



NEW MEXICO TASK FORCE TO END HUNGER

For Immediate Release

For more information contact:

Betina Gonzales McCracken, Human Services Department 505-827-6245

Deborah Martinez, Children, Youth and Families Department 505-827-7439

Deborah Busemeyer, Department of Health 505-827-2619

John Arnold, Aging and Long-Term Services Department 505-476-4742

New Mexico's Task Force to End Hunger Encourages Families to Participate in Food Programs on National Hunger Awareness Day

Summer Food Program Now Available for Children across New Mexico

Santa Fe, June 6, 2005 - To commemorate National Hunger Awareness Day, the New Mexico Task Force to End Hunger, led by the Human Services Department (HSD), the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) and other state and private agencies, are encouraging New Mexico families to participate in one of the many food programs available in the state, "Through the hard work of the New Mexico Task Force to End Hunger, New Mexico has made progress in providing aid for needy families around the state; however, our job is not finished," said Pamela Hyde, HSD Secretary. "There are thousands of families who still need help, but are not participating in the programs that are available."

Through the Task Force's collaborative effort, New Mexico has made great strides in battling food insecurity and hunger by bringing public and private organizations together. During the past year, the New Mexico Task Force to End Hunger has: expanded the elementary breakfast and lunch program in schools; distributed 2 million meals through the Summer Food Service Program and the Child and Adult Care Food Program; increased the number of women and infants participating in the Women, Infant and Children (WIC) program to over 60,000 participants; provided breakfast, lunch, and/or dinner for New Mexicans 60 or older, totaling 1.6 million congregate meals and 1.9 home-delivered meals; and partnered with the New Mexico Food Bank Association to double the number of families served through the USDA Emergency Food Assistance Program and, most notably, increased the number of families participating in the food stamp program, which has succeeded in aiding over 95,000 New Mexico families and bringing an estimated \$260 million dollars into the state's economy through the food stamp program.

Summer months can be some of the most difficult for school-age children who rely on the breakfast and lunch program for nutritious meals. "That is why the Summer Food Program is so important," said Dorian Dodson, CYFD Secretary-designate. "It provides a nutritious lunch for children across the state, regardless of their income. We encourage parents to find the nearest Summer Food Program site to ensure their children don't go hungry while out of school for the summer."

Below are the several different state programs aimed at helping New Mexico families get the nutritious foods they need. The Hunger Task Force encourages families to call and find out how to participate in the programs.

- **Children, Youth and Family Department, Summer Food Program, and Child and Adult Care Food Program – 1-800-328-2665**
- **Human Services Department, Food Stamp Program, and The Emergency Food Assistance Program - 1-800-283-4465**

- **New Mexico Department of Health, Women, Infant and Children (WIC) Program- 1-800-280-1618**
- **New Mexico Public Education Department, Student Nutrition Program- 505-827-1821**
- **New Mexico Department of Aging and Long-term Services, Senior Food Program- 1-866-451-2901**

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