Presentation for Water and Natural Resources Committee

Federal Funding Cuts: Impact on New Mexico Food Systems

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A Presentation by the New Mexico Public Education Department

National School Lunch Program

About

- The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) provides breakfast, lunch, and nutritious snacks to 225 school food authorities in New Mexico.
- Per SB4, Healthy Universal School Meals, the Public Education Department (PED) implemented the healthy universal school meals program in SY 23-24.
- School food authorities have received $2 million in funding for NM Grown in SY 25-26.

Navigating Federal Funding Changes for New Mexico's Food Systems

Immediate Cuts for SY25-26

- In December 2024, the United States Department of Agriculture announced the availability of $1.13 Billion in Local Food Programs, $5.6 million of which was earmarked for New Mexico to support Local Food for Schools and Child Care Cooperative for the PED and Early Childhood Education & Care Department over a three-year period.
- New Mexico was well positioned to apply and receive $500,000 from the Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grant.

Sun Bucks/Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT)

As of July 2025

- Over $35 million in benefits for eligible students and families
  - 294,657 students participating in NSLP eligible schools
  - Over 275,000 students were automatically eligible through TANF, SNAP, Medicaid-Free, or other categorically eligible categories such as McKinney-Vento, foster, migrant, and runaway students.

Students that do not receive TANF, SNAP, Medicaid or are deemed any of the categorically eligible statuses will need to complete free/reduced applications, which may reduce the number of students that receive benefits.

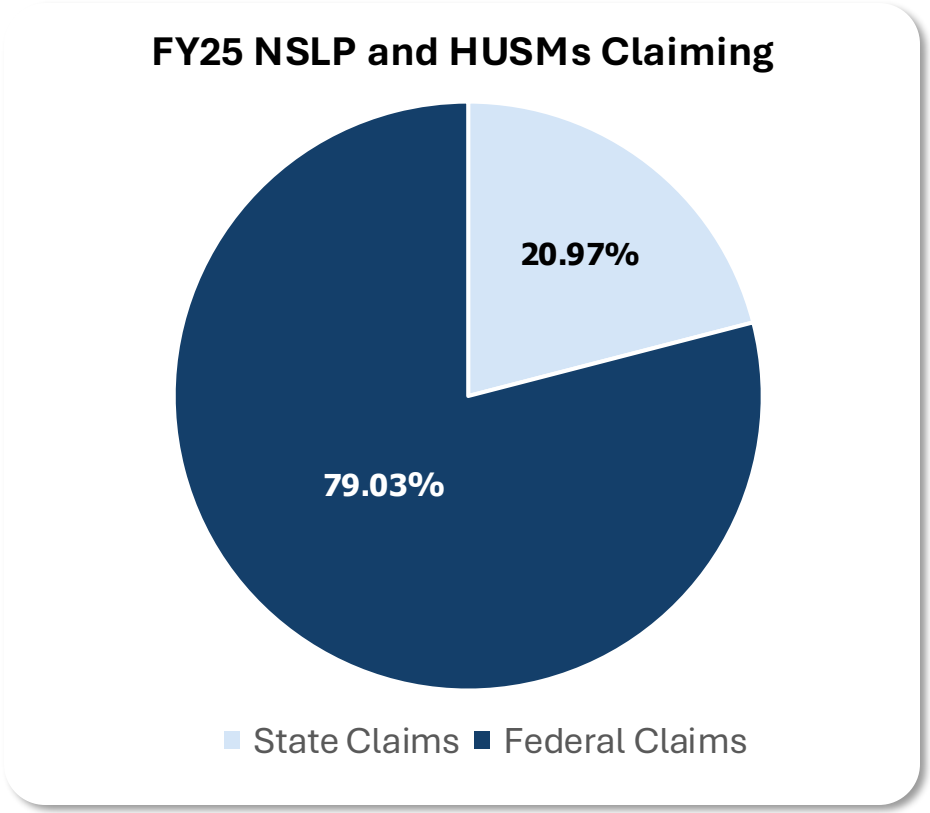
Community Eligibility Program – School Participation

- 858 New Mexico schools are eligible for the Community Eligibility Program (CEP).
- The CEP provides maximum federal reimbursements to schools that are high-poverty to serve meals free to all students without collecting household applications and alleviating the paperwork burden.
- In SY25-26, 100 percent of eligible schools participated in the CEP.
  - Up from 99 percent in SY24-25
  - Will have regional meetings with schools in early 2026 for eligible schools

School Year 24-25 Meal Claims

FY25 YTD Expenditures:

- State Claims (HUSMs) = $44,980,982.25
- Federal Claims (NSLP) = $169,482,657.54
- Blended Total = $214,463,639.79



Thank you!

For Questions

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