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# THE WEEKLY ISSUE

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**'Do Our Names Matter?'** 8  
*¿Nuestros Nombres Importan?*

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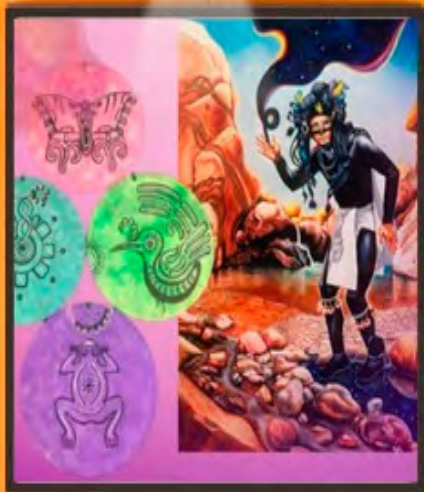
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# UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS



## Flor Y Canto

Located at CHAC Gallery in Lakewood

Opening: April 7th

## Amor Es Amor

Located at Northglenn Arts

Opening: April 14th

## Food & Culture

Located at OZ Gallery in Thornton

Opening: June 13th

# The Eternal Tragedies of Migrants Touch Us All, Deeply

Maribel Hastings and David Torres

The shocking image of a little child, just one year old, abandoned by a “coyote” along the river bank, is one of the recent scenes that have saturated the media. It embodies the desperation of migrants from different parts of the world to arrive in the United States, a country they expect to be the salvation for them and their families. The desperation is such that they prefer to gamble with their lives more than once, having already crossed seas, forests, and deserts.

Basically, the life of the migrant is filled with vicissitudes from beginning to end, starting in their places of origins, which they have abandoned for lack of opportunities, to the site that marks the end of the border. And between those two equidistant points, the possibility of death is ever present. Still, they continue to risk it all. Those who oppose them, whether because they are anti-immigrant, racist, or xenophobic, never seem to understand that the history of humanity is the history of migration. And that those migrations have always had the same detonator throughout centuries: survival.

This touches us all, deeply. For example, a few days ago we learned that the body of a child less than 10 years old was found floating in the Río Bravo.

“*This tragedy is also indicative of a broken immigration system, where order and common sense should prevail.*”

As if that was not enough, on March 27, a fire broke out in a detention center for migrants in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, resulting in the death of at least 39 people, mostly Central and South Americans who apparently, according to press reports, were waiting to be deported. But that is not the only cruelty, as a video has come to light in which security guards are seen locking the doors of this detention center, despite the fact that the fire was raging. Regardless of the fire’s origin, no one in their right mind would leave human beings who are in imminent danger locked up.

It turns out that it is not going to be technology that resolves such a poorly functioning migration system as the United States’, just as a cell phone could not put in order an unequal economic system that traps millions across the world in poverty, and a handful in opulence watching from above, as human despair drifts across the continents.

Other examples: Cuban migrants have arrived in Florida on surfboards and a motorized hang glider; some weeks ago, a shipwreck was reported off the coast of San Diego, CA; and two migrants died and more than 15 were injured crammed into a train car in Texas. This happens year after year, but it seems like the deaths of thousands of human beings have not sensitized a political class that has the solution in their hands—the long-awaited immigration reform.

When these events occur, we always try to look for someone to blame and condemn the migrants themselves. The parents, for example, for turning their young children over to human traffickers, or for putting them in unstable boats to cross the Florida straits or Caribbean sea; or to cross the Darién forest, or the desert, in their eagerness to reach the United States.



It is difficult to put ourselves in their shoes, but it is also difficult for us to judge others without understanding the level of desperation that a mother or father must feel in order to send their children alone with a human trafficker, whether to remove them from the poverty or gang violence that asphyxiates their communities. Others will say “it’s not our problem.” But that is an error of principles and values, because when it comes to the tragedies of other human beings, nothing should be considered out of our concern.

This tragedy is also indicative of a broken immigration system, where order and common sense should prevail. After all, seeking asylum is a human right. Trying to preserve one’s life, liberty, and safety is also a human right. What do they not understand about this moral principle?

On the other hand, if the reasons for their journeys are economic, consider that migrants offer valuable labor that is sorely needed in the United States in various fields and sectors.

Uniting this demand with the supply should not be an impossible exercise, much less a lethal one. The question is the same: what do they not understand about acting with common sense and with feet firmly on the ground, when it comes to the issue of immigration? Or maybe the question should be asked another way: what will the United States do when the world’s migrants stop considering it a country of destination?

As we have repeated in this space for years, *ad infinitum*, it doesn’t matter which deterrence measures are implemented, or whether Title 42 is lifted or remains; migrants will continue trying to come to the United States as long as poverty, violence, political persecution, and the lack of liberties rein in their countries of origin.

Maribel Hastings is a Senior Advisor to *América’s Voice*. David Torres is a Spanish-language Advisor at *América’s Voice*.

Read More Commentary: [ElSemanarioOnline.com](http://ElSemanarioOnline.com)

## Las Eternas Tragedias De Los Migrantes Nos Tocan de Cerca a Todos

Maribel Hastings y David Torres

La estremecedora imagen de un niño de un año de edad al ser abandonado por un “coyote” en la frontera a un lado de la ribera del río es una de las recientes escenas que han saturado los medios de comunicación. Eso plasma la desesperación de migrantes de diversas partes del mundo por llegar a Estados Unidos, el país que consideran su salvación y la de sus familias. La desesperación es tal, que prefieren jugarse la vida una vez más, pues ya lo han hecho al cruzar mares, selvas y desiertos.

Es decir, la del migrante es una vida llena de vicisitudes de principio a fin, desde sus lugares de origen, los cuales abandonan por falta de oportunidades, hasta el sitio que les marca el límite de una frontera. Y entre esos dos puntos equidistantes, el factor de la muerte está siempre latente. Y aun así lo siguen arriesgando todo. Quienes se oponen a ellos, ya sea porque son antiinmigrantes, racistas o xenófobos, nunca entenderán que la historia de la


humanidad es la historia de las migraciones. Y estas siempre han tenido el mismo detonador a lo largo de los siglos: la sobrevivencia.

“*Esta tragedia también es indicativa de un sistema migratorio quebrado, donde el orden y el sentido común deberían prevalecer.*”

Y esto nos toca de cerca a todos. Por ejemplo, hace unos días se informó que el cuerpo de una menor de 10 años de edad apareció flotando en el Río Bravo.

Y por si fuera poco, el lunes en la noche se desató un incendio en un centro de detención de migrantes en Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, que resultó en la muerte de al menos 39 de ellos, en su mayoría centro y sudamericanos que, aparentemente, según los reportes de prensa, estaban aguardando para ser

Vea Hastings & Torres/Esp, página 16



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# Gun Violence is a Proxy War on the American Public

Quentin Young

As the riot of gun violence in America produces fresh massacres by the day, firearm fundamentalists refuse to acknowledge the blood on their hands, and their suicidal stance in the face of escalating carnage is that more guns are the answer.

But it's worse than that.

Take a close look at the arguments that gun extremists advance and a dark truth emerges. They repeatedly put defense against tyranny at the center of their claim to unfettered access to firearms. In the almost 232 years since the ratification of the Second Amendment, individual gun owners have had no substantial or sustained occasion to take up arms against the federal government. Yet guns are involved in almost 49,000 annual deaths in the United States. Anyone who has studied the matter arrives at the [simple conclusion](#) that more guns mean more death, and the gun-permissive U.S. is an [extreme outlier](#) in the developed world.

“

*“There is not a single word about an individual’s right to a gun for self-defense or recreation in (James) Madison’s notes from the Constitutional Convention.”*  
Michael Waldman, *Second Amendment Scholar*

The nature of gun violence in America therefore amounts to a proxy war, with [school children](#) targeted as unwitting infantry and [grocery store shoppers](#) conscripted as cannon fodder. Attackers armed as if for military engagement, backed by Second Amendment fanatics, are deployed in public to kill unsuspecting innocents.

This is a hot war. We know which side is the aggressor. Gun extremists aren't just political misfits. They are belligerents.

It is true that the framers crafted the Second Amendment as a defense against a form of 18th-century tyranny. Some representatives from the various states were wary of a strong federal government that could establish a standing army and dissolve state militias, and the right to “keep and bear arms” is explicitly tied to militia service in the text of the one-sentence, 27-word amendment.

What's not explicit in the amendment is an individual right concerning firearms. In the records of the First Federal Congress, which produced the amendment, “There was no discussion at all about private ownership of guns,” notes Ray Raphael in his annotated U.S. Constitution.



Second Amendment scholar Michael Waldman makes a similar point. “There is not a single word about an individual’s right to a gun for self-defense or recreation in (James) Madison’s notes from the Constitutional Convention. Nor was it mentioned, with a few scattered exceptions, in the records of the ratification debates in the states. Nor did the U.S. House of Representatives discuss the topic as it marked up the Bill of Rights,” Waldman wrote in [Politico Magazine](#).

Courts treated relevant cases accordingly, and state and local governments adopted gun restrictions more or less uncontroversially for more than two centuries.

That all changed with the rise of the National Rifle Association and Second Amendment fanaticism in recent decades. It wasn't until the 2008 ruling in *District of Columbia v. Heller* that the U.S. Supreme Court for the first time [said](#) the Second Amendment guarantees an individual’s right to own a gun.

But the ruling was [criticized](#) even by some prominent conservative legal observers. No less an authority than Justice Antonin Scalia, who authored the majority opinion, wrote that the

Second Amendment was “not a right to keep and carry any weapon whatsoever in any manner whatsoever and for whatever purpose.” Moreover, right there in the text of the *Heller* opinion, Scalia allowed that in 21st-century society “where gun violence is a serious problem,” the notion that the Second Amendment “is outmoded” was open to debate, though such a debate was beyond the court’s purview.

But far-right leaders who genuflect to deadly weapons treat a post-Constitution compromise as God-given gospel, and they are willing to watch the bodies of murdered children pile up as a price for their beliefs.

Republican Rep. Lauren Boebert of Colorado, the preeminent and clown-like mascot of the gun lobby, has mastered the language favored by the “shall not be infringed” fringe, as when she [tweeted](#), “Our Founders wisely knew that the right to keep and bear arms was the last line of defense against tyranny.”

Republican Rep. Matt Gaetz of Florida embraced a similar interpretation when [he told a crowd](#), “The Second Amendment is about maintaining within the citizenry the ability to maintain an armed rebellion against the government if that becomes necessary.”

As Democrats in the Colorado Legislature advanced a set of gun violence-prevention bills, Republican extremists voiced factually incorrect, mass murder-inducing views about gun rights.

“The Second Amendment says, ‘Shall not be infringed upon.’ That means nothing — you cannot do any-

thing to affect the Second Amendment. That’s what the Constitution says,” state Rep. Scott Bottoms, a pastor from Colorado Springs, said, adding, predictably, that “the Second Amendment is based upon protecting yourself primarily from tyrannical government.”

This armed conflict envisioned by gun zealots has yet to materialize directly. But it has cost [tens of thousands](#) of lives every year. More than 10,000 people have died from gun violence in the U.S. *so far in 2023* — well more than the number of Americans who [died fighting the Revolutionary War](#). There have already been at least 130 mass shootings *this year*, the latest having occurred at [an elementary school in Nashville](#), where three 9-year-olds were among the victims. East High School in Denver has been the site of [two instanc-](#)

[es of gun violence just this year](#). Gun violence is the [leading cause of death](#) among America’s youth.

The far right’s fantasies about armed resistance against some abstract tyranny are made real in the form of countless corpses on America’s streets and in public places throughout the country. Firearm fanatics like Boebert and Bottoms are the cowardly battle commanders who would not show themselves at the front lines but are nevertheless responsible for the bloodshed, and their obstinance in the face of dead school children is a derangement that favors human sacrifice over functional society. They are obsessed with “rights,” but they have forfeited the right to be welcomed as good-faith participants

See Young on page 17

**League Updates**  
APRIL 2023

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**April 6**  
5:30 - [Reproductive Justice Task Force Meeting](#)

**April 11**  
5:30 - [The Big Truth: Upholding Democracy in the Age of the Big Lie - with Major Garrett and David Becker](#)

NOTE: All times are Mountain. Are any events missing from this list? Please notify [info@lwvcolorado.org](mailto:info@lwvcolorado.org) to be included in our next email. Thank you!

