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For Immediate Release

Human Services Secretary Pamela Hyde Strikes a Deal that Brings Transportation Services to Low-income Working Santa Feans “24/7”

Santa Fe, June 16, 2003 – The Human Services Department and the city of Santa Fe have entered into an agreement that will greatly expand transportation services to working, low-income families living in the Santa Fe area. The agreement includes services to and from work seven days a week to families at or below 150 percent of poverty (\$2,262/month for a family of four). Those currently receiving other benefits from the department, such as food stamps, low-income home energy assistance and/or financial assistance from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, qualify for transportation services.

"Reliable transportation is an employment barrier for many in Santa Fe," said Pamela Hyde, HSD secretary. "Bringing these services to those wanting to work in Santa Fe will benefit thousands of families and the business community as well."

As part of the agreement, the Human Services Department will provide the city of Santa Fe \$204,000 to operate the program. The city of Santa Fe will match the funds through another transportation grant, and the city of Santa Fe's Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) program will administer the plan for providing work-related transportation services to those living as far away as Pecos and Española.

Overall, the department allocates \$2.3 million per year to the state Highway and Transportation Department and other providers to help meet the transportation needs of low-income families, including 16,098 TANF recipients. Catron, Harding and Union counties are the only counties where transportation services are not available.