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## **NM Human Services Department Reaching Out to Uninsured Prior to *Cover the Uninsured Week and Beyond***

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Instrumental in Continuing Outreach and Enrollment Efforts Across the State

*Santa Fe, New Mexico* – As “Cover the Uninsured Week” begins Sunday, March 22, the New Mexico Human Services Department will be informing the public about the many health coverage programs available through the department, as well as behavioral health care, income support and child support programs during a Job Fair on tomorrow, Saturday, March 21 in Albuquerque.

“This is just the beginning of our outreach and enrollment efforts to reach as many uninsured New Mexicans as possible and enroll those who are qualified on one of several publicly funded health coverage programs available through the department,” said Pamela Hyde, HSD Secretary. “*Insure New Mexico!* outreach events are part of our plan that includes partnering with other state agencies, such as the Public Education Department, the Department of Workforce Solutions, the Children, Youth and Families Department, and the Taxation and Revenue Department to target our efforts to potential eligible clients.”

There are currently 480,000 people enrolled in a Medicaid funded program, with nearly 300,000 of them children. At this same time last year, the total enrollment was closer to 430,000. “We have seen a steady increase in participation over the past year, and with the additional federal dollars coming to New Mexico through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act we will be able to continue to serve this increasing population,” said Hyde.

Under the Governor Bill Richardson administration, there are more no-cost and low-cost health coverage solutions now available in New Mexico than ever before. The *Insure New Mexico!* programs cover a range of children and adults in households with lower-income levels.

- “**New Mexikids**” (**Medicaid and SCHIP**) - Covers children up to 235% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). For example a family of four with a monthly income below \$4,152 would qualify. Families above this income level may still qualify thanks to changes that disregard certain earned income and child care costs to allow more children to qualify.
- The **Premium Assistance for Kids** or **PAK** program - Covers those children up to age 12 (and up to age 18 with a sibling 12 or younger) who don’t qualify for a New Mexikids program due to income. The PAK usually pays 50% of insurance premiums for families who can’t afford the full coverage on their own.

- The **Medicaid Family Planning and Pregnancy** program - Covers women with family incomes up to 235% FPL for pregnancy-related medical services. Families above this income level may still qualify due to changes that disregard certain earned income.
- The **Premium Assistance for Maternity or PAM** program - Covers all pregnant women who do not qualify for Medicaid due to income. The PAM program covers only pregnancy-related services. The patient pays a one-time premium fee per pregnancy depending on the trimester in which she enrolls. For example, if the client enrolls during the first 20 weeks of pregnancy the premium is \$150. However, if the client enrolls during the second 20 weeks of pregnancy, the premium is \$300.
- The **State Coverage Insurance (SCI)** program – SCI currently insures more than 31,000 adults between 19-64 years old with incomes below 200% FPL (family of four with monthly income below \$3,534). This is a public/private program where the employer pays a portion of the premium (\$75 per employee/per month), the employee pays a portion (\$0 to \$35 per month dependant on income) and the state and federal governments pay the remainder. More than 700 small employers are now participating in the SCI program.

Some of the *Insure New Mexico!* outreach events planned over the next few months include:

- March 21, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – KOAT-TV, City of Albuquerque Employment Solutions Job Fair at the Albuquerque Convention Center, 401 2<sup>nd</sup> St. N.W. in Albuquerque
- March 24, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. – Employer Health Coverage Symposium, sponsored by the Santa Fe Hispanic Chamber of Commerce at the Courtyard Marriott, 3347 Cerrillos Road in Santa Fe.
- April 18, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. - Santa Fe Low Income Fair at the Santa Fe Indian School, 1501 Cerrillos Road in Santa Fe
- April 25, 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. - AARP Grandparents Raising Grandkids Forum at the Holy Rosary Catholic Church, 5415 Fortuna Road, NW in Albuquerque
- April 25, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. - Dia Del Nino at the National Hispanic Cultural Center, 1701 4<sup>th</sup> St., SW in Albuquerque.

Uninsured New Mexicans are encouraged to call the *Insure New Mexico!* Solutions Center at 1-888-997-2583, or visit [www.insurenewmexico.state.nm.us](http://www.insurenewmexico.state.nm.us) to find out if they qualify for coverage under any of these programs.

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