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For Immediate Release

New Mexico's Health and Human Services Departments Host National Discussion on Health Care

New Mexico Citizens Encouraged to Attend Albuquerque Event

Santa Fe, March 8, 2006 – New Mexico's Departments of Health; Human Services; Children, Youth and Families; and Aging and Long-Term Services, together with the New Mexico Primary Care Association and the National Association of Community Health Centers, are hosting a community meeting on health care on Monday, March 20 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Albuquerque Convention Center. The meeting is free and open to the public, but space is limited. Interested persons must register either online at www.CitizensHealthCare.gov or by phone at 505-880-8882.

This meeting is one of 25 taking place across the country to engage individuals in the process of finding solutions that will lead to health care that works for all Americans. The information will be sent to the Citizens' Health Care Working Group, who will be making recommendations to the President and Congress.

Participants will receive information on the nation's health care system, including problems related to cost, quality and access to care, and will then share their ideas about ways to improve the health care system in focused, small group discussions. New Mexico residents from all walks of life are encouraged to attend and share their views.

The state's Health and Human Services Departments have responded to the invitation of the Citizens' Health Care Working Group, a nonpartisan group authorized by Congress, which is charged with listening to the views of the American people on health care in America.

For more information on the Citizens' Health Care Working Group's mission, visit www.CitizensHealthCare.gov.

Public Service Announcements in English and Spanish are attached for interested radio stations.

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