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## **Human Services Department Conducting Survey on Employment of People with Disabilities in New Mexico**

People with Disabilities Urged to Participate through October 5, 2008

*Santa Fe, New Mexico* – The New Mexico Human Services Department’s Medical Assistance Division and the State’s Focusing on Abilities partners are conducting a statewide survey to learn more about employment issues that people with disabilities face in New Mexico.

“This survey will help us determine what obstacles people with disabilities currently have in obtaining work in New Mexico and how progress can be made in the very near future,” said Carolyn Ingram, Medical Assistance Division Director. “The survey will also provide some data on how effective our current programs are, like the Working Disabled Individual (WDI) program and other support services for people with disabilities and how improvements can be made.”

Fifteen agencies are partnering with the Human Services Department in an effort to get as many people as possible to participate in the survey, which can be taken online or by mail.

People with disabilities, their family members, care providers, advocacy group leaders, Independent Living Center managers and those familiar with employment barriers faced by people with disabilities are encouraged to participate in the survey.

WDI staff will set up computers at the 2008 Conference on Aging at the Sandia Resort and Casino in Albuquerque beginning tomorrow, August 26 through the 29 to allow attendees to take the survey online. Computers will also be available at the Southwest Conference on Disability at the Albuquerque Convention Center on October 1 – 3 to allow attendees there to take the survey online.

The survey can be accessed at <http://www.surveynm.com/IS.asp>. Those without computer access can call 1-888-997-2583 and request that a paper copy be mailed to them.

All responses to the survey will remain anonymous and no personal information, such as the survey’s name or address will be asked.

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