



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

March 25, 2009
For Immediate Release

New Mexico Families to See Increase in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Benefit Next Month

Benefit Increase due to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

Santa Fe, New Mexico – The New Mexico Human Services Department (HSD) wants families to know that the benefit for the New Mexico Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, is increasing by 13.6 percent in April, as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

“This generous increase to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program will give families some quick relief at the grocery store,” said Pamela Hyde, HSD Secretary. “We encourage every family who qualifies to take advantage of the increased benefit, especially during these difficult economic times.”

Families participating in the program will automatically see the increase added to their monthly benefit through the Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card.

Families who are eligible, but not participating in the program are encouraged to apply as soon as possible, and take advantage of the increased benefit. Families with incomes up to 130 percent of the Federal Poverty Level qualify for the program. For example a family of three with an annual income below \$22,884 would qualify for the program.

Family Size	Maximum Annual Income
1	\$13,524
2	\$18,204
3	\$22,884
4	\$27,564
5	\$32,244
6	\$36,924
7	\$41,604
8	\$53,400

During the month of February, there were more than 113,000 families in New Mexico participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; an all time high participation for the program, and an increase of 21.1 percent from the same time last year.

The Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program also brings in dollars to New Mexico's economy. Currently each month \$30 million come into the state through the program that are spent in local communities across the state. It is estimated that every five dollars in supplemental nutrition benefits turns into \$9.20 of economic activity. "The increased benefits will bring in an additional \$4 million each month, also increasing the economic activity to the state," said Hyde.

The additional monthly benefit is determined by the number of people and the income of those living in one single household. For example, if there are three people in one home, and right now they receive \$250 each month, in April they will receive \$313 each month; an increase of \$63.

People in Household	Maximum Monthly Increase
1	+ \$24
2	+ \$44
3	+ \$63
4	+ \$80
5	+ \$95
6	+ \$114
7	+ \$126
8	+ \$144
Each extra person	+ \$18

People interested in learning more about the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program are encouraged to call the Income Support Division at 1-888-473-3676 or visit our website to find the office nearest your home <http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/isd/>. The application for the program can also be found online at <http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/isd/apply.html>.

###