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**For Immediate Release**

## **NM Human Services Department Makes Changes to Improve Access to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program**

Changes will bring in an additional \$8 million in SNAP benefits to New Mexico's Economy

**Santa Fe** – Beginning today the New Mexico Human Services Department (HSD) will begin using a broad-based categorical eligibility policy, which means improved access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for thousands of New Mexico families.

“This new policy means more New Mexico families will be eligible for the monthly nutrition benefit which allows them to purchase nutritious food for their families as well as benefit their local economies through the federally funded program,” said Katie Falls, Human Services Department Secretary. “New Mexico is pleased to join other states that have made similar changes.”

The USDA encouraged states to adopt SNAP broad-based categorical eligibility and approved New Mexico's plan earlier this year. New Mexico's new broad-based categorical eligibility policy does the following:

- Increases SNAP financial eligibility from 130 percent to 165 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (see guide below) for families receiving a referral to a non-cash Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)/Maintenance of Effort funded benefit (i.e. domestic violence, child care assistance, transportation, etc.) and
- Eliminates the resource test (maximum of \$2,000 to \$3,000 in resources) for those families as a means of qualifying for SNAP.

There are more than 146,000 New Mexico families participating in SNAP. During the current budget year more than \$336.9 million in SNAP benefits have been received in New Mexico. The new broad-based categorical eligibility policy is estimated to increase SNAP participation by 4,000 families and an additional \$8 million in benefits per year.

<i>Family Size</i>	<i>SNAP Maximum Monthly Income (broad-based categorical eligibility)</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>\$1,490</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>\$2,004</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>\$2,518</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>\$3,032</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>\$3,547</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>\$4,061</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>\$4,575</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>\$5,089</b>

For more information on the SNAP, or to find an ISD office please call 1-888-473-3676, or visit the department's website at <http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/isd/fs.html>.

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