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For Immediate Release

## **Human Services Department Participating in Eyewitness News 4 Health Fair This Weekend**

### **Admission Fee Waived for Qualified Families Who Come Prepared to Apply for Medicaid Health Coverage and Food Assistance Programs**

*Santa Fe, January 25, 2007* – The New Mexico Human Services Department (HSD) will once again be reaching out to the thousands of visitors at this year's Eyewitness News 4 Health Fair this Saturday and Sunday at Expo New Mexico in Albuquerque. The fair will run from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. Eyewitness News 4 has agreed to waive the five-dollar admission fee for those who come prepared with the proper paperwork to enroll their children in Medicaid or the Food Stamp program.

“The Eyewitness News 4 Health Fair is a perfect opportunity to reach the many New Mexico families we know are eligible for the Medicaid and the Food Stamp programs, but are not enrolled,” said Secretary Pamela Hyde, HSD.

HSD eligibility workers will be on site to enroll qualified New Mexico children in the Medicaid and Food Stamp programs. Medicaid is a low-cost or no-cost health insurance program for lower-income families.

Children in families whose income is below 235% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) qualify for Medicaid. For example, a family of four with a monthly income below \$3,918 could sign their children up for the state- and federally-funded health care program. In families with a child five or younger, a portion of the family's income is disregarded, which means more children in families with a slightly higher income could qualify for Medicaid.

Families whose income is below 130% of the FPL, or a family of four with a monthly income below \$2,167, may qualify for food assistance through the Food Stamp program. This program helps families purchase nutritious food at their local grocery store.

Families who show they have the following paperwork to sign up for one of the above programs can get into the Eyewitness News 4 Health Fair for free.

Medicaid for Children:

- Original Birth Certificate(s),
- Social Security Card(s),
- Four weeks of recent proof of income (check stubs), and
- Proof of residency (rental or mortgage agreement, copy of utility bill, etc.).

Food Stamp Program:

- Original Birth Certificate(s),
- Social Security Card(s),
- Photo Identification,
- Proof of all income for past four weeks,
- Proof of Shelter Expenses (rental or mortgage agreement and copy of utility bills), and
- Most Recent Bank Statement.

Information will also be available about the State Coverage Insurance (SCI) program and the Medicaid Working Disabled Individual (WDI) program.

SCI is a public/private health care plan for adults ages 19-64 whose income is below 200% of FPL, and single persons who earn less than \$1,634 per month.

Medicaid WDI provides health insurance coverage for disabled persons over 18 years old who are currently working or have worked until recently. WDI may also provide health coverage for those waiting to receive Medicare. The income guidelines for WDI are 250% of FPL, or a single person who makes less than \$2,042 per month.

The HSD booth is located in spot number 1006 at The Eyewitness News 4 Health Fair, which is open Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Manuel Lujan Exhibit Hall at Expo New Mexico in Albuquerque.

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