



For Immediate Release
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Governor Bill Richardson Announces \$950,000 in Emergency Food Assistance for New Mexicans

Recovery Act Award will Assist 40,000 New Mexico Families Statewide

ALBUQUERQUE – Governor Bill Richardson today announced he is dedicating \$950,000 in Recovery Act funds to help purchase and deliver desperately needed emergency food for New Mexicans through the New Mexico Association of Food Banks.

“New Mexicans are turning more and more to food pantries to help supplement their families’ meals. This funding will help ensure there is fresh produce and other necessary staples at those pantries when New Mexicans need them,” Governor Richardson said.

The NM Human Services Department will contract with the New Mexico Association of Food Banks to purchase \$775,000 worth of fresh produce, including as much local produce as possible, and other staples, such as beans, peanut butter and canned products. The additional \$175,000 will pay for the delivery and transport of the food to the six agency food banks that then distribute to more than 650 charitable agencies in every New Mexico county.

“This funding will change the face of hunger for the next 12 months in New Mexico,” said Kathy Komoll, Executive Director of the NM Association of Food Banks. “This generous allocation by Governor Richardson will be a welcome relief for the food banks who rely on donations and assistance from the state to help serve so many New Mexicans in need.”

During the last budget year, the Human Services Department provided approximately 5 million pounds of food through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) that was used to supplement nearly 345,000 food boxes and meals provided to low-income New Mexicans through the food banks and soup kitchens across the state. This includes approximately 590,000 pounds of food provided through the \$690,000 Recovery Act TEFAP award that Governor Richardson announced in June 2009.

“The Human Services Department is pleased to be a partner with the NM Association of Food Banks, especially during these trying times for so many New Mexico families,” said Katie Falls, HSD Secretary. “We look forward to assisting in this latest opportunity thanks to the Governor’s

award for the purchase of additional emergency food and continue our efforts to get more food, to more people, more often.”

Today’s allocation comes from Governor Richardson’s discretionary stimulus funding.

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