

New Mexico Food and Agriculture Policy Council
2020 Legislative Special Session Outcomes
July 1, 2020

The majority of the NMFAPC priorities stayed within agency budgets but will see cuts of four to six percent depending on the agency. The priority agriculture programs administered by the **NM Department of Agriculture**, including support for **farmers' markets** and **local promotion programs**, **Soil and Water Conservation Districts program funds**, and the **healthy soils program**, will be subject to the NMDA four percent cuts. Unfortunately, the **Agriculture and Natural Resources Pilot Fund** of \$1.8 million did not survive the cuts. NM State University faces a four percent cut across all programs. Our priorities to continue funding for the **NM Cooperative Extension Services** and **Experimental Stations** are within the NMSU budget.

NM Grown Fruits and Vegetables for School Meals appropriation of **\$400,000** and the **Elimination of Co-pays for School Breakfast and Lunch of \$650,000** were maintained in the **NM Public Education Department budget**. They will be subject to the agency percentage cuts. This is a relief, as the LFC's recommendations were to cut both programs by 50 percent.

The new **Kiki Saavedra Senior Dignity Fund** was sanded by \$1 million leaving a balance of \$6.3 million to initiate a wide variety of programs which will benefit seniors across New Mexico. It is our request that the **NM Grown Fruits and Vegetables for Senior Meal Programs** be considered for a modest amount of funding to launch a statewide program, building on the successful pilot program just completed in 2020.

The [SB 5: Solvency Measures](#) (Capital Outlay Cuts) passed without any vetoes by the Governor. These Capital Outlay funds, for the most part, were funds that had been appropriated prior to the 2020 session and not utilized for project requests in 2018-19.

The NMFAPC looks forward to working with the full NMFAPC and agencies to make sure budget cuts are equitable and no priority programs get cut. Most important is the work ahead of us into 2021 and beyond.