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## **News Advisory for Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.**

### **New Mexico to Receive \$835,000 Grant from the USDA**

(Grant to focus on reducing families' risk of food insecurity through food stamps.)

*Santa Fe, July 13, 2004* – The New Mexico Association of Food Banks, in partnership with the Human Services Department, will be receiving an \$835,000 check from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) on Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup> in Albuquerque.

New Mexico is one of only six states in the nation that has been awarded the grant, which will focus on outreach to families in Bernalillo, Socorro and Rio Arriba counties, who may be eligible for food stamps, but don't realize it. "The food stamp program is a positive tool in reducing hunger and food insecurity in New Mexico," said Liz Stefanics, HSD Deputy Secretary. "Getting more people signed up for the program not only helps families, but also the state's economy."

Last year, \$215 million dollars in federal food stamps was brought into the state; helping some 87-thousand families put food on their tables each month while also supporting the state's economy. The USDA reports that for every five dollars of food stamps spent, the state gets an additional \$9.20 pumped back into the economy.

**The News Conference will begin at 10 a.m. on Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup> at  
John Brooks Supermart, located at the corner of Candelaria Rd. and 12<sup>th</sup> St. NW in Albuquerque.**

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