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For Immediate Release

Medicaid Working Disabled Individual Program to Continue in New Mexico

Program Representatives to Attend Health Fair This Weekend in Albuquerque

Santa Fe, New Mexico – The New Mexico Human Services Department (HSD) has received an \$887,000 grant from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to continue administering the Medicaid Working Disabled Individual (WDI) Program. “I am pleased New Mexico will continue to offer the WDI program for the so many people with disabilities who want to work and jeopardize their health care eligibility for doing so,” said Pamela Hyde, HSD Secretary.

The grant allows HSD to continue administering this program through 2008.

The WDI program allows many people with disabilities to continue working while they receive Social Security benefits and health care through Medicaid. It also provides Medicaid healthcare to individuals approved for Social Security Disability Insurance but are waiting the mandatory two-year period for Medicare health care coverage to begin. This is known as the “Medigap.”

“With this grant we will continue partnering with advocates for the disabled and the Public Education Department’s Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to improve competitive employment opportunities for New Mexicans with disabilities who want to continue working,” said Hyde.

“The WDI Program began in New Mexico seven years ago and is now providing health insurance to 1,500 people who might not otherwise be able to afford insurance,” said Carolyn Ingram, State Medicaid Director. “This new grant will allow us to continue offering important health insurance to the working disabled and to those who find themselves in the Medigap.”

People wanting to learn more about Medicaid’s WDI Program will have the opportunity to talk with program administrators this weekend in Albuquerque at the 10th Annual Eyewitness News 4 Health Fair. The Health Fair takes place Saturday and Sunday, beginning at 9:00 a.m. each day, at Expo New Mexico’s Lujan Exhibit Hall (300 San Pedro NE).

For an application or more information about the WDI program please visit:

<http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/mad/workingdisabled.html> or call 1-888-997-2583

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