



For immediate release  
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Contact: Leann Holt, MFA  
(505) 767-2254

## **GOVERNOR BILL RICHARDSON ANNOUNCES NEW MEXICO TO RECEIVE \$8.6 MILLION IN HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION FUNDING**

SANTA FE---Gov. Bill Richardson announced today that New Mexico will receive \$8.6 million to combat homelessness throughout the state. The money, which is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, will be used to prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless and to house and stabilize those who are currently experiencing homelessness.

“The first and most important part of helping people get back on their feet is to ensure they have a roof over their head,” said Governor Richardson. “In these difficult economic times this funding is especially needed and will provide immediate relief to New Mexicans who are struggling.”

The Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program will be administered through the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority (MFA) and the City of Albuquerque. Albuquerque will receive \$1.8 million for city programs, and the MFA will receive \$6.8 million to be used throughout the rest of the state. The money will be spent over the next three years.

MFA plans to allocate funds based on the number of people per county who are living below the federal poverty level, the number of people who are unemployed per county, and the local cost of housing. MFA will select county and regional providers to implement the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program through a competitive Request for Proposal process that will begin next month.

Financial assistance for those experiencing homelessness or who are at risk for it include:

- Rental assistance for up to 18 months
- Utility payments for up to 18 months
- Security and utility deposits
- Moving cost assistance
- Motel/hotel vouchers for up to 30 days

Housing relocation and stabilization services include:

- Case management

- Housing search and relocation assistance
- Legal services
- Credit repair counseling
- Money management training

“The MFA has been providing shelter and emergency assistance to people experiencing homelessness for more than a decade,” said Jay Czar, executive director of the MFA. “Last year, we funded 163,448 nights of shelter for 9,047 individuals. We look forward to providing even more services to this vulnerable population over the next three years.”

The MFA will hold a public meeting to receive input about the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program:

Wednesday, April 29, 2009  
1:00 p.m.  
SpringHill Suites  
1611 Hickory Loop  
Las Cruces, NM

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