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For Immediate Release

Los Lunas Residents to Benefit from New Offices for Income Support, Child Support and Medicaid Waiver Services

Income Support Office is Second for Valencia County

Santa Fe, April 3, 2007 – The New Mexico Human Services Department (HSD) and the Department of Health (DOH) have opened new offices in Los Lunas, to meet the demands of this growing community. “Valencia County’s health and human services needs are increasing with its soaring population growth,” said Pamela Hyde, HSD Secretary. “This new office complex will serve the Los Lunas population, while the Belen Income Support office, which will be remodeled, will continue to serve the needs of Belen residents.”

The 44,000 square foot office complex, located at 445 Camino Del Rey, will be home to the second HSD Income Support Division (ISD) office, the first Child Support Enforcement Division (CSED) office and a re-location of the DOH’s Los Lunas Community Program in Valencia County. “Housing several state services together will make it more convenient for Valencia County residents to access services,” said Michelle Lujan Grisham, Health Secretary. A total of 105 state employees (70 from DOH and 35 from HSD) will be working at the office complex.

Services available at the HSD ISD office include the following low-income programs to those living in the Los Lunas area:

- Food stamps,
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP),
- Medicaid,
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), among others.

Families living in the Belen area will continue to use the Belen ISD office (100 N. 5th Street), which will be remodeled and improved to better serve Belen citizens. “While our new office will save those using our services in northern Valencia County time and money, as they will have to travel less to get services, Belen residents will see improved customer service with a remodeled and less congested office,” said Fred Sandoval, Director of the ISD.

Like in Albuquerque where there are four ISD offices, Valencia County residents can determine which ISD office they should now go to by using their zip code. Those with 87031, 87042, 87068, 87060 and 87026 zip codes should visit the Los Lunas ISD office. Those living in the above zip codes who already have open cases have already had their files transferred to the Los

Lunas office. Those with 87002, 87028, 87062, 87023 and 87006 zip codes will continue to use the Belen ISD office for services.

Overall, 8,800 families use one or more income support services in Valencia County. About two-thirds of these families (5,800 families) will begin using the Los Lunas office on Monday.

The 1,600 Valencia County residents using child support enforcement services previously had to travel to Albuquerque. Now they will all use the Los Lunas Child Support Enforcement office. “We believe that even more parents in Valencia County will decide to use our child support enforcement services now that we have a long overdue presence here,” said Cathi Valdes, CSED acting Director. Child support enforcement services include paternity establishment, locating absent parents and establishing and enforcing child support court orders. Families living in Cibola County will also use the Los Lunas Child Support Enforcement office, as they too were required to travel to Albuquerque for services.

The Department of Health will administer Medicaid waiver programs through the Los Lunas Community Program from the new Los Lunas office complex, where they previously provided services from the Los Lunas Training Campus. The services include providing supported living, employment and community participation for low-income people who are severely disabled and elderly. “Our new office will also provide direct services to 130 clients living in Valencia County,” said Dianne Wagemann, who administers the Medicaid Waiver Programs for DOH. “We will also continue to support the operation of the therapeutic pool, which is available to the community, on the Los Lunas Campus.”

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