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Upholding Democracy in the Age of "The Big Lie"  
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**FREE Virtual Presentation and Discussion with the Authors!**

**MAJOR GARRETT**  
CBS News Chief  
Whitehouse Correspondent

**DAVID BECKER**  
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# Here's How New Mexico is Leading the Way for Voting Rights

Zara Haq and Austin Weahkee

Voting is the cornerstone of our democracy, and protecting that right is one of the central obligations of our government. Due to partisan gridlock in Congress, the federal government has not acted to restore some of the original protections of the [Voting Rights Act](#) of 1965 (VRA). Following the Supreme Court decisions in *Shelby v. Holder* and *Brnovich v. DNC* that weakened the vital voting rights law, the federal government has yet to

pass federal legislation to protect the right to vote.

New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham just signed the state's Voting Rights Act, sweeping legislation that will greatly expand voting access to thousands of people across the state. While national action is desperately needed from Congress and President Biden to restore the original voter protections in the VRA, [New Mexico's Voting Rights Act](#) is a significant step toward ensuring all eligible voters' voices are heard.

The New Mexico Voting Rights Act was crafted with the collaboration and input of tribal governments, and Native leaders specifically, to improve collaboration between the state and its sovereign nations. It will also standardize early voting on tribal lands and secure ballot drop boxes. This new law will now erase double standards which required tribes to request their polling locations years ahead of the rest of the state and creates additional solutions to the voting access issues facing rural, unaddressed communi-

ties, by allowing tribes to designate additional registration sites, where tribal voters can reliably receive mail, and register accurately in their community. Native people should not have a higher barrier to requesting election resources, and the New Mexico Voting Rights Act eliminates that unreasonable disparity.

The Voting Rights Act also amends existing law to eliminate dysfunction in the restoration of voting rights to formerly incarcerated people. This legislation sends a critical message about the rehabilitative power of voting and being a valued member of your community by automatically restoring the constitutional right to vote after incarceration and will result in an opportunity to vote for 11,000 New Mexicans by the next federal election.

“

*The New Mexico Voting Rights Act was crafted with the collaboration and input of tribal governments, and Native leaders specifically, to improve collaboration between the state and its sovereign nations.*

This new law will also strengthen voting by mail. In 2020, [65 million](#) Americans decided to vote by mail because it's safe, secure and accessible, just like a fair and free democracy

See [Haq & Weahkee](#) on page 18

# New Opportunity to Focus on Environment, Community, Economic Diversity

Paige Knight

In New Mexico, our fiscal house has been fueled by oil and gas. This resource was pumped out from underneath our feet and is part of the structure. It put a lot of people to work and helped put a roof over our heads – but now the foundation is unsteady. The ceiling is sagging, the floors are sloped,

and the walls are full of chemicals. So, when it comes time to renovate, what should we do: tack on an oily addition? Or get out our tools and fix the underlying issues?

With an historic budget surplus, New Mexico has the opportunity to rebuild our house – and a hearing happening April 12 could jumpstart construction. Through the Opportunity

Enterprise Fund, there is now \$70 million available “to increase economic activity in the state by providing financing for new or existing commercial facilities to attract businesses to New Mexico communities and allow existing businesses to expand their operations.” In other words, it's an opportunity to roll up our sleeves and build out a new structure – one that opens new

doors to a thriving and resilient economy for all New Mexicans.

The people in charge of how this money gets used form the Opportunity Enterprise Review Board (OERB), a 12-member body that is designing the application process, creating rules, and choosing which projects to fund. The board will meet on April 12 to make these decisions, which include choosing whether or not to review a project's environmental impact, its community benefits (including agreements with local workers), and its potential to diversify the state economy before funding it with taxpayer money.

In deciding how to roll out this fund, the OERB has the opportunity to repair some of the cracks in New Mexico's foundation and weatherize our house for the storms (and the sunshine) ahead. With the right definitions and guidelines in place, the board can help refurbish the financial ecosystem for New Mexico's future. Without them, they risk letting our house crumble. Our state has an unprecedented budget this year partly due to oil and gas revenues, but this is a tipping point.

Financial experts, energy agencies, and our Economic Development Department have been warning for years that our dependence on the oil and gas sector for revenue is a dangerous long-term strategy. The state may be overestimating its 15-year projected revenue by \$26 billion to \$36 billion according to a [report](#) released by PFM Group Consulting in January. Since 2020 alone, New Mexico has experienced a sped-up version of the typical boom-and-bust cycle of oil and gas, with crude prices swinging from \$115 a barrel to -\$38 a barrel. The state's economic diversification plan recognizes this, saying, “In the long run, as the world transitions from fossil fuel to renewable energy, the need for New Mexico to develop new drivers of economic growth will become ever more urgent.” This plan emphasizes that environ-



mentally sustainable development is a key driver for economic growth and lays out a 20-year strategy for diversifying New Mexico's economy away from its over-reliance on oil and gas.

How the state uses economic development funds, like the Opportunity Enterprise Revolving Fund, must align with this strategy. In designing the application and review process for which projects to fund, the OERB has the power to help secure the state's jobs base and long-term fiscal health, protect its environment, and expand resources to historically disadvantaged individuals and communities. With these common goals, we can shore up our foundation, put lots of people to work fixing the cracks, and open new doors all over our beautiful state.

We urge the Opportunity Enterprise Review Board to build for New Mexico's future by adopting policies that prioritize economic diversification, strengthening our economy, and providing our families shelter for many generations to come.

Paige Knight, MPP, is a senior research and policy analyst with [New Mexico Voices for Children](#).

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# My Son's Hair is Part of a Thousand-Year-Old Tribal Culture. His School Called it a 'Fad.'



Ashley Lomboy

My Native American first-grader Logan loves his long braid. It connects my son to our cultural and spiritual traditions as members of the Waccamaw Siouan Tribe of North Carolina. For thousands of years, male members of our tribe have worn their hair long. It is our spiritual belief that a person's hair is a part of the spirit of the person. With his hair arranged in a long braid running down his back, Logan is confident and proud.

Logan goes to school at Classical Charter Schools of Leland in North Carolina (formerly called Charter Day School). I chose that school because the teachers are really focused on educating the kids. The school requires boys to keep their hair off the collar and not below the top of the ears, so Logan has worn his long hair in a bun. This compromised his beliefs, but it appeared necessary to meet the school's standards. For all of kindergarten and most of first grade, Logan has attended school with his long hair in a bun without incident.

A few weeks ago, my husband and I were told that Logan's hair was deemed "faddish" by school officials and in vi-

olation of the school's "grooming standards" for boys. My son overheard his teacher say that he would have to cut his hair, which made him feel very sad. When I asked a school administrator why boys had to have short hair to come to school, I was told, "We want them all to look the same."

“

*This is an old tactic of exclusion and assimilation.*

The definition of faddish according to Webster's dictionary is "intensely fashionable for a short time." Native Americans have been wearing their hair long — whether it is for ceremony, in preparation for protecting our tribe, or as part of our tradition — since time immemorial. For more than 1,000 years, the Waccamaw Siouan tribe has and continues to steward the land that the school currently occupies, as well as all the surrounding land of the Cape Fear Region. This is the very definition of long-term and the opposite of a "fad." For Native American boys and men, wearing their hair long is traditional.

I explained the importance of my son's hair to his religion and culture to school administrators, and I questioned how they could justify applying their short hair rule and no buns policy to boys only. But the administration denied my request for an exception for Logan from their policies. I begged the school to allow Logan to complete the last few months of first grade with his hair in a bun or braid. Again, they said no. As a parent, I am in the untenable position of having to disrupt the education of my first grader by changing his school abruptly during the school year — or I have to cause Logan significant spiritual, religious, and cultural harm by cutting his hair.

Cutting Logan's hair is not an option. Logan's hair is a part of him and our religious practice. His long hair carries his spirit; hair cutting cycles are part of our tribal ceremonies. Logan is a grass dancer and has danced in Native American powwows all over the United States. His hair is a part of his regalia and serves as a key element to the type of dancer he is. Without his hair, he will lose his spirit and connection to his dance.

No student at a public charter school like Classical Charter Schools of Leland should be forced to cut their hair. For Logan, it's a rejection of who he is and a demand that he sacrifice his culture and heritage to conform to baseless and unfair rules. This is an old tactic of exclusion and assimilation. At the Indian Boarding Schools, for many Native American students, one of the most immediate and devastating experiences of forced assimilation was having their long hair cut immediately following their arrival. In the present day, schools across the country have refused to allow Native American students to wear tribal regalia at school or even at their graduation, forcing them to hide a critical part of their identity.

As Native Americans, it is our job

— every single day — to educate ourselves, the greater community, educational institutions, and every facet of society about why it is important to honor, acknowledge, and recognize who we are. This job is not something we are paid for, it's not something we get a choice in, it is a fact of our everyday life. It is vital that my son's school understands the importance of his hair and all it signifies. This learning cannot just be at a surface level, but at every level of administration, so my son does not feel shamed for his

culture and religion at school or anywhere else.

This issue is not something my family, my local or extended tribal community across the country, my BIPOC community, or my trusted allies and partners take lightly. That's why I submitted a letter to the school's board of trustees to again explain the importance of Logan's hair to our religion and culture, and to ask that he be allowed to continue his schooling as the proud Waccamaw Siouan boy that he is, braid and all.

Ashley Lomboy, originally published at American Civil Liberties Union.

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# Families Seek Answers, Justice Following Deadly Juárez Migrant Detention Center Fire



Photo/Foto: Cindy Ramirez / El Paso Matters

A man lays a candle at a makeshift memorial for the migrants who died in a Monday fire at the Mexican National Institute of Migration in Juárez on March 28. / Un hombre deja una vela en un monumento improvisado en memoria de los migrantes fallecidos en el incendio ocurrido el lunes en el Instituto Nacional de Migración de México, en Juárez, el 28 de marzo.

By Cindy Ramírez

“Justicia! Justicia! Justicia!” shouted a group of about 50 migrants and members of several human rights groups outside the Mexican National Institute of Migration in Juárez on March 28, demanding justice a day after dozens of people were killed in a fire in the institute’s detention center at the foot of the Stanton Street international bridge.

Across the street, holding a red rose, a Venezuelan woman prayed and sobbed silently.

“We were there not long ago. It could have been us dying in there like animals, like pigs being slaughtered in a fire,” said the woman, a migrant in her 20s who didn’t want to give her name. She said she was detained by Mexican immigration authorities last month and spent a few days in the processing center before being sent to México City. She returned to Juárez days later. “Does it matter? Do our names matter to anyone?”

Mexican officials said last Tuesday, that 38 people were killed in the fire. They released names and nationalities

of people killed and injured in the fires. Most were from Central America. As of April 4, reports indicate 40 people died.

The Guatemalan Foreign Ministry said 28 of the dead and injured were from that country. The facility held about 70 men from Central and South America, National Institute of Migration officials said. *La Verdad* reported that among those killed or injured were migrants who were detained by Mexican law enforcement officers cracking down on people panhandling, cleaning windows or selling candy at busy street intersections.

Mexican migration authorities would not comment on the fire that also sent about two dozen migrants to area hospitals other than to say the incident is being investigated. Mexican President Andres Manuel López Obrador at a press conference on March 28, said the detained migrants set mattresses on fire to protest that they were going to be deported.

“If that’s true, it was so they would be let out,” the Venezuelan woman said, describing the detention facility as a “ratonera,” an overcrowded mousehole with toilets that don’t work and dirty floors where the migrants sleep covered with mylar emergency blankets. “They take your money, your cell phone, your shoe laces, everything. Then they go dump you in Mexico City or Chiapas.”

Another woman from Venezuela stood looking through the gate of the institute where mourners had placed candles, flowers, rosaries and posters denouncing migrants being “treated as criminals.” She said she was looking for her brother, whom she had not heard from in a few days. She wondered if he was among the dead.

“I can only pray that he was not,” she said, adding that she was interviewed briefly by the Mexican immigration officials and provided details on her brother. “I hope when my phone rings it’s him and not the morgue.”

She was met by family members, all of whom walked away hugging each other. The woman sobbed as they walked by the side of the building where the fire broke out, its walls charred and two white wrought iron doors covered in black while yellow caution tape dangled off them.

A video circulating on social media from what appears to be a surveillance camera inside the facility shows two people behind bars, one throwing a small mattress on the floor and another trying to kick open a wrought iron door.

A fire is seen bursting out in the opposite corner and quickly spreading inside the detention space. Smoke quickly fills up the room as two uniformed officials in an open area on the opposite side leave the center.

The source of the video remains unclear.

## ‘Each person has a name’

At the Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe cathedral not far from the facility, migrants and human rights groups held up flags from different countries as Juárez Bishop José Guadalupe Torres Campos prayed for those who died in the fire.

