



NEW MEXICO HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT
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New Human Services Income Support Office Will Help More New Mexicans

Santa Fe, August 15, 2003 – Lieut. Governor Diane Denish will be at the Human Services Department's newest field office in Albuquerque (4330 Cutler NE) from 11:00 a.m. to 12-noon on Aug. 20 to participate in a ribbon-cutting ceremony and speak to staff. Also participating is Liz Stefanics, deputy secretary for the department.

The department has 34 Income Support Division field offices scattered throughout the state, including four Albuquerque offices. Each office is busy, as this is where hundreds of thousands of people go to apply for health care services (Medicaid), food assistance, and financial assistance (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families). Nearly 400,000 people in the state receive Medicaid alone.

The newest office, formerly located at 1011 Lamberton NE, opened last month and is about 20,000 square feet. It employs 43 staff and serves about 20,000 families, most of whom live in the large, northeast quadrant of the city. The new location, next to the Social Security Office, makes it very convenient for people because many receiving Social Security benefits may also receive food stamps and Medicaid. Currently, from 500 to 800 people visit the new office each day.

The Human Services Department also has 14 child support enforcement field offices, two of which are in Albuquerque. Many of the Child Support Enforcement Division's offices are co-located with Income Support Division offices because each division serves many of the same clients.

Overall, the Human Services Department serves one in three New Mexicans by providing health care, food assistance, financial assistance and child support enforcement services to custodial and non-custodial parents. The department's budget is \$2.5 billion in state/federal dollars.

News Media are invited to attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony at 11:00 a.m. on August 20 at 4330 Cutler NE.

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