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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

All Together NM Fund grants additional \$220k to further ensure food security across the state

Monies to buy, distribute much-needed food, resources

NEW MEXICO, June 12, 2020: The All Together New Mexico Fund, an initiative of the New Mexico Coalition of Community Foundations, has granted an additional \$220,000 to 58 food pantries and organizations addressing immediate food security needs in communities in all 33 New Mexico counties.

This second round of grants was primarily made to food pantries in rural communities and areas with limited access. "In times like these, it is imperative to ensure members of our community have access to the most basic human needs, which includes access to safe and healthy food," said Randy Royster, President & CEO of the **Albuquerque Community Foundation**. "While the needs are vast, we have taken care to increase food availability in the more rural parts of our state that are often considered food deserts and place individuals at greater health risks," continued Royster.

Many rural communities are relatively more isolated from access to fresh produce and provisions afforded to major cities. The pandemic has exacerbated this phenomenon and this round of funding from All Together NM Fund targets these at-risk communities. "The need is tremendous throughout the state, and particularly in our outlying, rural areas," said Lisa O'Brien, Foundation Director of the **Taos Community Foundation**. "This collaborative effort reminds us of the needs of many of our neighbors, who may not have easy access to support services."

Bethel Community Storehouse in Moriarty, New Mexico commented, "now that we are in the new normal, [we have] the added expense of having to purchase PPE supplies for our volunteers which was not in our budget," said Linda Smith, Bethel Executive Director. "But, because of the All Together NM [Fund] grant, not only can we serve more clients, but we can give them more food as well."

Harvest Ministries of Roswell, New Mexico commented, "[We have] been the hub of food distribution in Chaves County for the last two decades and [have] distributed millions of pounds of food to the hungry and at risk in our communities. We depend solely on the donations from our community, but during this crisis, we have seen that many of our regular supporters have not been able to give and the future of giving is even more uncertain," said Mark Green, Executive Director. "[The] grant was an encouraging and timely donation. Almost all of our volunteers continue to come and serve everyday putting themselves at risk, even though with personal protective equipment, to make sure that no one goes hungry on our watch, but without the funds to continue supplying the needed food, they would have nothing to do. Thanks to your donation...we will continue to be able to make sure that we can help everyone who comes to us in need."

"**St. Felix Pantry** is the only food pantry in Sandoval County that allows weekly access to necessary food. The Pantry has established trust by being a resource for the most vulnerable, not only in Rio Rancho (the city in which St. Felix Pantry resides), but also throughout the State of New Mexico," said Rachael Miletkov, Director of Development. "Since the COVID-19 crisis, we have seen a drastic increase in new registrants coming to us for food due to temporary or permanent job loss, children being out of school, and the elderly who are self-isolating for safety... St. Felix Pantry has also partnered with several organizations serving the Navajo Nation to provide the highest-quality food to those affected by COVID-19.... The Grant awarded through the All Together NM Fund will allow St. Felix Pantry to remain operational and serve those in need."

"The **Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico** team is proud to support food banks and food pantries throughout New Mexico," said Terra Winter, PhD, President & CEO. We have been able to provide funding to multiple community food



banks, ensuring our rural and vulnerable communities have the food resources their residents need, and those dealing with this pandemic crisis and associated economic hardship can get the sustenance they need.”

Initial food security grants from the All Together NM Fund were announced in late April 2020, allocating \$400,000 to five food banks that cover New Mexico. To date, the fund has granted \$640,000 to 633 food banks and pantries serving communities, including tribal communities, across the state.

“This statewide grantmaking made in partnership by the New Mexico Coalition of Foundations demonstrates the power of community philanthropy. This unprecedented coordination of philanthropy across our state is working to ensure our communities—all of our communities—stay strong during this pandemic” said Bill Smith, President & CEO of the Santa Fe Community Foundation. “When our neighbors are hungry, we have an obligation to respond.”

In partnership with the Governor’s office, the New Mexico Coalition of Community Foundations continues to monitor the emerging needs of our state and meet those needs head on.

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INFORMATION ON APPLYING FOR ALL TOGETHER NM FUND GRANTS

The All Together Fund NM continues to accept applications for:

- Organizations **providing basic and emergency food and shelter needs** to our most at-risk individuals and communities.
- Organizations providing immediate and increased access to **physical, mental, and behavioral health services** and/or organizations **increasing access to COVID-19 related medical supplies** such as PPE.
- Organizations **supporting early childhood needs** as they relate to: providing child care for essential workers; ensuring open childcare centers remain safe and healthy environments; and/or providing necessary materials (from diapers to learning devices) for children.

Interested organizations should visit AllTogetherNM.org to learn more about how to apply and to access the online grant application.

DONATIONS TO ALL TOGETHER NM FUND

Donations to the Fund are tax-deductible and can be made in the following ways:

- **Online** AllTogetherNM.org;
- **Texting** “together” to (505) 333-4714;
- **Mailing a check** to the Santa Fe Community Foundation, PO Box 1827, Santa Fe, NM 87504. Please note “All Together NM Fund” on the check itself;

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About All Together New Mexico Fund (ATNM Fund)

The ATNM Fund was established to help New Mexico respond to and eventually recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Fund is addressing immediate needs and offer long-term support for the recovery work that lies ahead.



ATNM Fund Project Scope

The New Mexico Coalition of Community Foundations spearheaded the idea and coordinates the fund. Its member organizations include: the Albuquerque Community Foundation, the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico, the Santa Fe Community Foundation, and the Taos Community Foundation. These organizations, in turn, work with the larger philanthropic community across New Mexico and consult with the State of New Mexico to determine the most urgent needs to be addressed through grantmaking from the All Together NM Fund.

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