“Even though they are not physically here in body, they are present with us today,” Torres Campos said during a special Mass.

In El Paso, Catholic Diocese Bishop Mark Seitz said the deadly incident should serve as a call to address the needs of migrants at the border.

“This tragedy underscores the urgency of addressing the complex humanitarian crisis that has continued to unfold unabated in our border community,” Seitz said in a statement. “Our brother and sister migrants, who are in

many cases fleeing extreme violence, persecution, and extreme poverty, deserve dignity, compassion, and the protection of their human rights as children of God.”

Dylan Corbett of Hope Border Institute on Twitter called those lost in the fire a “horrifying indictment.”

“The ‘systems of enforcement that we have erected to patrol people who migrate are steel hands in velvet gloves, and death is part of the overhead. We are all responsible.’”

“

*“Those who blame the victims of the fire obscure the fact that these deaths are an indictment of the policies and structures implemented at large by both governments.”*

*Dylan Corbett, Hope Border Institute*

In a full statement, Corbett said the Biden administration’s aggressive posture on migration enforcement and deterrence have pressured Mexican authorities to stem migration in their country.

“Each person has a name and is a child to someone, a sibling to someone, a friend to someone,” he said.

“Those who blame the victims of the fire obscure the fact that these deaths are an indictment of the policies and structures implemented at large by both governments.”

## Trapped in Mexico

The Biden administration has largely restricted migrants from seeking asylum in the United States at the border, extending the pandemic-era health emergency policy known as Title 42 to migrants from eight countries.

Title 42, which allows border enforcement agents to quickly expel migrants back to Mexico, is expected to expire in May when the COVID-19 public health emergency ends.

The policy was set to expire in December, but got tied up in legal challenges in the court system. A record number of migrants made their way to the U.S.-Mexico border in anticipation of the policy ending, hoping to be able to request asylum and remain in the United States to await their court hearing.

Instead, thousands of migrants – more than 20,000 by some estimates and growing daily – are stuck in Juárez, where shelters are overcrowded and resources are dwindling.

In anticipation of a potential surge of migration at the border in May, the administration has proposed a temporary rule that all but eliminates access to asylum to those who arrive at the U.S.-Mexico border without first seeking protection from their home country or in a country they travel through on their way to the United States. Instead, the U.S. government created an

See **Fire** on page 18

THE WEEKLY ISSUE

# El Semanario

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# Las Familias Buscan Respuestas y Justicia Tras el Mortífero Incendio de la Estación Migratoria de Juárez



Foto/Photo: Cindy Ramirez / El Paso Matters

Migrantes, miembros de grupos de derechos humanos y otras personas asisten a una misa especial en la catedral de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, en Juárez, el 28 de marzo, en homenaje a las personas que murieron o resultaron heridas en el incendio ocurrido el día anterior en un centro de detención de migrantes. / Migrants, members of human rights groups and others attend a special Mass at Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe cathedral in Juárez on March 28 honoring those who were killed or injured in a fire at a migrant detention facility the previous day

Por Cindy Ramírez

“Justicia! ¡Justicia! Justicia!” gritaba un grupo de unos 50 migrantes y miembros de varios grupos de derechos humanos frente al Instituto Nacional de Migración de México en Juárez el 28 de marzo, exigiendo justicia un día después de que decenas de personas murieran en un incendio en el centro de detención del instituto al pie del puente internacional de la calle Stanton.

Al otro lado de la calle, sosteniendo una rosa roja, una mujer venezolana rezaba y sollozaba en silencio.

“Estuvimos allí no hace mucho. Podríamos haber muerto allí como animales, como cerdos sacrificados en una hoguera”, dijo la mujer, una inmigrante de unos 20 años que no quiso dar su nombre. Dijo que fue detenida por las autoridades de inmigración mexicana el mes pasado y pasó unos días en el centro de procesamiento antes de ser enviada a Ciudad de México. Regresó a Juárez días después. “¿Importa? ¿Importan nuestros nombres a alguien?”.

El martes pasado, las autoridades mexicanas informaron de que 38 personas habían muerto en el incendio. Hicieron públicos los nombres y nacionalidades de las personas muertas y heridas en los incendios. La mayoría eran de América Central. Hasta el 4 de abril, los informes indicaban que habían muerto 40 personas.

El Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores de Guatemala dijo que 28 de los muertos y heridos eran de ese país. En las instalaciones había unos 70 hombres procedentes de Centroamérica y Sudamérica, según informaron funcionarios del Instituto Nacional de Migración. La Verdad informó que entre los muertos y heridos había migrantes que fueron detenidos por agentes de la ley mexicanos que reprimían a personas que mendigaban, limpiaban vidrios o vendían dulces en intersecciones de calles concurridas.

Las autoridades migratorias mexicanas no quisieron hacer comentarios sobre el incendio, que también envió a unas dos docenas de migrantes a hospitales de la zona, aparte de decir que

el incidente está siendo investigado. El presidente mexicano, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, afirmó en una conferencia de prensa celebrada el 28 de marzo que los migrantes detenidos prendieron fuego a colchones para protestar porque iban a ser deportados.

“Si eso es cierto, fue para que los dejaran salir”, dijo la venezolana, describiendo el centro de detención como una “ratonera”, una ratonera hacinada con baños que no funcionan y pisos sucios donde los migrantes duermen cubiertos con mantas de emergencia de mylar. “Te quitan el dinero, el móvil, los cordones de los zapatos, todo. Luego te van a dejar a Ciudad de México o a Chiapas”.

Otra mujer de Venezuela se quedó mirando a través de la puerta del instituto donde los dolientes habían colocado velas, flores, rosarios y carteles que denunciaban que los migrantes eran “tratados como criminales.” Dijo que buscaba a su hermano, del que no sabía nada desde hacía unos días. Se preguntaba si estaría entre los muertos.

“Sólo puedo rezar para que no sea así”, dijo, añadiendo que fue entrevistada brevemente por los funcionarios de inmigración mexicanos y proporcionó

detalles sobre su hermano. “Espero que cuando suene mi teléfono sea él y no la morgue”.

Fue recibida por familiares, todos los cuales se alejaron abrazándose. La mujer sollozaba mientras caminaban junto al edificio donde se declaró el incendio, con sus paredes carbonizadas y dos puertas blancas de hierro forjado cubiertas de negro mientras de ellas colgaba cinta amarilla de precaución.

Un video que circula por las redes sociales de lo que parece ser una cámara de vigilancia del interior del centro muestra a dos personas entre rejas, una tirando un pequeño colchón al suelo y otra intentando abrir a patadas una puerta de hierro forjado.

Se ve un incendio que estalla en la esquina opuesta y se propaga rápidamente dentro del espacio de detención. El humo llena rápidamente la sala mientras dos funcionarios uniformados en una zona abierta en el lado opuesto abandonan el centro.

La fuente del video sigue sin estar clara.

## ‘Cada persona tiene un nombre’

En la catedral de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, no lejos de las instalaciones, migrantes y grupos de derechos humanos enarbolaron banderas de distintos países mientras el obispo de Juárez, José Guadalupe Torres Campos, rezaba por los fallecidos en el incendio.

“Aunque no estén físicamente aquí, están presentes con nosotros hoy”, dijo Torres Campos durante una misa especial.

En El Paso, el obispo de la diócesis católica, Mark Seitz, dijo que el incidente mortal debe servir como un llamado para atender las necesidades de los migrantes en la frontera.

“

*“Quienes culpan a las víctimas del incendio ocultan el hecho de que estas muertes son una acusación a las políticas y estructuras aplicadas en general por ambos gobiernos”.*

*Dylan Corbett, Hope Border Institute*

“Esta tragedia subraya la urgencia de abordar la compleja crisis humanitaria que ha seguido desarrollándose sin cesar en nuestra comunidad fronteriza”, dijo Seitz en un comunicado. “Nuestros hermanos y hermanas migrantes, que en muchos casos huyen de la violencia extrema, la persecución y la pobreza extrema, merecen dignidad, compasión y la protección de sus derechos humanos como hijos de Dios.”

Dylan Corbett, del Hope Border Institute, calificó en Twitter a los fallecidos en el incendio de “horrible acusación”.

“Los sistemas de aplicación de la ley que hemos erigido para patrullar a las

Vea **Incendio**, página 17



# Remembering César Chávez: 'It's to Honor the People Who Came Before Us'

COLORADO

By Victoria Acuña

On Saturday, the César E. Chávez Peace and Justice Committee of Denver (CCPJC) held its 22nd annual march and celebration in honor of the late labor leader. The day began with a traditional Catholic mass at St.

John Francis Chapel at Regis University in north Denver. Following the mass, local union groups and attendees marched to César E. Chávez Park on 41st Ave and Tennyson St. to continue the festivities and awards ceremony.

César E. Chávez is known for his leadership and his contributions for the rights of farmworkers, founding the National Farm Workers Association (later United Farm Workers)

along with Dolores Huerta in 1962. Chávez dedicated his life to fighting against the injustice he grew up seeing in his own family and communities. His hunger strikes and other non-violent tactics helped move forward monumental wins in the labor movement, making him a revered leader across the nation.

Long-time supporters of the event emphasized the value of honoring



Photo: Victoria Acuña for El Semanario

Grupo Tlaloc performed a ceremony at the 22nd César Chávez event in Denver, Colorado.

Chávez and the impact of his work. "This is an important celebration. It's to honor the people who came before us," said mayoral candidate and

Denver City Councilwoman Debbie Ortega.

See [Chávez on page 11](#)

# Recordar a César Chávez: 'Es Honrar a Quienes Nos Precedieron'

COLORADO

Por Victoria Acuña

El sábado, el Comité de Paz y Justicia César E. Chávez de Denver (CCPJC) celebró su 22ª marcha anual en honor del difunto líder sindical. El día comenzó con una misa católica tradicional en la capilla San Juan Francisco de la Universidad

Regis, en el norte de Denver. Tras la misa, los grupos sindicales locales y los asistentes marcharon al parque César E. Chávez, en la avenida 41 y la calle Tennyson, para continuar con los festejos y la ceremonia de entrega de premios.

César E. Chávez es conocido por su liderazgo y su contribución a los derechos de los trabajadores del campo, fundando la Asociación Nacional de

Trabajadores del Campo (más tarde United Farm Workers) junto con Dolores Huerta en 1962. Chávez dedicó su vida a luchar contra la injusticia que vio crecer en su propia familia y comunidades. Sus huelgas de hambre y otras tácticas no violentas contribuyeron a conseguir victorias monumentales en el movimiento obrero, lo que le convirtió en un líder venerado en todo el país.



Foto: Victoria Acuña para El Semanario

Mariachi Juvenil de Bryant-Webster actuó en la celebración anual de César Chávez en Denver.

Please contact COLOR about upcoming community forums on the **"Know Your Rights"** training for immigrant families and the **"What's At Stake?"** information sessions regarding your health care coverage.

Contacta las oficinas de COLOR para obtener información de los próximos foros comunitarios sobre inmigración y el taller Conozca Sus Derechos. En los foros puedes saber más sobre como puede verse afectada tu cobertura médica mediante el taller ¿Qué está en juego?

Escucha a la COLORista Gina Millan cada martes de 9 a 10 de la mañana en tu radio en la 1150am.

Topics such as reproductive justice, immigrant rights, health insurance, sex and sexuality among others will be discussed. Phone lines will be open for listeners. Please call **(303) 337-1150** to speak with Gina.

Listen online at **onda1150am.com**

Hablamos de temas como la justicia reproductiva, derechos del inmigrante, cobertura médica, sexo y sexualidad, entre otros. Las líneas telefónicas están abiertas a los radioescuchas. Por favor comuníquese a la radio llamando al **(303) 337-1150** y comparte tus preguntas y comentarios.

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El Semanario

Antiguos partidarios del acto subrayaron el valor de honrar a Chávez y el impacto de su obra.

"Se trata de una celebración importante. Es para honrar a la gente que vino antes que nosotros", dijo la candidata a la alcaldía y concejala de Denver Debbie Ortega.

A medida que los asistentes se acercaban al parque, se reunían en un gran círculo alrededor del Grupo Tlaloc, que realizaba una ceremonia, mientras los miembros del Grupo Tlaloc recorrían el círculo bendiciendo a los asistentes con copal.

A continuación, se dio la bienvenida a los asistentes con una actuación Mariachi Juvenil de Bryant-Webster, un grupo de mariachis juveniles de la Escuela Primaria Bryant-Webster, dirigido por Jacqueline Liñán. Interpretaron clásicos como Cielito Lindo y Viva México, Viva América. Liñán invitó al público a interpretar gritos mientras los niños actuaban, y el público se mostró animado y participativo.

