



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 10, 2016

NM Human Services Department Wins National Award for Partnership with Adelante Development Center for Providing Employment for People with Disabilities

New Mexico Human Services Department/Income Support Division recently received the 2015 SourceAmerica® National Achievement Customer Award (Non Federal) in recognition of the department's support of employment for people with disabilities. HSD/ISD works with local nonprofit agency, Adelante Development Center, to help provide employment opportunities to 111 people with disabilities.

The award is presented annually by SourceAmerica, a national organization that helps connect people with significant disabilities to employment, to recognize an organization that provides outstanding support to the employment of people with disabilities. NMHSD was nominated for the award due to their partnership with local nonprofit Adelante Development Center, which provides document storage, scanning, and document destruction services to HSD. This large-scale contract initiated by the HSD's Income Support Division, helps Adelante to employ 111 people with disabilities.

"This award is presented by SourceAmerica to recognize an organization that provides outstanding support to the employment of people with disabilities. We believe that the team at the New Mexico Human Services Department/Income Support Division exemplifies this standard," Steven Soroka, President and CEO of Source America, wrote in a letter to HSD. "Creating employment opportunities for people with significant disabilities is an important and worthwhile endeavor, and you and your team can take great pride in knowing that your efforts are making a real difference in the lives of others."

"The Human Services Department truly understands the importance of helping people with disabilities be part of the work force in New Mexico," says Mike Kivitz, President and CEO of Adelante. "Their efforts are helping Adelante tackle high unemployment rates for people with disabilities and helping more people find and maintain jobs in our state."

Carlos Gonzales, staff manager, accepted the award on behalf of HSD. He and his team were instrumental in the contract procurement process. "It was the right thing to do. People with disabilities overcome obstacles every day, but frequently those obstacles involve correcting an inaccurate

perception of their ability," Gonzales said. "In addition to making a difference in the lives of people who have disabilities, this partnership with Adelante has been beneficial for the Human Services Department and the community."

New Mexico Human Services contracts with Adelante Document Destruction Services to provide shredding for more than 40 HSD sites throughout the state, which has helped provide meaningful employment for 69 people with disabilities. Also, in 2014, NMHSD began a four-year contract with Adelante Document Imaging wherein Adelante is scanning over 650,000 images a month. This contract alone has helped Adelante provide steady work for 42 people. It is projected to last 16 years and will include approximately 31 million documents. "The work done for HSD provides employment opportunities to people with a wide range of abilities who operate computers and scanners and manually process documents. It's an ideal blend of work that makes use of a variety of skill sets and promotes upward mobility and advancement opportunities for people with disabilities," Kivitz said.

Adelante is a locally-founded nonprofit agency that is a community resource for nearly 60,000 people with disabilities and seniors across New Mexico. The organization helps connect people with disabilities to jobs in the community and directly provides employment for over 350 people with disabilities through Adelante's social enterprises. For more information, visit www.GoAdelante.org. The mission of the New Mexico Human Services Department's Income Support Division is to relieve, minimize or eliminate poverty and to make available certain services for eligible low-income individuals and families through statewide programs of financial assistance, food assistance, employment assistance and training services.

To view a video of the award presentation, visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rqbouOLAQn0&feature=youtu.be>

###