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News Advisory

NM Human Services Department Receives \$8.5 Million Federal Bonus for Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

Bonus Awarded for Strong Efforts to Enroll Eligible Children in Health Coverage Programs

Santa Fe – The New Mexico Human Services Department has been notified it has qualified for a Children's Health Insurance Program Act (CHIPRA) Performance Bonus of \$8.5 million for Federal Fiscal Year 2010.

“This bonus award is confirmation of your State's ongoing and strong efforts to identify and enroll eligible children in Medicaid and CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program) coverage,” said Cindy Mann, Director of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in her letter notifying HSD of the award.

To qualify for the CHIPRA Performance Bonus States must satisfy two sets of criteria: (1) at least five Medicaid and CHIP program features known to promote enrollment and retention in health coverage for children; and (2) demonstrate a significant increase in Medicaid enrollment among children during the course of the Fiscal Year. New Mexico met six of the eight required program features.

1. 12-month continuous eligibility,
2. Liberalization of the State's asset test,
3. Elimination of in-person interview requirements,
4. Use of same application and renewal forms,
5. Use of automatic or administrative renewal, and
6. Presumptive eligibility.

“With New Mexico's high rate of uninsured children, we have worked hard over the years to make it easier for eligible children to apply and recertify for health coverage through Medicaid and CHIP,” said Katie Falls, HSD Secretary. “We are pleased that those efforts are recognized by the federal government and resulted in a much needed and welcomed performance bonus.”

The CHIPRA Performance Bonus will help fill the gap in the projected Medicaid budget shortfall for the current Fiscal Year 2011 budget, which will also assist in a smaller budget deficit for FY 2012. In order to qualify for subsequent CHIPRA Performance Bonuses, New Mexico must continue to implement at least five of the eight program features.

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