Este año el tema del evento fue "Reclamando la responsabilidad masculina a través de la no violencia". Miembros del CCPJC, entre ellos el profesor jubilado de la Metropolitan State University de Denver Ramón del Castillo, hablaron de las tácticas de no violencia de Chávez y de la necesidad de que los hombres den un paso al frente y se responsabilicen unos a otros. Hablaron sobre la muerte de estudiantes varon-

# Community Launches Child Abuse Prevention Month at Capitol

## COLORADO

Community partners, child advocates and representatives from the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS), Illuminate Colorado, and the Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC) launched Child Abuse Prevention Month at a State Capitol event on April 3. The occasion reinforced the importance of organizations, individuals and communities working together to strengthen families, one of the most effective ways to prevent child abuse and neglect.

The event featured speakers who reflect the continuum of child abuse prevention - from families who have accessed support, to community-based organizations that connect families to the resources they need, to the prevention work and resources provided by caseworkers and the child welfare system. Mekialaya White, KCNC-TV news anchor, emceed the event.

Timiya Jackson, executive director of Heart & Hand Center of Denver shared how her lived experience and the concrete supports she received as a child led to her role today with a Family Resource Center that provides programs to support children, youth and families.

Stacy Tracey with Denver County's Department of Human Services explained her role as a prevention caseworker and the supports they provide to families to decrease the likelihood of abuse and neglect, including helping families identify needs and developing support plans to reduce a wide range of life stressors.

Attendees also heard from a Colorado parent who has benefitted from community support. "I know how important it is to have a strong family unit for raising kids — and all parents need extra support sometimes. I definitely did having nine kids to care for," said Spanish-speaker Lupita Cardoza with the help of a translator. "My family is thriving and stronger because of the support I received through community programs and resources at Sister Carmen Community Center."

"The speakers here today truly represent the continuum of prevention that's so essential to strengthening families and keeping kids safe," said Minna Castillo Cohen, director of the Office of Children, Youth and Families at CDHS. "From the primary prevention work that our partners do to stop child maltreatment before it ever starts, to secondary prevention work by CDEC and partners that addresses

the risk factors associated with child maltreatment, to tertiary prevention, where we all collaborate to strengthen families involved in the child protection system to ensure brighter futures for children."

The event is also the start of a month-long campaign by partners across the state to promote #PreventionInPartnership and #BuildingTogether to raise awareness of the many ways Coloradans can help to strengthen families in their community to ensure all children have the opportunity to thrive.

We all play a role in preventing child abuse and neglect. Some examples of how community partners and neighbors can lend support to families and relieve some of the overload experienced by parents and caregivers include:

- Offer to babysit to give parents a break
- Coordinate a meal sign-up calendar for new parents or a neighborhood family in need
- Organize a neighborhood gathering so families can meet each other
- Ask a family if they need something picked up the next time you run to the store



Community members gather for the launch of Child Abuse Prevention Month. Photo: CDHS

In addition to doing their part to help strengthen families, all Coloradans are encouraged to call the CO4Kids Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline (1-844-CO-4-Kids or 844-264-5437) if they are concerned a child may be experiencing abuse or neglect.

Thanks to concerned Coloradans who made calls to the hotline in 2022, local county human service agencies in Colorado assessed the safety of more than 50,678 children. Of those children, 10,918 children experienced abuse or neglect and an additional 17,024 children's families received voluntary support from social services to help strengthen their families and prevent child abuse or neglect in the future.

To learn more about child abuse and neglect prevention and activi-

ties happening around the state, visit [CO4Kids.org](https://CO4Kids.org). To learn about the signs of child abuse and neglect and for information about how to become a foster or adoptive parent, visit [CO4Kids.org](https://CO4Kids.org). Call 844-CO-4-Kids (844-264-5437) to report concerns about child abuse and neglect. If a child or teen is in immediate danger, dial 9-1-1.

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ad COUNCIL NHTSA

## Chávez

As the attendee's approached the park, they gathered in a large circle around Grupo Tlaloc, as they performed a ceremony, while Grupo Tlaloc members went around the circle blessing attendees with copal.

Those attending the event were then welcomed with a performance by Mariachi Juvenil de Bryant-Webster, a youth mariachi group at Bryant-Webster Elementary School, led by Jacqueline Liñan. They performed classics such as *Cielito Lindo* and *Viva México, Viva América*. Liñan invited the crowd to perform *gritos* as the kids performed, and the crowd was lively and engaged.

This year the event's theme was "Reclaiming Male Responsibility Through Non-Violence." Members of the CCPJC, including retired Metropolitan State University of Denver professor Ramón del Castillo, spoke about Chávez' non-violence tactics, and the need for men to step up and hold each other accountable. They spoke about the deaths of male students at East High School, STD/HIV testing and the need for safe sex resources, gang outreach, healthy relationships, and other issues important to men.

Every year, the CCPJC awards people who emulate the leadership of Chávez and others in the labor movement and the commitment they had to their community. The Adult Female Leadership Award went to Au-

rey N. Valencia, whose organization The Storytellers Project also won an award. Valencia spoke of her own story of healing from trauma, and what led her to create The Storytellers Project.

Manuel Almaguer, Assistant Chief of the Denver Fire Department, was presented with the Adult Male Leadership Award. Angela García, a retired lawyer, received the Anciana Leadership award. Special Recognition went to Marguerite Salazar, a former insurance commissioner for the state of Colorado who passed in November of last year.

Councilwoman Amanda P. Sandoval accepted the Anciano Leadership Award on behalf of Father José Lara of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. Fr. Lara, was a supporter of the United Farm Workers movement. However, he was unable to attend the event. "I will get this award to him, I always tell him how loved he is," said Councilwoman Sandoval.

You can learn more about Chávez' legacy [here](#). Follow the César E. Chávez Peace and Justice Committee of Denver [on Facebook](#) to stay up to date about events, including next year's celebration.

Victoria Acuña is an Independent Reporter for *The Weekly Issue/El Semanario*.

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COLORADO  
Department of Human Services

# Crow Cites Objections to ICE Detention Facility During Visit to Aurora Immigrant Nonprofit

COLORADO

By Lindsey Toomer

U.S. Rep. Jason Crow, a Centennial Democrat, on Monday visited an Aurora nonprofit that helps people detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement transition out of a privately owned detention center in his district.

The team at *Casa de Paz* helps immigrants released from a GEO Group detention facility in Aurora contracted by ICE. At a house in Aurora, the nonprofit offers food, clothes, telephone and computer access, personal hygiene products and transportation to Denver International Airport or bus stations at no cost to those leaving the facility. The house is also filled with bunk beds for those who need a short-term place to stay and has informational handouts available in a variety of languages on the services the nonprofit offers.

Andrea Loya, executive director of Casa de Paz, said most people find out about Casa through word of mouth or by seeing staff outside the Aurora facility. Casa has a van parked outside the

detention facility 24/7 so that anyone who leaves at any time can see it and be aware of the help available to them, Loya said. Staff and volunteers with Casa de Paz also stand outside during the day to help people as they're released.

Sometimes ICE alerts Casa de Paz when it will release people. But Loya said that what facility leadership says they will do often differs from what they actually do. For example, she said ICE contacted one of Casa's employees about a person who just had surgery being released at 8 a.m., but after the employee waited at the facility all day, that person wasn't released until 4 p.m. This is part of why staff remains posted outside of the facility as often as possible.

The release of larger groups of detainees is unpredictable — some days, Casa de Paz will help just one or two people, while other days it can be as many as 40 or 50 people. Loya said Casa staff try to engage with every detainee leaving the facility, and they usually have some service to help each person they contact. The organization has served people from over 83 countries in the past 10 years. It has lately seen an influx of people coming from Turkey,

Venezuela and Columbia.

Casa also hears a variety of concerns from those inside the facility over how people are treated while detained, Loya said. She said she's visited two women in the facility over the last month who both expressed concern over verbal abuse from officers, and that there's an overall lack of accountability within the facility.

"People did not realize that the U.S. would punish them for trying to seek a better life," Loya said. "So a lot of people will complain about the conditions of GEO, but also a lot of people are shocked by the fact that isolation and being treated like a criminal for seeking asylum is the kind of the model that we have."

Loya said some people who come to the detention center after spending time in prison have said they were treated better in prison. The average length of time people were held in the facility pre-pandemic was around nine months, with some being held for years, Loya said. Now, she said it can be anywhere from one to three months unless someone is fighting a harder case.

Crow said he's heard community reports about "abuses" and "substan-



Lindsey Toomer/Colorado Newsline  
U.S. Rep Jason Crow, right, speaks with Casa de Paz Executive Director Andrea Loya about the nonprofit's work to support immigrants being released from a detention center in Aurora on April 3, 2023.

dard conditions" at the GEO Group facility since he first took office in 2019. While he'd ultimately like to see all private detention centers such as the ICE facility closed, in the meantime he's using his role in Congress to try and hold them accountable, he said.

"I did what I thought any member of Congress should do and I conducted an inspection, but we had been told through reports that we were getting that if we pre-announced our inspection that they would clean it up and give us the dog and pony show and just show us what they wanted us to see," Crow said during his visit to Casa.

Crow said he once showed up to the facility in a North Face puffer jacket and jeans requesting an inspection as the representative for the district in an attempt to avoid the "dog and pony show," but he was turned away. He said it took three tries within a 30-day period before he could get into the facility, as facility staff blatantly told him there were things inside they did not want him to see.

"Eventually, we gained access to the facility and saw a lot of the things that we had been told about and warned about by the community, and that started my work and our office's work to try to reform this facility and clean it up as best we could, absent ending private detention centers, which we're trying to do," Crow said.

This experience prompted Crow to introduce a bill that would have required immigration detention centers allow a member of Congress entry for inspection with 48-hour notice. The bill was later signed into law as part of Congress's 2020 spending bill, but with immediate access provided to members of Congress and 24-hour notice required of congressional staff.

Loya said the nonprofit's greatest funding source is individual donations, but it's also trying to apply for more grant funding as the recession brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic shifted their donations.

"Our work is also very specific and very different, so a lot of different grants are also hard to get, because they are for the growth of a specific city or the growth of a specific kind of population," Loya said. "So while I feel like in the end we do do that, it's hard to say that we do that for Denver, because a lot

of them move and they're not staying in Denver."

Before the pandemic hit, Crow said his team pushed to get people released from the immigration detention center on a personal bond or parole status, but the former director of the facility wouldn't adopt the practice. Once COVID came into the picture, though, facilities like detention center released many people on personal bonds and "it worked out just fine," Crow said.

"People went out into the community. They stayed with friends and family," Crow said. "We didn't see an increase in people not showing up to court appearances. It actually worked — we didn't need to have an incarceration based ... immigration system, so it just proved the point that we don't need to be having these facilities, that there is a model where people can be in the community."

The lack of transparency from such immigration detention facilities is another reason Crow said he wants to see them closed. In October 2022, a man from Nicaragua died while in custody at the facility, and few details have been released surrounding his death. Loya said Casa has interacted with some people who were around when the death happened, leading to more people experiencing trauma within the facility.

Crow said he's working with U.S. Rep. Pramila Jayapal, a Washington Democrat, to shut down private detention centers nationwide, but until that happens he will keep working with organizations like Casa to support the people being detained.

Lindsey Toomer is a Reporter with Colorado Newsline. This article is republished from Colorado Newsline under a Creative Commons license.

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# DeGette, Crow Join House Democrats to Reintroduce Bill to Protect Abortion Access

## COLORADO

By Lindsey Toomer

Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives re-introduced a bill intended to restore the right to access abortion care following the Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* last year.

With over 200 co-sponsors in the House, including Diana DeGette of

Denver and Jason Crow of Centennial, the Women's Health Protection Act would make it a federal right for medical professionals to provide abortion care and for those who need abortion care to get it. The bill, despite restrictions or bans that have been enacted at the state level, would codify the protections previously in place under *Roe v. Wade*.

The legislation passed the Democratic-controlled House twice last session and wasn't picked up in the Sen-

ate, but it will likely face opposition in the Republican-controlled House this time around.

"We will use every opportunity and tool at our disposal to make sure that we find a way to pass this bill even though the leadership of the House is against it," DeGette said at a press conference in Washington D.C. "We will fight every day, in every way to make sure this is the law of the land."

