



NEW MEXICO HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT
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For Immediate Release

Human Services Department Offers Options for Custodial Parents Receiving Child Support

(Eight Community Meetings Will Help Parents to Learn More)

Santa Fe, New Mexico, April 11, 2007 – Thousands of parents in New Mexico who receive their child support checks by mail can now sign up for a faster, safer way to get their payments. Each month the HSD prints and mails 27,000 child support checks at a cost of about \$20 per check.

“Anyone receiving child support through our Child Support Enforcement Division (CSED) is eligible for the New Mexico prepaid debit card,” said Pamela Hyde, Secretary of the NM Human Services Department (HSD). “We believe that moving away from mailed checks to electronic prepaid debit cards will be more convenient for those using our child support services, as well as being cost effective for the department. If everyone opts for the more convenient debit card the HSD could save \$6 million a year.”

“The benefits of a prepaid debit card, versus a check in the mail, are well-known and time tested, as dozens of other states have already implemented similar systems,” said Cathi Valdes, acting Director of the CSED. “I’m excited about being able to offer debit cards to our customers who will have much quicker access to their child support payments – instead of the seven to ten day waiting period for a check to arrive in the mail.”

The New Mexico prepaid debit cards for child support can be used everywhere *Visa* debit cards are accepted: in stores, online and by telephone. Other benefits include 24/7 toll-free access to customer service; if a card is lost or stolen there is protection from unauthorized transactions; and one does not have to open a checking account to participate.

The CSED has scheduled eight community meetings in six communities for parents using child support services to learn more about and sign up to receive child support payments through the new prepaid debit card.

Below are the community meeting dates and locations:

- **Albuquerque, Wednesday, April 18, 6:30 p.m., at the Duranes Community Center (2920 Leopoldo Road, NW)**
- **Albuquerque, Thursday, April 19, 6:30 p.m., at the West Mesa Community Center (5500 Glenrio NW, at Glenrio and Coors)**

(more)

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- **Las Cruces, Wednesday, April 25, 6:00 p.m., at the Doña Ana County Government Building (845 Motel Blvd)**
- **Las Cruces, Thursday, April 26, 6:00 p.m., at the Doña Ana County Government Building (845 Motel Blvd)**
- **Roswell, Tuesday, May 1, 6:00 p.m., at the Pat Bassett Center – The Roswell Museum & Art Center (100 West 11th Street)**
- **Farmington, Wednesday, May 2, 6:00 p.m., at the Farmington Civic Center (200 W. Arrington)**
- **Shiprock, Thursday, May 3, 6:00 p.m., at the Shiprock Dine College Gymnasium (1228 Yucca Street)**
- **Santa Fe, Wednesday, May 9, 6:00 p.m., at the NM State Personnel Office, Willie Ortiz Building (2600 Cerrillos Road)**

For more information, please call 1-800-288-7207. Those wanting to attend one of the meetings and who need special accommodations should also call this phone number.

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