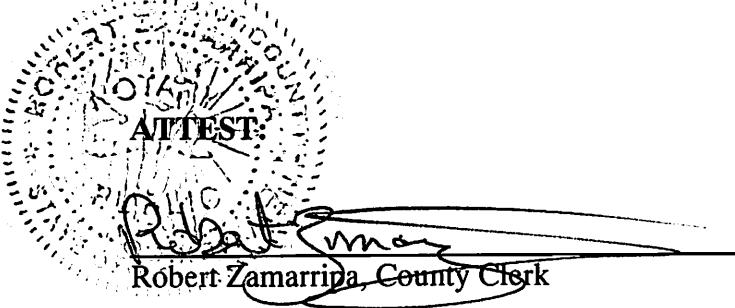
PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 12th DAY OF January 2012.

GRANT COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Brett Kasten
Brett Kasten, Chair

Gabriel Ramos
Gabriel Ramos, Member

Christy Miller
Christy Miller, Member



NM center on law and poverty

PROTECT FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR OLDER AND DISABLED NEW MEXICANS



New Mexico has the second highest rate of food insecurity among those age 60 and over in the country.¹ The State Supplement addresses this fact by ensuring that approximately 4,500 low-income older and disabled New Mexicans receive at least \$25² a month in SNAP/Food Stamps to put food on the table.

Only \$650,000 is needed to keep this important program going.

If the federally funded amount of SNAP benefit that an individual receives is less than \$25, state funding fills that gap.

The minimum federal SNAP benefit amount is \$16 per month. SNAP benefits do not take into account the special needs of older and disabled individuals that can increase their food costs. Many have special diet restrictions, no working stove available, are unable to cook because of health problems, or have difficulty getting to the stores with the lowest prices or to any store at all.

The State Supplement Makes a Difference!

Here's what an additional \$9 a month can buy:
(based on Albuquerque grocery)

- One loaf of whole grain bread \$2.00
- One dozen eggs \$1.50
- One gallon of milk \$2.50
- One pound of apples \$1.00
- 12 ounce bag of frozen vegetables \$2.00

SNAP Spending Spurs Economic Activity

Because SNAP benefits are so urgently needed, recipients spend them quickly—97% of benefits are redeemed by the end of the month of issuance – spent almost entirely on local purchases. Experts estimate that for every dollar of SNAP benefits issued there is an economic impact during a recession from \$1.73 to \$1.79. So protecting SNAP benefits our most vulnerable people and our local economies at a time when both need all the help they can get.

¹ Ziliak, J., & Gunderson, C. (2011) *Food Insecurity Among Older Adults*. Pg. 24. Retrieved October 7, 2011 from www.drivetoendhunger.org/downloads/AARP_Hunger_Report.pdf.

² This program has already been cut. Effective January 1, 2011, the minimum benefit dropped from \$30 per month to \$25 per month.

For more information, contact Patricia Anders

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