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Governor's Hunger Summit Seeks to End Hunger and Food Insecurity in New Mexico

Santa Fe, July 29, 2003 - The Richardson Administration is planning the first-ever "Hunger Summit" to look at ways to reduce hunger and food insecurity for vulnerable families in New Mexico. Headed by the Human Services Department (HSD) and the New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) the Hunger Summit will take place at the Albuquerque Marriot Pyramid North Hotel on October 16 and 17, in conjunction with World Food Day.

"We welcome this opportunity and challenge, and look forward to hearing from families, advocates and agencies that run food programs so that collectively we can find ways to decrease hunger and improve food nutrition," said Pamela Hyde, HSD secretary and I. Miley Gonzalez, NMDA secretary. The HSD administers the largest state-run food programs, such as food stamps, school lunches and emergency food assistance. Each program provides direct food products to hundreds of thousands of low-income children, the elderly and to homeless shelters each month, and works closely with the NMDA.

Several other state agencies and hundreds of non-profit and faith-based organizations also administer food aid programs throughout the state. They range in size from the small La Casa de la Hope in Tucumcari that serves transients along I-40 from a small food pantry, to the huge Roadrunner Food Bank that boasts a 32,000 square foot warehouse and distributes millions of pounds of food each year.

"Reports that many in New Mexico are turning to food pantries and other sources to help put food on the table have received considerable attention, and our administration intends to do something about it," said Lieutenant Governor Diane Denish. "We don't want even one child in New Mexico to be hungry."

State agencies and others who provide food assistance to low-income families are also participating in the summit that will focus on a plan of action in three areas: Reducing hunger in New

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Mexico, improving health and nutrition awareness and finding ways to better coordinate of public and private food aid programs. Other agencies who are not currently participating, but wish to, should contact the HSD at (505) 827-7248

Attached is the registration form for the first-ever Governor's Hunger Summit, or you can download it by logging on to the HSD website @ www.state.nm.us/hsd. Registration is \$30 per person if received by September 24th. Thereafter the fee is \$50.

Registration is limited to the first 500 people.



registration form
only.pdf