DeGette, who co-chairs the House Pro-Choice Caucus, said the Supreme



Courtesy of Diana DeGette's office  
U.S. Rep. Diana DeGette of Denver speaks at a press conference following the re-introduction of the Women's Health Protection Act in Washington, D.C., on March 30, 2023.

Court's decision in the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, which overturned *Roe*, was the first

time in the country's history that

See DeGette on page 15

# Amor es Amor Celebrating LGBTQIA+ Chicanos/Latinos

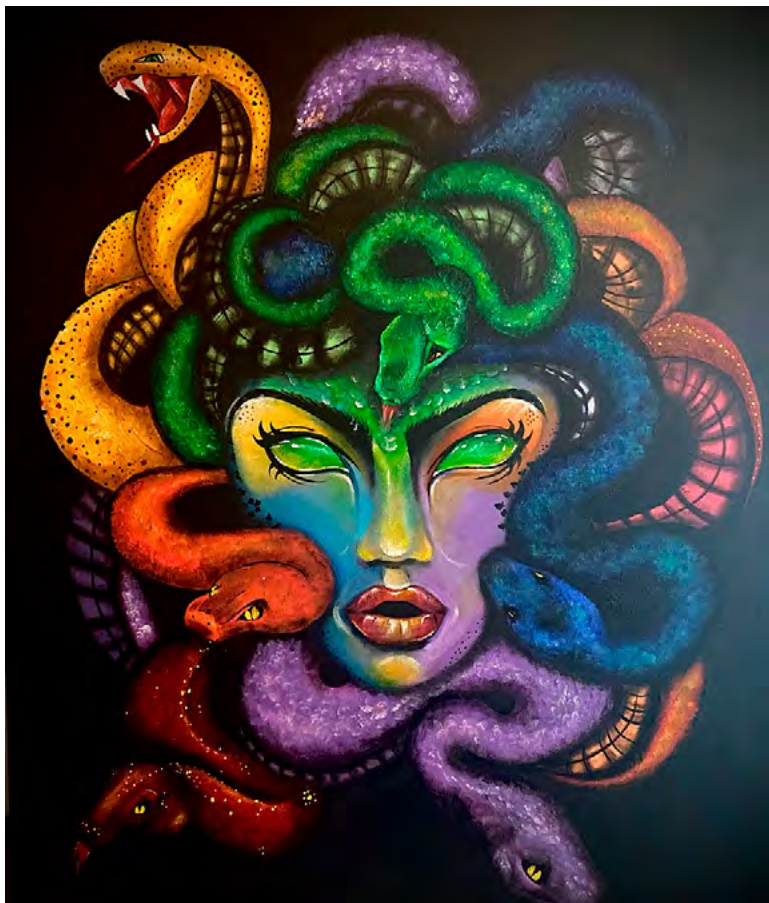


Image by artist Chantel Lucero

Artists in this exhibit include: Karman Canvas, Cal Duran, Renee Fajardo, Jay Jaramillo, Shantel Lucero, Giuliana Maresca, Tania Maldonado, Marina Morales, Lucille Rivera, Sandra Ruiz, Damaris Santos, Vanessa Zamora; and curators Shantel Lucero, Tania Maldonado, and Lucille Rivera. For purchase inquiries please call Brenda at 720-662-4822

CHAC Gallery and Northglenn Arts will host the "Amor es Amor" exhibit opening Friday, April 14 from 6-9 p.m. at Northglenn Arts community room 1; all are welcome. The exhibit may be viewed during regular Box Office hours and when the Parsons Theatre is open for evening shows and events starting April 14 through the closing PRIDE event on June 9 from 6-9 p.m.

The gallery is located inside the Northglenn Recreation Center, 1 East Memorial Parkway Northglenn, CO, 80233. Use the south entrance of the building (theatre entrance); the exhibit space is near the community rooms. For more information, please call the Parsons Theatre Box Office at 303-450-8888.

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## Water World America's Largest Water Park

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Hyland Hills Water World is one of the nation's largest family water parks boasting 52 thrilling and unique attractions on 70 beautiful acres. Now in its 44th season, community-owned Water World, has hosted more than 15 million guests over the years, and is again being acknowledged as one of the best water parks in the world. The park introduced two new attractions in 2021. For additional information visit [waterworldcolorado.com](http://waterworldcolorado.com) or call 303-427-SURF. You can also follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/waterworldco](https://facebook.com/waterworldco) or on our Twitter handle @waterworldco.

## COLORADO

Northglenn Arts recently announce the installation of the "Amor es Amor" Celebrating LGBTQIA+ Chicanos/Latinos gallery exhibit which begins April 14. Northglenn Arts is proud to partner with Chicano Humanities & Arts Council (CHAC) on Northglenn's Parsons Theatre Gallery Wall. CHAC is an inclusive community of all creatives that are dedicated to preserving, showcasing, educating, and reflecting the essence of Chicana/o/x, Latina/o/x, and other multicultural/multiracial communities. Northglenn Arts works to provide access to the arts for all people and have chosen to collaborate with CHAC due to their ded-

ication to inclusivity and powerful storytelling.

"Amor es Amor" is about sharing and celebrating who we are as LGBTQIA+ Chicanos/Latinos, this show is dedicated to the dignity, self-respect, pride, uniqueness, and a feeling of a cultural rebirth in our community through the arts. "Amor es Amor" is free and open to the public.

"The LGBTQ+ rights movement has made tremendous strides over the past few decades and much of the progress in visibility is thanks to the dedicated work of artists. I am excited for the community to experience and enjoy this show. People will walk away with a sense of pride (and hopefully will purchase a piece of art!)" said show curator Lucille Rivera.

# Families Face Hardships as Pandemic Aid Programs End

## NEW MÉXICO

By Megan Taros

When the federal government ended the pandemic expansion of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program on March 31, Gladys Recinos went from being able to buy food for her family for the entire month to barely making it to 17 days. More realistically, she can cover about 15 days worth of food with her food aid.

It's why she says school meals are "indispensable" to her and her family. "Sometimes I send my daughter to school early just so she can eat breakfast," Recinos said.

That's a reality for many families in Santa Fe's Southside, a low-income immigrant community that advocates say has long been neglected and misunderstood by local and state officials.

In the two schools closest to the Southside - Ramirez Thomas Elementary and Capital High School - 100% of students qualify for free and reduced lunch.

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham signed SB 4 at the start of the week that will provide relief to families who rely on their children being fed at school to help stretch their food budgets.

Starting next year, healthy school meals will make their way to all K-12 public school students in New Mexico.

But the tapestry of food insecurity in the Southside is more complicated.

In 2012, the city of Santa Fe approved the Healthy Communities Overlay District with the intent of bringing healthier foods, grocery stores, gyms and health care through incentives like fee waivers.

That never happened. "As soon as they declared Airport Road a food desert, they automatically assumed there was nothing there to invest in," said Miguel Acosta, co-director of Earth Care, a nonprofit that primarily focuses on the environment.

Acosta said the situation of getting food and infrastructure to the Southside is much more dire - it's food apartheid, a deliberate lack of policy and investment. The fruitlessness of the city's efforts over the years to help the community also signals a profound misunderstanding of its needs, Acosta said.

Acosta said the community wants more investments in small businesses and culturally-relevant places to get food like an outdoor market, a style of vending that is common in Latin America where patrons can get fresh

produce as well as gather with their neighbors. While the city has tried outreach events, Acosta said the communication with the community, especially the immigrant community, is lacking.

There is seldom promotional material in Spanish and little engagement with neighbors, he said.

"Here in Santa Fe, part of the challenge is public institutions," Acosta said. "They don't know their populations other than specific white, middle class populations. They have no idea what's going on with its Latino, Spanish-speaking communities."

The pandemic kicked off a chain reaction of families needing more help as some lost their jobs or were unable to work. The applications for expanded benefits were dense and some didn't have internet at home to be able to fill them out.

Edgar Talavera, a member of Earth Care's Family Leadership Council that advocates for policies to help low-income families in Santa Fe, said he found himself using his own car to deliver food and bringing people to his home so they could use the internet.

"During COVID, it was very, very difficult for families," Talavera said. "They were without work, we were



Photo/Foto: Adobe Stock

Millions of families will be affected as pandemic food assistance programs end. / Millones de familias se verán afectadas al finalizar los programas de ayuda alimentaria por la pandemia.

without work. There weren't always resources for them when they lost their jobs."

Earth Care distributed about \$1 million in aid in the first two and half years of the pandemic.

But as federal, local and state governments end emergency aid and roll back pandemic programs, the reality of the pandemic hasn't changed for New Mexicans.

Prices for gasoline, food, bills and rent have all gone up. Even with benefits, it's difficult to get through the month. Recinos, a single mom, said she uses food stamps, relies on school meals and food distribution from the Food Depot on Siler Road, but still has a difficult time making ends meet.

Talavera said the situation is especially difficult for undocumented im-

migrants, who don't always feel safe asking for help.

"Working with an organization is easier for families, especially those without papers or social security," Talavera said. "How are they going to ask the government for help? It's very, very difficult."

He said government entities should find ways to bring in more money and food for organizations working with those in need. But a "perfect storm" is on the horizon.

Food banks across New Mexico are still experiencing a great need for food while the federal government cuts programs and donations are decreasing. Cases of COVID-19 are cutting the number of staff and volunteers every

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**Earn & Learn**

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**BERN** Summer High School Internship Program

Bernalillo County

# Las Familias Se Enfrentan a Dificultades Ante el Fin de los Programas de Ayuda

## NEW MÉXICO

Por Megan Taros

Cuando el gobierno federal puso fin a la expansión pandémica del Programa de Asistencia Nutricional Suplementaria el 31 de marzo, Gladys Recinos pasó de poder comprar alimentos para su familia para todo el mes a apenas alcanzar para 17 días. Siendo más realistas, puede cubrir unos 15 días de comida con su ayuda alimentaria.

Por eso dice que los comedores escolares son "indispensables" para ella y su familia.

"A veces mando a mi hija a la escuela temprano sólo para que pueda desayunar", dice Recinos.

Esta es la realidad de muchas familias de la zona sur de Santa Fe, una comunidad inmigrante de bajos ingresos que, según sus defensores, lleva mucho tiempo desatendida e incomprensida por las autoridades locales y estatales.

En las dos escuelas más cercanas al

Southside - Ramirez Thomas Elementary y Capital High School - el 100% de los estudiantes califican para almuerzo gratis o reducido.

La Gobernadora Michelle Lujan Grisham firmó el proyecto de ley SB 4 a principios de semana que proporcionará alivio a las familias que dependen de que sus hijos sean alimentados en la escuela para ayudar a estirar sus presupuestos de alimentos.

A partir del próximo año, las comidas escolares saludables llegarán a todos los estudiantes de escuelas públicas K-12 en Nuevo México.

Pero la situación de la inseguridad alimentaria en la zona sur es más complicada.

En 2012, la ciudad de Santa Fe aprobó el Distrito de Superposición de Comunidades Saludables con la intención de traer alimentos más saludables, tiendas de comestibles, gimnasios y atención médica a través de incentivos como la exención de tasas.

Ve Families, página 16

# Transgender Resource Center is Expanding its Services

## NEW MÉXICO

By Susan Dunlap

The Transgender Resource Center will expand into opening a transitional housing model.

The new executive director, Michael Trimm, said he is looking at properties and that the goal is to be able to offer transitional housing to three-to-four individuals by the end of 2024.

Trimm said this is a long cherished dream of TGRC. He called it coming “full circle.”

“Our founders envisioned a housing program. I’m happy to be the person who gets us over the finish line,” he said.

Trimm said the goal, for now, is to start small.



“This is sorely needed in New Mexico and all across the country,” Michael Trimm, Transgender Resource Center

“When there is so much need, it feels so awful to say. But we want to be sustainable. We want to do the very best to provide the options to choose to get to the next chapter in their life. Three to four is the sweet spot to start and to grow from there,” he said.

Adrian Lawyer, co-founder of TGRC, said opening transitional housing is “fulfilling plans we started so long ago.”

“It’s one thing Zane [Stephens, also cofounder] and I dreamed of, transitional housing. Michael is making it come true,” Lawyer said.

Lawyer, who along with Stephens started TGRC in 2007, intended to step away from TGRC last year and stepped down from his position as executive director. Trimm, who began as opera-

tions manager in 2020, replaced Lawyer in that role last July, Trimm said. But Lawyer came back to TGRC in the fall to continue the training work he began in the early days of the organization.

Lawyer said one of the biggest culture shifts he’s seen over the last 16 years has been the trainings themselves.

He said he always asks, at the beginning of the training, for a show of hands from the class if the trainees know a transgender person. He said in the early days of the trainings, the number of hands was “always less than a third.”

