



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

Susana Martinez
Governor

Sidonie Squier
Secretary

Media contact: Matt Kennicott (505) 827-6236 or (505) 819-1402
matt.kennicott@state.nm.us

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For Immediate Release

Child Support Enforcement Division Posts Record Collections

Collections Increase by 7% Over Previous Fiscal Year for a Total of \$123.5 million

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Human Services Department reported a record breaking amount of collections by the Child Support Enforcement Division (CSED) with over \$123.5 million collected during the 2011 fiscal year, which ended June 30, 2011. The collection total was a 7% increase over last year’s record collection and more than 12% higher than the goals established in the budget.

“Continuing upon past successes, the Child Support Enforcement Division posted record collections and increases over the previous fiscal year. Our field offices do some very important work,” said Secretary Sidonie Squier. “These record collections in the face of increasing caseloads show that New Mexico is getting serious about collecting child support payments. These child support collections will continue to flow to New Mexico’s families, helping to reduce childhood poverty across the state.”

“In New Mexico, 41% of children live in single parent families. Many of these children live in poverty. Nationally, child support payments represent approximately 30% of the income of families living below the poverty level. The children that we are privileged to serve are worthy of the best efforts of our Division and this dramatic increase in support collections speaks volumes to the dedication of our hard working child support professionals who strive every day to mitigate childhood poverty in our state.”

More than 58% of the collections came through wage withholdings, which is the best method for setting up reliable payments of child support. Other collections include direct payments from non-custodial parents, tax refund intercepts, and gaming winnings.

The Child Support Customer Service Center can be reached toll free at 1-800-288-7207 in New Mexico or 1-800-585-7631 from out of state.

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