

# Mission ABQ

## Purpose of This Document

Mission ABQ distributes over thousands of pounds of food each year to families in need across Albuquerque. A reliable, right-sized vehicle is essential to sustaining that work. We have used box trucks and pickup trucks. Box trucks are difficult for volunteers to drive and pickup trucks are sometimes too small for a single load and require multiple trips. This document profiles our vehicle options and explains how you can help us acquire one. All vehicle options have been evaluated for suitability for this context: ease of loading, cargo protection, reliability, total cost of ownership, and fit with the food pickups.

## Vehicle Comparison

| Vehicle                 | Est. Price (New) | Payload           | Cargo Vol.        | Fuel        | Urban       | Best Use                             |
|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| Ford Transit Connect    | \$32–40K         | ~1,500 lbs        | ~104 cu ft        | ★★★★★       | ★★★★★       | Daily grocery rescue routes          |
| Ram ProMaster City      | \$33–42K         | ~1,882 lbs        | ~132 cu ft        | ★★★★        | ★★★★★       | Compact + max payload                |
| Chevy Express 2500      | \$43–52K         | ~3,800 lbs        | ~259 cu ft        | ★★★         | ★★★         | Budget full-size, buy used           |
| Mercedes Sprinter       | \$55–75K         | ~3,500 lbs        | ~319 cu ft        | ★★★★        | ★★★★        | High-volume, stand-up interior       |
| Ford Transit T-250 ★    | <b>\$50–58K</b>  | <b>~3,000 lbs</b> | <b>~350 cu ft</b> | <b>★★★★</b> | <b>★★★★</b> | <b>Best all-around (recommended)</b> |
| F-150 + Topper          | \$39–60K         | ~1,500 lbs        | ~65 cu ft         | ★★★         | ★★★         | Flex / secondary vehicle             |
| Silverado 2500 + Topper | \$44–63K         | ~2,200 lbs        | ~70 cu ft         | ★★          | ★★          | Heavy loads + towing                 |

★ Recommended: Ford Transit T-250 Medium Roof — awarded Best Fleet Value in America (2024 & 2025) by Ford Pro. Strong NM dealer network. Average purchase price after incentives: ~\$46,000.

## Purchasing Considerations

- **Route type:** Urban daily routes favor compact vans (Transit Connect, ProMaster City). Larger weekly or multi-donor runs favor the Transit T-250 or Express 2500.
- **Refrigeration:** Perishable transport requires a refrigeration upfit (\$5,000–\$15,000+). Prioritize a van with dual-battery / heavy-duty alternator capability. The Transit T-250 supports this upfit natively.
- **Driver accessibility:** Staff and volunteer familiarity matters. The Transit and ProMaster City are significantly easier to drive than HD trucks for personnel not accustomed to large commercial vehicles.
- **New vs. used:** Used Transit or Express vans (2019–2022 model year) offer excellent value. Budget \$1,500–\$3,000 for pre-purchase inspection and reconditioning.
- **Ford Pro fleet pricing:** Ford offers documented nonprofit and fleet pricing on Transit vehicles — typically \$2,000–\$5,000 off MSRP. Contact a Ford Pro dealer (Fiesta Ford or Garcia Ford, both in Albuquerque) for current nonprofit pricing.
- **Total cost of ownership:** Factor in fuel, insurance, maintenance, and upfit costs over 5–7 years. The Transit consistently wins fleet value comparisons at this horizon.

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To give or discuss this need, contact Mission ABQ at (505) 881-0267 or visit [missionabq.org/donate](https://missionabq.org/donate). All gifts are tax-deductible (EIN 85-0221802).

Mission ABQ is a non-profit organization, established in 1999 to bring hope to a community in need, helping people turn the corner from a place of need to a place of service to others.

We do this by 1) Meeting people at their point of need (meeting real and felt needs)  
2) Providing education and training in areas of need to bring individuals to a place of health and wholeness, and 3) Empowering people to care for and meet the needs of others.

