

DOLORES AND MONTEZUMA COUNTIES AND UTE MOUNTAIN UTE TRIBAL NATION

FOOD SECURITY ACTION FRAMEWORK

SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY FOOD ALLIANCE

Food insecurity - the lack of accessible food needed to support one's needs - continues to be a serious challenge across our region. Rising costs, an uncertain economy, and cuts to federal food assistance are making it harder for many families to afford enough healthy food. These pressures are also placing added strain on local organizations that provide food and other support.

In response, the Southwest Community Food Alliance brought together community members, food assistance organizations, public agencies, and other partners between Summer 2025 through Spring 2026 to identify shared priorities for improving food security in Montezuma & Dolores Counties, as well as, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. This Food Security Action Framework reflects the ideas, values, and opportunities that came from those conversations.

This framework is not a detailed action plan. Instead, it is a guide to help people and organizations work together, make decisions, and identify ways to take action in the coming years. As time and resources allow, the Alliance will create workgroups, timelines, and action plans for the priorities included here. Other organizations and community members are also invited to use this framework to support their own efforts.

The Southwest Community Food Alliance (SWCFA) is a network of food access organizations, government agencies, and community members dedicated to improving food security across Montezuma and Dolores Counties and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Nation by working together to eliminate hunger, promote dignity, and build a healthier, more resilient community.



SHARED GOALS & PRIORITY AREAS

CONNECT PEOPLE TO FOOD

Increase outreach and communication to ensure people know about food resources.

Build food resource awareness through person-to-person communication and a diversity of channels.

Create programs that address specific gaps in current food availability.

Expand fresh and culturally significant food access through delivery, local growing, and programs.

BUILD PARTNERSHIPS AND STABLE FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Establish the structure for the Southwest Community Food Alliance.

Use SWCFA structure to support collaboration and action framework implementation.

Create a permanent food security fund to support local food security efforts.

Develop long-term fundraising and income sources to build financial stability for local organizations and initiatives over time.

Build multi-sector partnerships.

Explore partnerships that can bring more people, funding, and resources together to strengthen food security efforts across the region.

CENTER COMMUNITY VOICES IN DECISIONS AROUND RESOURCES AND FOOD

Collect community feedback.

Create clear and welcoming ways for people to share their ideas and experiences. Add these practices to current programs and gather feedback in places and ways that work best for community members.

Build community around food security.

Host more inclusive events to increase awareness and collaboration; invite more people into Southwest Community Food Alliance moments.

Support community leadership.

Build stronger relationships with people who have experienced food insecurity. Create clear ways for them to help plan, make decisions, and carry out the work.

Build awareness.

Use stories and media to help people understand food security, local efforts, and the Southwest Community Food Alliance. Share people's experiences in ways that replace shame with connection, understanding, and hope.

BUILD LONG-TERM RESILIENCE AND STRENGTHEN THE FOOD SAFETY NET

Plan for emergency preparedness.

Establish a preparedness committee to create a proactive emergency plan before the next food crisis, including creating a tighter web of partnerships.

Build partnerships with the agricultural community.

Ensure that farmers, ranchers, and hunters are involved as key partners of the food safety net.

Develop storage and transportation infrastructure.

Build the capacity to regionally store, process, move, and distribute food locally.



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WAYS TO USE THE FOOD SECURITY ACTION FRAMEWORK

The following are two suggested ways to engage with the Action Framework, whether you are reviewing it as an **1)** individual from the community or **2)** as a representative of an organization working in the food or community service space.

I am an individual interested in getting involved:

STEP 1: READ

- ☐ Read through the Goals and Priorities.

STEP 2: REFLECT

- ☐ What part of the framework would you like to help move forward?
- ☐ What could you contribute (time, skills, experience, relationships, or ideas)?
- ☐ What level of involvement feels realistic to you?

STEP 3: DECIDE YOUR NEXT STEPS

- ☐ Reach out to the SWCFA to join a workgroup.
- ☐ Reach out to a local organization to volunteer.
- ☐ Tell someone about this plan and ask them to join you.

I represent an organization working in the food or community space:

STEP 1: BRING THIS FRAMEWORK

- ☐ To your next team meeting and read through it together, discussing priorities.
- ☐ Into organizational planning to see how you can align strategy or support a work group.

STEP 2: REFLECT

- ☐ Which Goals or Priorities connect to your organization's existing actions or strategic priorities?
- ☐ How might your organization take action on some of these areas through your programs, services, community touch points?
- ☐ How might your organization support the Goals or Priorities?
- ☐ Who from your team may be able to devote time to support one of these Priorities?

STEP 3: DECIDE YOUR NEXT STEPS

- ☐ Reach out to the SWCFA to determine next steps for collaboration.



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ORGANIZATIONS CURRENTLY INVOLVED WITH THE FORMATION OF THE SWCFA INCLUDE:

Care & Share Food Bank Serving Southern Colorado • Dolores Family Project
Dove Creek Care & Share • Dove Creek ROCK • Four Corners Food Not Bombs
Good Food Collective • Good Sam's Food Pantry • Grace's Kitchen • Hope's Kitchen
Mancos FoodShare • Montezuma County Depts. of Social Services and Senior Services
Montezuma County Dept. of Public Health • Salvation Army • Spark
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Towaoc Pantry • Ute Mountain Ute Tribe WIC Dept.



**For more information or to get
involved, contact the SWCFA via
info@goodfoodcollective.org**

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