



**NEW MEXICO HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT**  
**P.O. Box 2348**  
**Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2348**

**Bill Richardson**  
*Governor*

**Pamela S. Hyde, J.D.**  
*Secretary*

*For further information contact Betina Gonzales McCracken  
Communications Director 505.699.4675*

**For Immediate Release**

**New Mexico Human Services Department Acts Quickly on Tip of  
Fraudulent Activity**

Santa Fe, August 1, 2003-----The New Mexico Human Services Department (HSD) has uncovered potential fraudulent activity in one of its Income Support Division (ISD) offices, which has led to the arrests of two employees this morning. The two employees from the Portales ISD office are expected to be charged with suspicion of engaging in fraud, embezzlement and computer crimes.

HSD alerted the Roosevelt County District Attorney's office earlier this week after an HSD employee suspected that fraudulent General Assistance accounts had been made. This morning the DA's special agents conducted a sting and arrested the two employees who had just withdrawn money from an automatic teller using Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards to draw on those accounts.

"This is something we will not tolerate," said HSD Secretary Pamela Hyde. "General Assistance is an important program for those New Mexicans who cannot work due to a disability and are trying to make ends meet. HSD has a duty to ensure the taxpayers money is handled properly." As a result of this investigation HSD is looking into other ISD field offices to ensure there are no other instances of this behavior.

HSD is pleased with the cooperation between our agency and the Roosevelt County District Attorney's office in reacting quickly on the tip.

The two employees have been placed on administrative leave pending the outcome of HSD's internal investigation into this matter.

###