



NEW MEXICO HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
P.O. Box 2348  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2348

**Bill Richardson**  
*Governor*

**Pamela S. Hyde, J.D.**  
*Secretary*

Contact: Betina Gonzales McCracken (505) 476-6205

**February 27, 2009**  
**For Immediate Release**

## **Human Services Department's Child Support Enforcement Division Reaches Out to Grants and Belen Residents**

*Santa Fe, New Mexico* – The Human Services Department's Child Support Enforcement Division (CSED) is reaching out to residents in Grants and Belen for assistance establishing child support cases. The CSED has scheduled weekly office hours for Legal Assistants in Grants and Belen as a more convenient opportunity for clients, who would normally have to drive to Los Lunas for services.

Single parent families with dependant children applying for cash assistance through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program, in most cases, must cooperate with child support enforcement to receive benefits. To help these families in Cibola County and in Belen meet this requirement, the CSED has begun sending workers from Los Lunas to the Grants and Belen income support offices (where people apply for programs like TANF and Medicaid) to save families from having to drive to Los Lunas for child support enforcement services.

"We will serve any family seeking child support enforcement services, not just those receiving TANF benefits," said Chris Vivian, County Office Manager at the Los Lunas child support office. His office serves families in Valencia and Cibola counties in child support enforcement matters like establishing paternity, locating absent parents and establishing and enforcing court orders for child support. They do not help with child custody and visitation.

The Child Support Enforcement Division encourages all parents with child support cases in either Valencia South (Belen) or Cibola counties to take advantage of the days the CSED staff is in Grants and Belen. There are over 700 families receiving TANF in Cibola and Valencia counties. The child support enforcement office serves 610 families in Cibola County and 1,828 families in Valencia County. They collected about \$3 million in child support for custodial parents living in these two counties the last budget year.

Child support enforcement staff is at the Grants Income Support Division (ISD) office (900 Mount Taylor Ave., phone 287-8836) weekly: the first Tuesday of each month, and then on Thursdays for the remaining three/four weeks of each month, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. They will see walk-in customers from 11:00 a.m. to 12 noon on these days.

Child support enforcement staff will be at the Belen ISD office (100 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street, phone 864-5200) every Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. They will see all families during these hours.

###