“Now it’s more than two-thirds. That’s a big cultural marker,” he said.

Lawyer said that he started TGRC in 2007 because he transitioned in 2005. He called it a “dark and isolated transition.”

“I couldn’t find what I needed. It was hard to find the doctor who treated me. I thought, if I’m having this much trouble, then others must really be getting lost. People like me are not the most affected. My situation felt really scary,” Lawyer said.

His goal from the beginning was to center the organization’s impact on those most affected.

“If we’re centering the most impacted people, we’re not leaving anybody out,” he said.

Now the organization has become something of a regional hub for transgender individuals, particularly in the wake of anti-trans rhetoric and legislation taking place in neighboring states. Utah passed and signed the first anti-LGBTQ bill of 2023 with a law that bans gender-affirming healthcare in that state. Texas passed a law in 2021 banning transgender youth from playing on sports teams that match their gender identity.

Lawyer said TGRC gets calls from individuals in surrounding states because the organization is the only one of its kind in the region.

“We get calls from people moving here. We don’t mean to be the regional center but we are. We’re very much a New Mexico organization. But we serve people in El Paso and Durango, [Colorado]. We travel outside the state when we’re invited,” he said.

Lawyer said the reproductive and gender-affirming healthcare bills that passed the New Mexico Legislature this session are landmark bills and he said it’s imperative to TGRC that “we hold onto our political climate here.”

“Some [anti-trans] bills are introduced here but they can’t get out of committee. We don’t have to fight those dangerous things,” Lawyer said.

Lawyer said the next legislative frontier is passing legislation to help incarcerated transgender individuals. He said California passed legislation in recent years that allows people to be housed in pods based on gender identity rather than genitals.

He said he’d like to see similar legislation passed in New Mexico, but he said it likely won’t happen next year, which is a 30-day legislative session.

Trimm, whose background before coming to TGRC was in the corporate hospitality industry, called the work “not easy” and he cited the deaths of individuals the organization serves as well as the death of a staff person as part of what makes the work “mentally and emotionally draining.”

But, he said that because of the legislative wins this year “New Mexico is definitely winning.” He said his long-term goal is for the organization to hold multiple properties to provide immediate shelter but also to provide a more intermediary type of shelter with more space and then an independent living space as a last stop for individuals almost ready to move into their own housing.

But for now, the transitional housing model will provide a bed and an opportunity for what he called “more deeply engaged case management to get to that next chapter of their life.”

He said the space will also help individuals with untreated or undiagnosed challenges they have never gotten under control. He said TGRC has received mentorship and support from other trans-led organizations.

“This is sorely needed in New Mexico and all across the country,” Trimm said.

Lawyer said the organization has expanded its reach over the years. It

started its first drop-in center in 2012. The drop-in center helps individuals to legally change their name, helps individuals to update their identification documents, helps with employment assistance, offers referrals and a provider directory and also offers showers, laundry facilities, a permanent mailing address, permanent storage, prepared meals and nonperishable food, computer access, rapid HIV testing and nonmedical case management. TGRC also partners with other organizations that provide other outreach services.

Since TGRC began, Lawyer estimates the organization has provided 3,500 trainings “for every conceivable group,” and through those trainings, he said he estimates he has trained tens of thousands of individuals.

He said one place where he is seeing the impact is in healthcare.

“People are still having tons of trouble in healthcare offices,” he said. “But now we’re hearing the right pronouns. We’re moving the culture along in our state.”

Susan Dunlap is a reporter with New Mexico Political Report. This story was originally published by New Mexico Political Report.

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## WOMEN IN BLUE

Come join the women in blue of the Albuquerque Police Department for an “If I can, YOU can” event providing guidance and education for those curious about a career in law enforcement. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in conversations with female officers, join them on a group run and physical fitness activities. If you are not ready to participate in the physical fitness activities, receive information on physical fitness. Officers want to share with you their journeys into law enforcement and how rewarding this career can be. Lunch and childcare will be provided during this event.

**When:**  
April 14, 2023  
August 26, 2023

**Where:**  
Albuquerque Police Academy  
5412 2nd St NW, Albuquerque,  
NM 87107




**Register Here**



For questions please email: [ccarter@cabq.gov](mailto:ccarter@cabq.gov)

## DeGette

Americans lost a right, which they previously had for almost 50 years. She shared stories of an 11-year-old who needed to travel across state lines to receive an abortion and of pregnant women in Texas who was told they had to wait until they went into sepsis before they could be treated.

“Abortion is health care,” Crow said in a news release. “It’s past time for every woman across the country to have constitutionally guaranteed access to reproductive health care. This legislation would protect women’s fundamental right to an abortion across the country.”

Colorado continues to prioritize reproductive health care as a right, while other states are moving to further restrict access. Idaho’s governor will soon see a bill on his desk that would criminalize taking a minor out of state for abortion care without parental permission.

Lindsey Toomer is a reporter with Colorado Newsline. This article is republished from Colorado Newsline under a Creative Commons license.

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Familias

Eso nunca ocurrió. “Tan pronto como declararon Airport Road desierto alimentario, automáticamente asumieron que no había nada allí en lo que invertir”, dijo Miguel Acosta, codirector de Earth Care, una organización sin ánimo de lucro que se centra principalmente en el medio ambiente.

Acosta afirmó que la situación de la llegada de alimentos e infraestructuras a la zona sur es mucho más grave: se trata de un apartheid alimentario, una falta deliberada de políticas e inversiones. La infructuosidad de los esfuerzos de la ciudad a lo largo de los años para ayudar a la comunidad también indica una profunda incompreensión de sus necesidades, dijo Acosta.

Acosta afirmó que la comunidad quiere más inversiones en pequeñas empresas y lugares culturalmente relevantes donde obtener alimentos, como un mercado al aire libre, un estilo de venta habitual en América Latina donde los clientes pueden obtener productos frescos y reunirse con sus vecinos. Aunque la ciudad ha intentado organizar actos de divulgación, Acosta afirma que falta comunicación con la comunidad, especialmente con la inmigrante.

Rara vez hay material promocional en español y poco compromiso con los vecinos, dijo.

“Aquí en Santa Fe, parte del desafío son las instituciones públicas”, dijo Acosta. “No conocen a sus pobla-

ciones más allá de poblaciones específicas blancas y de clase media. No tienen ni idea de lo que pasa con sus comunidades latinas e hispanohablantes”.

La pandemia desencadenó una reacción en cadena de familias que necesitaban más ayuda a medida que algunas perdían sus empleos o no podían trabajar. Las solicitudes de ampliación de prestaciones eran densas y algunos no tenían internet en casa para poder rellenarlas.

Edgar Talavera, miembro del Consejo de Liderazgo Familiar de Earth Care, que aboga por políticas que ayuden a las familias de bajos ingresos de Santa Fe, dijo que se encontró utilizando su propio coche para repartir comida y llevando a la gente a su casa para que pudieran utilizar Internet.

“Durante el COVID, fue muy, muy difícil para las familias”, dijo Talavera. “Ellos estaban sin trabajo, nosotros estábamos sin trabajo. No siempre había recursos para ellos cuando perdían el trabajo”.

Earth Care distribuyó cerca de un millón de dólares en ayuda durante los dos primeros años y medio de la pandemia.

Pero mientras los gobiernos federal, local y estatal ponen fin a la ayuda de emergencia y hacen retroceder los programas contra la pandemia, la realidad de ésta no ha cambiado para los habitantes de Nuevo México.

Los precios de la gasolina, los alimentos, las facturas y el alquiler han

subido. Incluso con prestaciones, es difícil llegar a fin de mes. Recinos, madre soltera, dijo que utiliza cupones de alimentos, depende de las comidas escolares y de la distribución de alimentos del Depósito de Alimentos en Siler Road, pero aún así tiene dificultades para llegar a fin de mes.



*“Aquí en Santa Fe, parte del desafío son las instituciones públicas. No conocen a sus poblaciones más allá de poblaciones específicas blancas y de clase media. No tienen ni idea de lo que pasa con sus comunidades latinas e hispanohablantes”.*

*Miguel Acosta, Earth Care*

Talavera dijo que la situación es especialmente difícil para los inmigrantes indocumentados, que no siempre se sienten seguros pidiendo ayuda.

“Trabajar con una organización es más fácil para las familias, especialmente para las que no tienen papeles ni seguridad social”, dijo Talavera. “¿Cómo van a pedir ayuda al gobierno? Es muy, muy difícil”.

Dijo que las entidades gubernamentales deberían encontrar formas de aportar más dinero y alimentos a las organizaciones que trabajan con los necesitados. Pero una “tormenta perfecta” está en el horizonte.

Los bancos de alimentos de todo Nuevo México siguen experimentando una gran necesidad de alimentos mientras el gobierno federal recorta programas y las donaciones disminuyen. Los casos de COVID-19 están recortando el personal y los voluntarios cada semana, dijo Sherry Hooper, directora ejecutiva del Depósito de Alimentos.

“Cuando el costo de los alimentos es tan elevado, el dólar ya no alcanza”, afirma Hooper. “Estamos sintiendo el desafío y está impidiendo nuestra capacidad de ayudar porque también estamos pagando precios tan altos”.

Un estudio realizado por Food Depot y presentado el año pasado al alcalde de Santa Fe, Alan Webber, reveló que el 17% de los menores de 18 años de Santa Fe padecen inseguridad alimentaria. También señalaba la falta de voluntad política para resolver de forma permanente el hambre infantil en Estados Unidos, a pesar de la existencia de varios programas de asistencia nutricional.

“El objetivo de ninguno de estos programas de asistencia nutrición-

al por separado -ni siquiera el más grande y caro, SNAP- es eliminar el hambre”, reza el informe. “Sus dispares criterios de elegibilidad dejan desprotegidas a numerosas poblaciones”.

El informe, junto con los defensores que hablaron con Source New Mexico, dijo que los bajos salarios eran uno de los principales impulsores del hambre. El informe recomienda medidas financieras como estipendios o un salario mínimo vital obligatorio para abordar las raíces de la inseguridad alimentaria.

Por ahora, eliminar la carga de los costos de las comidas escolares es un fragmento de lo que hay que hacer.

“Los niños hambrientos siguen teniendo padres hambrientos”, dijo Hooper. “Las familias con bajos ingresos tienen un presupuesto fijo y hay cosas que hay que pagar. Lo que sobra es su presupuesto para comida”.

*Megan Taros es una Reportera Independiente para Source New Mexico. Este artículo ha sido publicado por Source New Mexico bajo una licencia Creative Commons.*

*Traducido por Juan Carlos Uribe, The Weekly Issue/El Semanario.*

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Hastings & Torres/Esp

deportados. Pero la crueldad no viene sola, pues se ha dado a conocer un video en que se ve a guardias de seguridad de ese centro de detención cerrar con llave las puertas, a pesar de que el conato de incendio iba en progreso. Independientemente del origen del fuego, nadie en su sano juicio deja bajo llave a seres humanos que corren un inminente peligro.

Según se aproxima el 11 de mayo, cuando finalice el Título 42, se han ido intensificando los intentos de migrantes por arribar a la frontera en busca de asilo, a pesar de los diversos mecanismos implementados por la administración de Joe Biden de persuadirlos para evitar que la franja se sature. Se les ha pedido, por ejemplo, que soliciten una cita mediante la aplicación CBP One, que aunque a muchos les ha funcionado, a otros no; e incluso unos 1,500 migrantes habrían salido en caravana desde el Sur de México porque no han podido obtener citas mediante la aplicación.

Sucede que no es la tecnología la que va a resolver un sistema migratorio poco funcional como el estadounidense, ni mucho menos un teléfono celular pondrá en orden un sistema económico desigual que coloca a millones en la pobreza en todo el mundo y a un puñado en la opulencia que mira desde arriba cómo se desplaza la desesperación humana a través de los continentes.

Otros ejemplos: migrantes cubanos han llegado a Florida en tablas de surf, en un ala delta con motor;

hace unas semanas se registró un naufragio en las costas de San Diego, California, y dos migrantes murieron y más de 15 resultaron heridos hacinaados en el vagón de un tren en Texas. Y esto sucede año con año, pero parece que las muertes de miles de seres humanos no han sensibilizado a una clase política que tiene en sus manos la solución con una reforma migratoria tanto tiempo esperada.

Cuando se suscitan estos hechos, siempre intenta buscarse a un culpable y se condena a los propios migrantes. A los padres, por ejemplo, por entregar sus hijos menores de edad a traficantes de humanos, o por subirlos a embarcaciones endebles para cruzar el estrecho de la Florida, el Mar Caribe; o cruzar la selva del Darién, o el desierto, en su afán por arribar a Estados Unidos.

