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## **GOVERNOR SUSANA MARTINEZ ANNOUNCES SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD STAMP FUNDING TO BE ON SPECIAL SESSION AGENDA**

**SANTA FE** – Governor Susana Martinez announced today that she will call for legislation addressing a lack of funding for New Mexico’s supplemental food stamp program to be placed on the agenda for next month’s special legislative session. During the previous legislative session, Governor Martinez requested \$650,000 for the state’s supplement to the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), but ultimately the program was not funded, effectively ending New Mexico’s supplemental food stamp assistance to certain low-income, elderly and disabled residents by the end of June 2011. In response, Governor Martinez committed un-used federal stimulus funds to keep the program active through the end of September and is urging the legislature to restore funding for the program during September’s special legislative session.

“Protecting New Mexico’s most vulnerable is an important priority,” said Governor Martinez. “Since the beginning of this administration, our budget has been a reflection of New Mexico’s values, and that includes providing much-needed funding to low-income, elderly, and disabled New Mexicans. I am pleased that a bi-partisan group of legislators will introduce legislation to restore funding for the supplemental food stamp program and urge members from both parties to join the effort to protect the most vulnerable among us.”

Legislation appropriating \$450,000 to restore supplemental food stamp funding for Fiscal Year 2012 will be carried next month by Sen. Carlos Cisneros (D-Questa) and Sen. Lynda Lovejoy (D-Crownpoint).

“The supplemental food stamp program is an important resource for poor, elderly, and disabled New Mexicans who rely on these funds to make ends meet,” said Sen. Cisneros. “I look forward to working closely with Governor Martinez and legislators from both sides of the aisle to restore this funding so we can continue to protect the most vulnerable New Mexicans.”

“I am pleased that all sides are coming together to solve this problem on behalf of the people who need this money most,” said Sen. Lovejoy. “Providing necessary funding to our vulnerable citizens is a top priority that we must address.”

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