



For immediate release
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Governor Bill Richardson Announces New Mexico to Receive \$35 Million in Emergency Funds for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Emergency Funds will Help Serve More Families Seeking Assistance

SANTA FE – Governor Bill Richardson today announced that New Mexico will be receiving a portion of the \$5 billion for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program, through the new Emergency Fund, established by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

New Mexico is anticipating receiving \$35.8 million, which can be used in 2009 and 2010 to help serve more families seeking employment opportunities and cash assistance through the TANF program during this economic downturn. Two New Mexico Tribes that administer their own TANF programs could receive up to \$15.5 million.

“This safety net program has seen almost a 17% increase in family participation over the past year. These funds are greatly needed to help New Mexicans who are facing difficult times, get back on their feet,” said Governor Bill Richardson.

The TANF program is administered by the New Mexico Human Services Department. It offers cash assistance, employment programs and other support services for eligible families with dependent children. Income eligibility is at 85 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, for example a family of three with an annual income of less than \$14,964.

In February there were 39,850 people participating in the TANF program, with 63.2 percent of those children.

People interested in learning more about the TANF program are encouraged to call the Human Services Department at 1-888-473-3676 or visit the department’s website at <http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/isd/>.

Learn more about how the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will benefit New Mexico at www.recovery.state.nm.us.