Nos es difícil colocarnos en esos zapatos, pero nos es difícil también juzgar a otros sin entender el nivel de desesperación que debe sentir una madre o un padre para enviar a sus niños solos con un traficante de humanos, con tal de sacarlos de la miseria o de la violencia pandilleril que asfixia a sus comunidades. Otros dirán que ese “no es su problema”. Pero ese es un error de principios y de valores, porque nada nos debería ser ajeno cuando se trata de la tragedia de otros seres humanos.

Esta tragedia también es indicativa de un sistema migratorio quebrado, donde el orden y el sentido común

deberían prevalecer. Después de todo, solicitar asilo es un derecho humano. Tratar de preservar la vida, la libertad y la seguridad también es un derecho humano. ¿Qué es lo que no se entiende de ese principio moral?

Porque por otro lado, si las razones de la travesía son económicas, los migrantes ofrecen una valiosa mano de obra por demás necesaria en Estados Unidos en diversos rubros y sectores, y unir esa demanda con la oferta no debería tornarse en un ejercicio imposible, ni mucho menos letal. La pregunta es la misma, ¿qué es lo que no se entiende de actuar con sentido común y con los pies en la tierra en el tema migratorio? O quizá deba plantearse la pregunta de otro modo: ¿qué hará Estados Unidos cuando los migrantes del mundo dejen de tomarlo en cuenta como país de destino?

Como hemos repetido en este espacio en infinidad de veces durante años, no importan las medidas de disuasión que se implementen, y aunque se levante o permanezca el Título 42 los migrantes seguirán tratando de llegar a Estados Unidos, mientras la miseria, la violencia, la persecución política o la falta de libertades reinen en sus países de origen.

*Maribel Hastings es Asesora Ejecutiva de América's Voice. David Torres es Asesor en Español de América's Voice.*

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## Incendio



Foto: Chanel Ward for El Semanario

En todo el país, miles de personas se reúnen cada año para rendir homenaje a la labor de César Chávez y la Unión de Campesinos.

personas que emigran son manos de acero con guantes de terciopelo, y la muerte es parte de la sobrecarga. Todos somos responsables”.

En una declaración completa, Corbett dijo que la postura agresiva de la administración Biden en materia de aplicación de la ley migratoria y disuasión ha presionado a las autoridades mexicanas para frenar la migración en su país.

“Cada persona tiene un nombre y es un hijo para alguien, un hermano para alguien, un amigo para alguien”, dijo.

“Quienes culpan a las víctimas del incendio ocultan el hecho de que estas muertes son una acusación a las políticas y estructuras aplicadas en general por ambos gobiernos”.

## Atrapados en México

El gobierno de Biden ha restringido en gran medida la posibilidad de que los migrantes soliciten asilo en Estados Unidos en la frontera, ampliando la política de emergencia sanitaria de la época de la pandemia, conocida como Título 42, a los migrantes de ocho países.

Se espera que el Título 42, que permite a los agentes fronterizos expulsar rápidamente a los migrantes de vuelta a México, expire en mayo, cuando finalice la emergencia de salud pública COVID-19.

La política iba a expirar en diciembre, pero se vio envuelta en desafíos legales en el sistema judicial. Un número récord de migrantes se dirigió a la frontera entre Estados Unidos y México en previsión de la expiración de la política, con la esperanza de poder solicitar asilo y permanecer en Estados Unidos a la espera de su vista judicial.

En lugar de ello, miles de migrantes -más de 20.000 según algunas estimaciones y cada día más- están atrapados en Juárez, donde los refugios están abarrotados y los recursos escasean.

En previsión de un posible aumento de la migración en la frontera en mayo, la administración ha propuesto una

norma temporal que prácticamente elimina el acceso al asilo a quienes lleguen a la frontera entre Estados Unidos y México sin haber solicitado primero protección en su país de origen o en un país que atraviesen de camino a Estados Unidos. En su lugar, el gobierno estadounidense creó una aplicación en la que los migrantes pueden concertar una cita para solicitar asilo, una herramienta que se ha visto desbordada y criticada por su mal funcionamiento. La propuesta, que se espera entre en vigor en mayo, tendría una vigencia de dos años.

“

*"Esta tragedia subraya la urgencia de abordar la compleja crisis humanitaria que ha seguido desarrollándose sin cesar en nuestra comunidad fronteriza".*

*Mark Seitz, Obispo de la Diócesis Católica*

Marisa Limón Garza, directora ejecutiva del Centro de Defensa del Inmigrante Las Américas en El Paso, pidió a la administración Biden y a las “ramas relevantes del gobierno” que restablezcan el acceso al asilo e introduzcan soluciones que proporcionen vías seguras y legales a los inmigrantes.

“Estamos enfadados, pero también cansados. Enfadados y cansados de tener que hacer otra declaración más para convencer a los que están en el poder a ambos lados de la frontera de que es inaceptable e inhumano hacer recaer el peso de la política sobre los hombros de quienes buscan seguridad en nuestras fronteras”, dijo en un comunicado. “Esta es otra horrible tragedia resultante de políticas punitivas y racistas de aplicación de la ley y disuasión fronteriza que sólo han provocado cientos de muertes de migrantes.”

## Los muertos y heridos

Las autoridades mexicanas dieron a conocer los nombres de 68 personas que, según dijeron, murieron o resultaron heridas en el incendio. Aquí está la lista, por país de origen. La información sobre los supervivientes incluye el hospital en el que están siendo atendidos.

**Colombia:** Julián David Villamil Arévalo.

**Ecuador:** Jorge Luis Tumbaco Santiestevan.

**El Salvador:** Andrés Fernando Calderón Carbajal, Brayan Eduardo Flamenco Quinteros, Carlos Alberto Pacheco Gutiérrez, Daniel de Jesús Varela Ramírez, Enrique Alfonso Melara Rivera, Inmer Onesi Molina Hernández (Hospital de la familia Femap), José Amílcar Portillo Solórzano, José Pedro Rivera García, Marvin Armides García Pacheco (IMSS 6), Milton Alexis Melara Melgar, Misael Antonio Aguilar López, Roberto Antonio Henríquez Evangelista.

**Guatemala:** Bacilio Sutuj Saravia, Byron López Xol, Cristian Vidal Alexander Ventura Sacalxot (IMSS 6), Cruz Ernesto Chich Marroquín, Diego Sau Guarchaj, Diego Tzaj Ixtos, Edwin Gilberto Ixpertay Macario, Eliseo Gutiérrez Valdez (Hospital de la familia Femap), Elvis Adelmar Pérez Esteban, Enrique Coy Pop, Eyner Anibal García Dieguez, Fernando Pu Castro, Francisco Gaspar Rojche Chiquival, Francisco Javier Sohom Tzoc, Gaspar Josue Cuc Tzinquin, Gaspar Santiago Ixcotoyac Tum, Juan Fernando Quiñonez Montejo, Kevin Estuardo Cardona Lopez, Manuel Alexander Chox Tambriz, Marco Antonio Lucas Paiz, Marcos Abdon Tziquin Cuc, Miguel Rojche Zapalu, Miguel Sebastian Pedro Mateo, Raymundo Quib Tzalam, Roberto González Hernández, Rubbelsy Manrique Pérez Rodríguez, Santiago Caal Tzul, Wilson Alexander Juárez Hernández.

**Honduras:** Brayan Orlando Rodríguez Funes, Cristhian Javier Carranza

Toro, Dikson Aron Córdova Perdomo, Edin Josué Umaña Madrid, Higinio Alberto Ramírez Torres (Hospital de la Familia Femap), Jesús Adony Alvarado Madrid, José Alfredo Hernández Muñoz, José Ángel Ceballos Molina, José Armando Rivera Muñoz, Juan Carlos De Jesús Gomez (Hospital de la Familia Femap), Juan Carlos Trochez Aguilar, Oscar Danilo Serrano Ramírez, Oscar Pineda Torres.

**Venezuela:** Carlos Eduardo Rodríguez Cordero, unidentified man, Eduardo De Jesús Carballo López (Hospital De La Familia Femap), Jeison Daniel Catari Rivas (Hospital De La Familia Femap), Jesús Eduardo Velásquez Perdomo (Hospital De La Familia Femap), Joel Alexander Leal Peña, Orangel José López Guerrero, Orlando José Maldonado Pérez, Oscar José Regalado Silva, Rafael Mendoza Mendoza, Rannier Edelber Requena Infante, Samuel José Marchena Guilarte, Stefan Arango Morillo (Hospital de la Familia Femap).

Cindy Ramírez es reportera de El Paso Matters. Este artículo fue publicado originalmente por El Paso Matters

Traducido por Juan Carlos Uribe, The Weekly Issue/El Semanario.

Lea Mas Noticias de Portada en: [ElSemanarioOnline.com](http://ElSemanarioOnline.com)

## Young

in debates on guns, since democracy is hostile to proxy-war combatants.

It is inconceivable that America's founders would approve of what gun rights absolutists have made of the Second Amendment. And any constitutional provision is only valuable insofar as it serves us — living Americans trying to make the best common existence for ourselves under current conditions.

The Constitution was made to be reformed, which the presence of amendments makes plain. Lives are superior to laws. But that's a proposition gun extremists would have us all shot to oppose.

Quentin Young is the editor of Colorado Newsline. This commentary is republished from Colorado Newsline under a Creative Commons license.

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Fire



Photo/Foto: Corrie Boudreaux/El Paso Matters

A fire at the National Migration Institute at the foot of the Stanton Street bridge in Juárez has killed at least 39 migrants who were at the facility on March 27, the Mexican government says. / Un incendio en el Instituto Nacional de Migración, al pie del puente de la calle Stanton en Juárez, ha causado la muerte de al menos 39 migrantes que se encontraban en las instalaciones el pasado 27 de marzo, según informa el gobierno mexicano

app where migrants can make an appointment to request asylum – a tool that has been overwhelmed and criticized as malfunctioning. The proposal, expected to go into effect in May, would be in place for two years.



*“This tragedy underscores the urgency of addressing the complex humanitarian crisis that has continued to unfold unabated in our border community.”*

*Mark Seitz, Catholic Diocese Bishop*

Marisa Limón Garza, executive director of Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center in El Paso, called on the Biden administration and “relevant branches of government” to restore access to asylum and introduce solutions that will provide safe and legal pathways to migrants.

“We are angry, but we are also tired. Angry and tired at having to make yet another statement in order to convince those in power on both sides of the border that it is unaccept-

able and inhumane to rest the weight of politics on the shoulders of those looking for safety at our borders,” she said in a statement. “This is another horrific tragedy resulting from punitive and racist enforcement and border deterrence policies that have only resulted in hundreds of migrant deaths.”

**The dead and injured**

Mexican officials released the names of 68 people they said were killed or injured in the fire. Here is the list, by country of origin. Information on survivors include the hospital in which they are being treated.

**Colombia:** Julián David Villamil Arévalo.

**Ecuador:** Jorge Luis Tumbaco Santiestevan.

**El Salvador:** Andrés Fernando Calderón Carbajal, Brayan Eduardo Flamenco Quinteros, Carlos Alberto Pacheco Gutiérrez, Daniel de Jesús Varela Ramírez, Enrique Alfonso Melara Rivera, Inner Onesi Molina Hernández (Hospital de la familia Femap), José Amílcar Portillo Solórzano, José Pedro Rivera García, Marvin Armiendes García Pacheco (IMSS 6), Milton Alexis Melara Melgar, Misael Antonio Aguilar López, Roberto Antonio Henríquez Evangelista.

**Guatemala:** Bacilio Sutuj Saravia, Byron López Xol, Cristian Vidal Alexander Ventura Sacalxot (IMSS 6), Cruz Ernesto Chich Marroquín, Diego Sau Guarchaj, Diego Tzaj Ixtos, Edwin Gilberto Ixpertay Macario, Eliseo Gutiérrez Valdez (Hospital de la familia Femap), Elvis Adelmar Pérez Esteban, Enrique Coy Pop, Eyner Anibal García Dieguez, Fernando Pu Castro, Francisco Gaspar Rojche Chiquival, Francisco Javier Sohom Tzoc, Gaspar Josue Cuc Tzinquin, Gaspar Santiago Ixcotoyac Tum, Juan Fernando Quiñonez Montejo, Kevin Estuardo Cardona Lopez, Manuel Alexander Chox Tambriz, Marco Antonio Lucas Paiz, Marcos Abdon Tziquin Cuc, Miguel Rojche Zapalu, Miguel Sebastian Pedro Mateo, Raymundo Quib Tzalam, Roberto González Hernández, Rubbelsy Manrique Pérez Rodríguez, Santiago Caal Tzul, Wilson Alexander Juárez Hernández.

