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**For Immediate Release**

## **Potential Federal Government Shutdown Will Not Affect Human Services Department Programs**

**Food Nutrition, Cash Assistance, Health Coverage and other Federally Funded Programs Will  
Continue**

*Santa Fe, New Mexico* – The NM Human Services Department wants to assure the more than 800,000 New Mexicans who rely on federal social services administered through the Department that services will continue if a federal government shutdown occurs tonight at midnight.

“The Human Services Department is monitoring closely the potential government shutdown and we are confident that funding for the many federally funded programs administered through the Department are at an appropriate level to continue serving the thousands of New Mexico families who rely on these important programs,” said Sidonie Squier, Human Services Department Secretary.

The Federal Office of Management and Budget has issued guidance on programs that are considered “essential” and federal funding will continue to be available to the many US Citizens who rely on them even during the federal government shutdown.

The Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) are two programs deemed “essential” and will allow New Mexico to continue to draw down reimbursements from the federal government for services provided.

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program is a block grant and is authorized through the month of September. New Mexico receives funding quarterly, which means cash assistance benefits through the TANF program have already been received through the month of June.

The Child Support Enforcement Division also operates on a quarterly basis and has federal funding through June.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) receives federal funding monthly and has been notified by the federal government that funds will be available through the month of May.

Behavioral health services for adults through the Behavioral Health Services Division are funded through state general funds and several federal grants. The federal grants are drawn down from the federal government on a weekly basis and it appears that that will continue to occur during a federal shutdown.

Funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has been received for the LIHEAP season, which ends in August.

Food has already been ordered for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) for the remainder of the federal fiscal year.

The Human Services Department will continue work closely with our federal partners, the Governor's office and the Department of Finance and Administration if a government shutdown occurs.

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