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NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Secretary Catherine Torres, M.D.

For immediate release:
September 27, 2011

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Department of Health Receives \$1.5 million in First Year of Community Transformation Grant from CDC

Funding will help Address Health Disparities

(Santa Fe) -- The New Mexico Department of Health (DOH) announced today that it will receive a \$1.5 million Community Transformation grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The funding is the first of what is expected to be a five year award, totaling \$7.5 million. The DOH will use the funding to help address chronic diseases (childhood obesity, adults with pre-diabetes, second-hand smoke, tobacco use, and people at risk of high blood pressure and cholesterol) through the implementation, evaluation, and dissemination of evidence-based community preventive health activities.

“This funding will help the Department of Health to strengthen prevention efforts in several New Mexico communities. By addressing these three lifestyle behaviors (nutrition, physical activity, and tobacco use) we will be working to reduce chronic disease rates, prevent the development of secondary conditions, address health disparities, and develop a stronger evidence base for effective prevention programs,” said DOH Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Catherine Torres. “We will focus our efforts in areas of the state where the health status and chronic disease burden levels are much worse, including the Tribes, Nations and Pueblos, and the Hispanic communities along the U.S. -Mexico border region.”

The DOH will target prevention strategies in 10 counties and 4 tribal communities in New Mexico with greatest health disparities and with strong American Indian, Hispanic, and U.S. - Mexico border population representation. The targeted counties were selected based on population size, poverty status, racial and ethnic, diversity, geographic diversity, chronic disease burden, and readiness to implement prevention programs. The targeted counties are: McKinley, Cibola, Rio Arriba, Guadalupe, Curry, Chaves, Lea, Socorro, Luna, and Dona Ana. The targeted tribal communities are: San Ildefonso, Santa Clara, Zuni, and Mescalero.

For more information on this funding, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/communitytransformation>

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