



NEW MEXICO HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT
P.O. Box 2348
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2348

Susana Martinez
Governor

Sidonie Squier
Secretary-Designate

Contact Betina Gonzales McCracken (505) 827-6245

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New Mexico Human Services Department Receives \$250,000 ‘Work Support Strategies’ Planning Grant

Grant Will Help Create Inventive Ways to Streamline Support Services to Keep Families Working

Santa Fe – The New Mexico Human Services Department is one of nine states to receive a \$250,000 planning grant from The Urban Institute to help keep families working.

“This planning grant will help New Mexico create an innovative way of streamlining the important work support services that are instrumental in assisting low-income families remain in the work force and improve their self sufficiency,” said Sidonie Squier, Human Services Department Secretary- Designate.

States participating in the “Work Support Strategies: Streamlining Access, Strengthening Families” initiative will design and – if chosen next year for an implementation grant – experiment with new integrated approaches to delivering work supports to low-income families, including health coverage, nutrition benefits, and child care subsidies. Without such supports, low-income workers often drop out of the workforce to manage family, health and other crises, leaving them stuck in poverty and unable to climb up the economic ladder.

The primary goal of the New Mexico Work Support Strategies proposal is to increase access and retention of support services by expanding customer options for services and reducing administrative burdens.

Many of the support services for New Mexico’s low-income families are administered by the Human Services Department. They include the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program, General Assistance, Medicaid, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and other state cash assistance programs, which provide support to low-income families. HSD partners with the Children, Youth and Families Department, which administers the Child Care Development Block Grant.

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