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For Immediate Release

Medicaid Working Disabled Individual Program to Continue in New Mexico

\$1.5 Million Federal Grant Extends Program Through 2011

Santa Fe, New Mexico – The New Mexico Human Services Department (HSD) has received \$1.5 million grant under the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG) program from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services that allows the continuation of the Medicaid Working Disabled Individual (WDI) Program through 2011.

“The WDI program has been instrumental in helping New Mexicans with disabilities to stay in the workforce without jeopardizing health coverage benefits,” said Sidonie Squier, Human Services Department Secretary. “This grant allows the Human Services Department to continue our Focusing on Ability partnerships that provide support services and competitive employment opportunities for people with disabilities who want to continue working.”

The WDI program allows many people with disabilities to continue working while they receive Social Security benefits and health care through Medicaid. It also provides Medicaid healthcare to individuals approved for Social Security Disability Insurance but are waiting the mandatory two-year period for Medicare health care coverage to begin. This is known as the “Medigap.”

This will be the 11th and final year of the WDI grant that has received a total of \$9.8 million in federal funding since the inception of the program. The WDI program enrollment has steadily increased from 496 in 2001 to 1,703 in 2010.

People wanting to learn more about Medicaid’s WDI Program can visit the HSD website at <http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/mad/workingdisabled.html> or call 1-888-997-2583

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