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For Immediate Release

## **NM Human Services Department Reaching Out to Questa Area Residents**

### **Eligible Children and Adults Invited to the Questa Income and Health Coverage Enrollment Fair**

*Santa Fe, New Mexico* – The New Mexico Human Services Department is reaching out to Questa area residents with an Income and Health Coverage Enrollment Fair, on April 30 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Alta Vista Elementary/Intermediate School, located at 1.5 mile North Highway 522 in Questa.

“Recent economic difficulties in the Village of Questa is what prompted our Taos Income Support Division County Director to encourage the department to schedule this enrollment fair,” said Pamela Hyde, Human Services Department Secretary. “We want Questa residents to know about and enroll in the many services available to help families put nutritious food on the table, pay bills, keep their home warm in the winter, and cool in the summer, and provide health coverage for children and adults.”

Human Services Department eligibility workers will be on site of the Enrollment Fair to help families apply for services they may qualify for. The programs include:

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program** (formerly the Food Stamp Program) - On average people receiving supplemental nutrition assistance are receiving \$238 per month in benefits, which means some receive more and some receive less depending on family size and income. A family of three earning less than \$22,884 should qualify for this program.

**Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)** - TANF offers cash assistance averaging of \$447 per month for a family of three and employment programs and supports. Those qualifying for TANF probably also qualify for food stamps and Medicaid. Participation, however, is restricted to families with dependant children earning little or no money. For example, a family of three earning less than \$14,964 would probably qualify for TANF.

**Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** - The LIHEAP program helps low-income families pay heating or cooling costs with a once-a-year benefit. The benefit can be used to help pay gas; electric; or bulk fuels, such as propane, firewood or wood pellet bills. This year’s average benefit per family is \$309. A family of three earning up to \$26,400 can qualify for this program.

**Insure New Mexico! Solutions** - The Medical Assistance Division offers several health coverage options for children, some adults, some elderly and people with disabilities. The number of individuals receiving health care through a Medicaid and *Insure New Mexico! Solutions* total more than 450,000 people, about 300,000 whom are children. Income levels vary throughout the many program options.

In an effort to complete as many applications as possible for eligible families the following documents are needed:

- Proof of household income for the past 30 days
- Identification
- Social Security Numbers (SSN) for all household members
- Proof of New Mexico residency
- If not a U.S. Citizen, proof of qualified immigrant status
- Proof of a heating or cooling expense
- Proof of other health insurance you may have

People wanting more information about the above income support programs should call 1-888-473-3676 or visit our website to find the office nearest your home <http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/isd/>.

People interested in health coverage through the Medicaid program or other *Insure New Mexico! Solutions* can call 1-888-997-2583 or visit <http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/mad/> or [www.insurenwexico.net](http://www.insurenwexico.net).

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