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More NM Farmers' Markets Offer Food Stamp Participants Locally-Grown Produce

Santa Fe, New Mexico— The New Mexico Human Services Department is pleased to announce that a growing number of farmers' markets will soon be properly equipped to allow thousands of low-income families participating in the Food Stamp Program the opportunity to use their benefits to purchase locally-grown produce for their families.

This year, farmers' markets in Clovis, Pojoaque Santa Fe and Silver City are offering the same conveniences to families as their local grocery stores by accepting food stamp Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards, as well as conventional debit cards, as payment for their groceries.

"We continue to work with the Farmers' Market Association and individual farmers' markets to grow our clients' access to their products statewide," said Katie Falls, Human Services Department (HSD) Deputy Secretary. "Farmers' markets not only offer fresh fruits and vegetables, they are often more convenient for the many thousands of people living in rural areas who participate in the Food Stamp Program."

In July 2008 alone 99,133 families in New Mexico supplemented their food budget with food stamps, bringing \$23.1 million to local economies, statewide – more than \$260 million during the course of the last budget year.

Below are farmers' markets accepting EBT cards for purchases:

- Clovis Market, on the corner of 4th and Pile Streets, open until Nov. 1, phone (575) 389-9889
- Pojoaque Market, 78 Cities of Gold, off Hwy. 84/285, open until Oct. 29, phone (505) 581-4651
- Santa Fe Winter Market, 1607 Paseo de Peralta at Guadalupe, open Nov. 8 – Apr. 15, phone (505) 983-4098
- Santa Fe Farmers' Market is at several locations through Sept., phone 505-983-4098
- Silver City Market, downtown Silver City, open until Oct. 25, phone (575) 534-1704

Below are the farmers' markets that will accept EBT cards for purchases as early as next month.

- Albuquerque Downtown Market, at Robinson Park (8th Street and Central), open until Oct. 25, phone (505) 243-2230
- Albuquerque Growers' Market on Alcazar Street (the Southeast corner of Central and Louisiana), open until Nov. 1, phone (505) 850-6725
- Belen Market, at Anna Becker Park (Hwy 309), open until Oct. 24, phone (505) 401-4390
- Española Market, 1005 N. Railroad Ave., open until Oct. 27, phone (505) 685-4842

The department's Income Support Division has been working with the NM Farmers' Market Association and other local farmers' markets statewide to expand their ability to accept food stamps as a method of payment for their products. "We continue to work with farmers' markets to assist them through the process so they too can begin accepting food stamp EBT cards," said Falls.

Families may qualify for the Food Stamp Program if they earn less than 130 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (see chart below). Food Stamp benefits are issued through EBT cards that can be used at participating stores to purchase meat, poultry and fish, vegetables, fruit, bread and other baked goods, juices, canned goods, frozen foods, and some pre-made food products.

Family Size	Maximum Monthly Income to Qualify for Benefits
1	\$1,107
2	\$1,484
3	\$1,861
4	\$2,238
5	\$2,615
6	\$2,992
7	\$3,369
8	\$3,746

Food Stamp applications can be filled out and turned in at any of the department's 36 Income Support Division offices across the state.

For more information on the Food Stamp Program or to find an ISD office near you, please call 1-888-473-3676, or visit the department's website at <http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/isd/fs.html>.

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