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NM Human Services Department Reaches All Time High Participation in *Insure New Mexico!* Programs

Outreach and Enrollment Grant Work to Focus on Children in Native American, Rural
and Frontier Areas

Santa Fe, New Mexico – The New Mexico Human Services Department has seen a 10 percent increase over the past year in participation in one of the several *Insure New Mexico!* publicly funded medical assistance programs with 541,639 New Mexicans now participating.

“More than 67 percent, or 323,939, of those covered are children, which is where we have focused most of our efforts over the past few years,” said Katie Falls, Human Services Department Secretary. “During these difficult economic times we are pleased to serve as the safety net for those families who have lost their jobs and their insurance coverage and give parents the relief of knowing their children will continue to get the health coverage they need and deserve.”

Additional federal funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has helped support the state’s costs for the Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which has allowed the state to keep covering eligible children without changes at this time.

Recently a federal grant from the U.S. Health and Human Services Department will allow the Human Services Department to continue that effort with a focus on areas of the state with access issues. The CHIP Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) Grant of \$957, 221 will allow the department to increase enrollment and retention of eligible children in Native American, rural and frontier areas of the state through on-line application kiosks.

“The kiosks will be located in schools, community centers and chapter houses, places that are more convenient to apply for services,” said Carolyn Ingram, Medical Assistance Division Director. “Nothing quite like this has been implemented in New Mexico before and we are looking forward to rolling this project out as soon as possible.” The CHIPRA Grant award is available through September 30, 2011. The department is working with several targeted areas for this project.

Sunday, March 14, 2010 begins the week long “Cover the Uninsured” initiative to bring attention to the number of uninsured people across the United States. The Human Services Department would like to remind New Mexicans about the number of available no-cost and low-cost health coverage solutions

now available in New Mexico that cover a range of children and adults in households with lower-income levels.

- **“New Mexikids” (Medicaid and CHIP)** - Covers children up to 235% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). For example a family of four with a monthly income below \$4,320 would qualify. Families above this income level may still qualify due 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 pays 25% 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 185% of the FPL for pregnancy-related and family planning medical services. For example a family of four with a monthly income below \$3,400 would qualify. Families above this income level may still qualify due to changes that disregard certain earned income up to 235% of the FPL.
- 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 \$500. However, if the client enrolls during the second 20 weeks of pregnancy, the premium is \$1,000.

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 to find out if they qualify for coverage under any of these programs.

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