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**For Immediate Release**

## **New Mexico Human Services Department Awarded Millions in Federal Grants and Bonuses**

*Santa Fe, October 6, 2003* – Approximately \$6.4 million dollars have been awarded to the state Human Services Department (HSD) this month through performance bonuses and federal grants. The Income Support Division (ISD) received two Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) high performance bonuses, totaling \$3.2 million for fiscal year 2001, and \$2.1 million for fiscal year 2002. “The bonuses recognize the hard work of the ISD staff in helping New Mexicans find jobs, health care through the Medicaid State Coverage Health Insurance Plan (SCHIP) and succeed in employment,” said HSD Secretary Pamela Hyde. New Mexico was the only state in the region to receive a “success in the workplace” award and was only one of seven states nationwide awarded a bonus in Medicaid/SCHIP. “We would not have received these awards if it were not for the hard work of our ISD employees, who went into each county and reviewed all the cases sampled during the year,” Hyde added. The bonus money is required to be used for cash assistance for TANF clients, minus a small amount for administrative costs.

The federal grants come to HSD through the Medicaid program. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant will give New Mexico \$905,000 to help continuing efforts to create a health care coverage and access plan for all New Mexicans. “Governor Richardson’s appointed Health Care Coverage and Access Task Force is working hard on beginning the process, and the grant will help in continuing those efforts that need further study before implementation,” said Hyde. The grant money is very specific in nature, and must be used for further data and fiscal analysis of health care coverage for the uninsured in New Mexico.

The other Medicaid grant comes from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in the amount of \$444,800 for participation in the Payment Accuracy Measurement (PAM) project. This allows New Mexico to help set up a new system that all states will have to adhere to when it comes to accuracy of Medicaid payments. “This is a great way for New Mexico to participate and have some influence over what standards are developed nationwide,” said Hyde. Higher Medicaid payment accuracy standards will benefit the program in the future with fewer inaccurate billings.

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