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Popular State Coverage Insurance Program Near Enrollment Capacity

Current Employer Groups and Applications in Process to Receive Priority Registration

Santa Fe, New Mexico – Nearly 40,000 previously uninsured New Mexicans now have health coverage as a result of Governor Richardson’s State Coverage Insurance program. Because the popular program is near capacity, the New Mexico Human Services Department will scale back its enrollment efforts.

“We are pleased the program has received such great response from the thousands of uninsured New Mexico adults,” said Pamela Hyde, HSD Secretary. “However, we must be fiscally responsible and stay within our budget, which means a change in the way enrollment is handled moving forward.”

The state insurance program was implemented as part of Governor Richardson’s *Insure New Mexico!* Solutions in July 2005, designed to cover low-income, uninsured, working adults in a primarily employer based model with cost-sharing on a sliding-scale based on income. Enrollment of 40,000 adults was anticipated by June 2010. However, projected enrollment is already at 35,000.

“This is way beyond the anticipated enrollment for this time, which means we must slow down the enrollment process,” said Carolyn Ingram, HSD Medical Assistance Division Director. “A registration process has begun for the program, which will give priority to applicants that have already completed the eligibility process and to employees of employer groups who are currently enrolled with the program.”

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services approved a Medicaid waiver for the State Coverage Insurance program, which allows New Mexico to use unspent federal State Children’s Health Insurance program money, combined with state funding and private contributions, to cover about 40,000 adults.

“As more federal and state funding becomes available, applications will be processed through the new registration process,” said Ingram.

Details of the new registration process are available on the *Insure New Mexico!* website at www.insurenwemexico.state.nm.us or by calling the *Insure New Mexico!* Solutions Center at 1-888-997-2583.

So far one-thousand New Mexico small employer groups have obtained coverage for their employees through the SCI program, with the average employer group size of nine-point-two. The majority of industrial categories are food service, hospitality, retail, health care and education services.

The SCI program is covering adults in 29 of New Mexico's 33 counties.

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