



Bill Richardson
Governor

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

Pamela S. Hyde, J.D.
Secretary

Contact Betina Gonzales McCracken 505 827-6245 or 505 699-4675
For Immediate Release

Three Health Care Models to Close the Uninsured Gap in New Mexico Chosen for Analysis

Pre-Proposal Conference for Potential Bidders Scheduled for Wednesday

Santa Fe, New Mexico, October 23, 2006 – Three health care models aimed at closing the uninsured gap in New Mexico have been chosen by the Health Coverage for New Mexicans Committee (Committee). The Committee must now choose an expert(s) to analyze the costs of the plans to bring universal health coverage to New Mexico.

The three models chosen during last week's meeting of the Committee are:

1. The Health Security Act, which is single plan administered by a commission appointed by the Governor,
2. The New Mexico Health Choices Plan, which is market-based universal coverage through vouchers provided to individuals, and
3. The New Mexico Health Coverage Plan, which builds on the current public/private health care system in the state.

The 23-member Committee, plus four advisors, appointed by the Governor and the Legislative leadership, selected these models from several presented to them. The Legislative Council Service has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to analyze the models for costs to employers, the state, individuals and health care companies. "The plans chosen for analysis take very different approaches at ensuring health care coverage for all New Mexicans," said Human Services Department Secretary Pamela Hyde, member of the Committee. "It will be very interesting to see what the costs are for each model and their related components."

Potential bidders for the RFP are invited to attend a pre-proposal conference in Albuquerque on Wednesday, October 25 at the Central New Mexico (CNM) Community College Workforce Training Center, at 5600 Eagle Rock Ave, N.E. from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The agenda for the meeting is below. The RFP can be found on the main page of the New Mexico State Legislature website at www.legis.state.nm.us.

The Committee is scheduled to hear from finalists during its last meeting of the year, which is scheduled for November 30, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., in room 322 at the State Capitol in Santa Fe. A vendor will be selected in early December.

The vendor selected will be asked to submit a written report and present testimony on their analysis to the Committee and around the state in the spring and summer of 2007.

Based on the findings, the Committee will make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature for next steps during the 2008 regular legislative session.

Health Coverage for New Mexicans Committee

PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE

Wednesday, October 25, 2006

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Room 103, CNM Workforce Training Center
5600 Eagle Rock Ave NE, Albuquerque, NM**

AGENDA

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|---------------------------|---|
| 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. | Sign-In |
| 9:00 – 9:15 a.m. | Introductions |
| 9:15 – 9:30 a.m. | Overview of Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Rules” of Order (sign-in, recording, questions and written responses, etc.)• Logistical Information |
| 9:30 – 9:45 a.m. | Health Coverage for New Mexicans Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Background and Purpose |
| 9:45 – 10:00 a.m. | Overview of RFP <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Background, Purpose and Goals• Structure of RFP• Highlights of RFP |
| 10:00 – 10:15 a.m. | Conditions Governing Procurement <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Highlights of Procurement Schedule• Critical Dates• Highlights of General Requirements• Contact Information• Mandatory Technical Requirements |
| 10:15 – 12:00 p.m. | <i>Questions and Answers</i> |

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