**Honduras:** Brayan Orlando Rodríguez Funes, Cristhian Javier Carranza Toro, Dikson Aron Córdova Perdomo, Edin Josué Umaña Madrid, Higinio Alberto Ramírez Torres (Hospital de la Familia Femap), Jesús Adony Alvarado Madrid, José Alfredo Hernández Muñoz, José Ángel Ceballos Molina, José Armando Rivera Muñoz, Juan

Carlos De Jesús Gomez (Hospital de la Familia Femap), Juan Carlos Trochez Aguilar, Oscar Danilo Serrano Ramírez, Oscar Pineda Torres.

**Venezuela:** Carlos Eduardo Rodríguez Cordero, unidentified man, Eduardo De Jesús Carballo López (Hospital De La Familia Femap), Jeison Daniel Catari Rivas (Hospital De La Familia Femap), Jesús Eduardo Velásquez Perdomo (Hospital De La Familia Femap), Joel Alexander Leal Peña, Orangel José López Guerrero, Orlando José Maldo-

nado Pérez, Oscar José Regalado Silva, Rafael Mendoza Mendoza, Rannier Edelber Requena Infante, Samuel José Marchena Guilarte, Stefan Arango Morillo (Hospital de la Familia Femap).

*Cindy Ramirez is a reporter with El Paso Matters. This article is republished from El Paso Matters under a Creative Commons license.*

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Families

week, said Sherry Hooper, executive director of the Food Depot.

“When food costs are so high, that dollar isn’t stretching anymore,” Hooper said. “We are feeling the challenge and it’s impeding our ability to help because we’re also paying such high prices.”



*“Here in Santa Fe, part of the challenge is public institutions. They don’t know their populations other than specific white, middle class populations. They have no idea what’s going on with its Latino, Spanish-speaking communities.”*

*Miguel Acosta, Earth Care*

A study by the Food Depot presented to Santa Fe Mayor Alan Webber last year found that 17% of children under 18 in Santa Fe are food insecure. It also pointed to a lack of political will to permanently solve childhood hunger in the U.S., despite the existence of several nutrition assistance programs.

“It is not the goal of any of these separate nutrition assistance programs – not even the biggest and most expensive, SNAP – to eliminate hunger,” the report reads. “Their disparate eligibility criteria leave numerous populations unprotected.”

The report, along with advocates who spoke to Source New Mexico, said low wages were one of the primary drivers of hunger. The report recommends financial measures such as stipends or a mandatory minimum living wage to address the roots of food insecurity.

For now, eliminating the burden of

school meals costs is a fragment of what needs to be done.

“Hungry children still have hungry parents,” Hooper said. “Low-income families have a fixed budget and there’s some things that just need to be paid. What’s left over is their budget for food.”

*Megan Taros is a freelance reporter for Source New Mexico. This article is republished from Source New Mexico under a Creative Commons license.*

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Haq & Weahkee

should be. Allowing eligible voters to mark their preference for a mail-in ballot is a tried-and-true way to ensure all eligible New Mexicans can participate in our state’s elections, particularly for elderly and home-bound voters and those with limited transportation options.

By signing this bill into law, New Mexico is showing the rest of the U.S. how to strengthen our democracy and expand voting access at a time when countless states nationwide are trying to undermine our fundamental right to vote. By leading with fundamental values of equality under the law and free and fair elections, New Mexico is stepping up to be a nationwide leader in voter rights.

*Zara Haq is a Senior Campaign Strategist with American Civil Liberties Union and Austin Weahkee is an Indigenous Justice Policy Advocate with American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico.*

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**Chávez/Esp**

es en el East High School, las pruebas de ETS/VIH y la necesidad de recursos para el sexo seguro, el acercamiento a las bandas, las relaciones sanas y otros temas importantes para los hombres.

Cada año, el CCPJC premia a personas que emulan el liderazgo de Chávez y de otros miembros del movimiento obrero y el compromiso que tuvieron con su comunidad. El Premio al Liderazgo Femenino Adulto fue para Aubrey N. Valencia, cuya organización The Storytellers Project también fue galardonada. Valencia habló de su propia historia de superación de traumas y de lo que la llevó a crear The Storytellers Project.

Manuel Almaguer, Jefe Adjunto del Cuerpo de Bomberos de Denver, recibió el Premio al Liderazgo Masculino Adulto. Angela García, abogada jubilada, recibió el premio al Liderazgo Anciana. El reconocimiento especial fue para Marguerite Salazar, ex comisionada de seguros del estado de Colorado que falleció en noviembre del año pasado.

La Concejala Amanda P. Sandoval aceptó el Premio al Liderazgo Anciano en nombre del Padre José Lara de la Iglesia Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. El Padre Lara, era un partidario del movimiento de Trabajadores Agrícolas Unidos. Sin embargo, no pudo asistir al evento. "Le haré llegar este premio, siempre le digo lo querido que es", dijo la Concejala Sandoval.

Más información sobre el legado de Chávez aquí. Sigue al Comité de Paz y Justicia César E. Chávez de Denver en Facebook para estar al día de los eventos, incluida la celebración del próximo año.

*Victoria Acuña es un Reportera Independiente para The Weekly Issue/El Semanario. Traducido por Juan Carlos Uribe, The Weekly Issue/El Semanario.*

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**NOTICE OF  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
Procurement No. 2023-04**

**CONTRACTED BUS SERVICES  
PROPOSALS DUE:** April 14, 2023, 12:00 p.m. (MST)

Proposals from individuals and firms to provide contracted bus services for the Rio Metro Regional Transit District (RMRTD) service area will be accepted until the date and time shown above at:

Rio Metro Regional Transit District  
c/o Mid-Region Council of Governments  
809 Copper N.W.  
Albuquerque, NM 87102

The RMRTD invites qualified individuals and firms to submit proposals to provide contracted bus services for the RMRTD service area. This project may be funded in part by federal and state funds. Therefore, this solicitation and resulting contract are subject to any related federal and state laws, regulations and guidelines.

Interested parties may receive a complete copy of this solicitation by accessing the following websites: <http://www.riometro.org>

Questions or any correspondence related to this procurement should be submitted to Phil Pino, Procurement Officer, at [ppino@mrcog-nm.gov](mailto:ppino@mrcog-nm.gov).

**ANUNCIO DE  
SOLICITUD DE PROPUESTAS  
Adquisición No. 2023-04**

**CONTRATACIÓN DE SERVICIOS DE AUTOBÚS  
FECHA LÍMITE PARA ENTREGAR PROPUESTAS:** 14 de abril de 2023,  
12:00 p.m. (MST)

Se aceptarán propuestas de individuos y empresas para proporcionar servicios de autobús contratados para el área de servicio del Distrito Regional de Tránsito de Río Metro (RMRTD) hasta la fecha y hora indicadas arriba en:

Rio Metro Regional Transit District  
c/o Mid-Region Council of Governments  
809 Copper N.W.  
Albuquerque, NM 87102

RMRTD invita a individuos y empresas calificadas a presentar propuestas para proporcionar servicios de autobús contratados para el área de servicio del RMRTD. Este proyecto puede ser financiado en parte por fondos federales y estatales. Por lo tanto, esta convocatoria y el contrato resultante están sujetos a las leyes, reglamentos y directrices federales y estatales relacionados.

Las partes interesadas pueden recibir una copia completa de esta convocatoria accediendo a los siguientes sitios web: <http://www.riometro.org>

Las preguntas o cualquier correspondencia relacionada con esta contratación deberán enviarse a Phil Pino, Procurement Officer, a la dirección [ppino@mrcog-nm.gov](mailto:ppino@mrcog-nm.gov).



**NOTICE OF  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
Procurement No. 2023-05  
PROVIDE ANNUAL FINANCIAL AUDITS  
PROPOSALS DUE:** April 28, 2023, 2:00 p.m. (MDT)

Proposals from individuals and firms to provide annual financial audits for the Mid-Region Council of Governments (MRCOG), the Rio Metro Regional Transit District (RMRTD) and New Mexico Workforce Connection (WCCNM) will be accepted until the date and time shown above at:

Mid-Region Council of Governments  
809 Copper N.W.  
Albuquerque, NM 87102

The MRCOG invites qualified individuals and firms to submit proposals to provide annual financial audits for the MRCOG, RMRTD and WCCNM. This requirement may be funded in part by federal and state funds.

Therefore, this solicitation and resulting contract are subject to any related federal and state laws, regulations and guidelines.

Interested parties may receive a complete copy of this solicitation by accessing the following websites:

<https://www.mrcog-nm.gov>  
<https://www.riometro.org>

Questions or any correspondence related to this procurement should be submitted to Phil Pino, Procurement Officer, at [ppino@mrcog-nm.gov](mailto:ppino@mrcog-nm.gov).

**ANUNCIO DE  
RECEPCIÓN DE PROPUESTAS  
Adquisición No. 2023-05**

**PROPORCIONAR AUDITORÍAS FINANCIERAS ANUALES  
FECHA LÍMITE PARA LA PRESENTACIÓN DE PROPUESTAS:** 28  
de abril de 2023, 2:00 p.m. (MDT)

Se aceptarán propuestas de individuos y empresas para proporcionar auditorías financieras anuales para el Consejo de Gobiernos de la Región Central (MRCOG), el Distrito de Tránsito Regional de Río Metro (RMRTD) y la Conexión de la Fuerza Laboral de Nuevo México (WCCNM) hasta la fecha y hora indicadas anteriormente en:

Consejo de Gobiernos de la Región Central  
809 Copper N.W.  
Albuquerque, NM 87102

El MRCOG invita a individuos y empresas calificadas a presentar propuestas para proporcionar auditorías financieras anuales para el MRCOG, RMRTD y WCCNM. Este requisito puede ser financiado en parte por fondos federales y estatales. Por lo tanto, esta convocatoria y el contrato resultante están sujetos a todas las leyes, reglamentos y directrices federales y estatales relacionados.

Aquellos interesados pueden recibir una copia completa de esta convocatoria accediendo a los siguientes sitios web:

<https://www.mrcog-nm.gov>  
<https://www.riometro.org>

Las preguntas o cualquier correo relacionados con esta contratación deberán enviarse a Phil Pino, Procurement Officer, a la dirección [ppino@mrcog-nm.gov](mailto:ppino@mrcog-nm.gov).

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# SNAP SUPPORTS COLORADANS GET HEALTHY FOOD ON YOUR DINNER TABLE

## WHAT'S SNAP?

SNAP, federally known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, exists to ensure families and individuals can purchase groceries. It supports working families, children and older adults to help weather life storms.

- **SNAP is like social security:** A portion of your tax dollars funded SNAP, and now it's here to help you!
- **SNAP supports the economy:** When you spend SNAP dollars you support local business owners and grocers. In 2018, SNAP contributed more than \$1 billion to Colorado's economy.
- **SNAP is guilt free:** SNAP exists to help you make ends meet during tough times. The program is large enough to help you, your family & your neighbors!

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

SNAP, previously known as food stamps, is run by the USDA and provides qualifying households with monthly funds to help purchase groceries. The amount received depends on household size, income, and expenses.

Every month, funds are loaded onto a Quest Electronic Benefit Transfer (or EBT) card. EBT cards are then used like a debit card\* at grocery stores, convenience stores and select farmers markets.

*\*EBT cards do not allow for cash withdrawals.*

## BENEFITS OF SNAP



Supports better health, overall well-being and happiness



Lowers health care costs and improves long-term health



Enhances work productivity



Keeps older adults stable and independent



Supports local farmers, ranchers, producers and business owners



Improves academic achievement



Increases the likelihood of completing high school

## SNAP FUELS HAPPIER, HEALTHIER LIVES!

Contact the Food Resource Hotline to speak with a food assistance navigator and get help finding food resources, like food pantries, in your area and assistance with your SNAP application. The hotline is free, bilingual and confidential. Call for immediate assistance (Monday – Friday, 8 am – 4:30 pm), no appointments necessary.

**HUNGER FREE COLORADO**  
**FOOD RESOURCE**  
**HOTLINE**  
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**855-855-4626**



[HungerFreeColorado.org](http://HungerFreeColorado.org)



Hunger Free Colorado connects families and individuals to food resources and fuels change in policies, systems and social views, so no Coloradan goes hungry.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. This project has been funded at least in part with Federal funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the view or policies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.