



Governor Bill Richardson Unveils Comprehensive Substance Abuse Initiatives

Programs will provide more than \$23 million in funding for substance abuse enforcement, treatment, and prevention

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SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson today announced several key health initiatives, including more than \$23 million in funding for substance abuse programs, with specific initiatives targeted for Rio Arriba and Northern Santa Fe counties. \$500,000 is from the New Mexico Health Department budget, while the state also received a \$22.8 million federal grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

“Those two areas have the highest rates of drug abuse and drug abuse deaths,” said Governor Richardson. “We have a strategy that is immediate, results oriented, and will truly help people. It is a comprehensive approach that will effectively combine treatment and enforcement, along with prevention and education.”

The programs and funding for Rio Arriba and northern Santa Fe counties include:

- \$40,000 to law enforcement for “wolf packs” - intensive and targeted law enforcement crackdowns,
- \$215,000 to the Drug Court in Espanola that serves all of Rio Arriba County. The drug court will connect treatment with court convictions and probation and parole, and integrate with the juvenile court system,
- \$155,000 for Intensive Treatment Programs for Children and Families. This is a combined program with HSD, DOH, CYFD, Corrections and Public Safety.
 - This program will focus on kids from zero to 7 years, but include the entire family in education and treatment.
 - So, a family will get all services necessary to break the substance abuse cycle - from hospital to protective service to schools to Medicaid to WIC, and

- \$75,000 for Rapid Harm Reduction - we are going to intensify the use of Narcan and Buprenorphine Drugs to get addicts off dangerous drugs as soon as possible.

“I have asked each agency responsible for implementing these programs to do three things for me: provide a progress report on the program, tell me if the program is making a difference in people’s lives, and results - are we getting results?” said Governor Richardson. “We will hold the organizations accountable for this funding- I want to see fewer deaths and more people coming off drugs, and becoming productive members of society.”

This team will Partner with local leaders, providers and the community in new ways so everyone is working together for the same purpose - to make a difference in people’s lives.

In addition, the Governor announced New Mexico has received a \$22.8 million federal grant to help fight substance abuse. The “Access to Recovery Grant” comes from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, which will connect efforts to reduce substance abuse with faith-based community services, including tribes and pueblos.

“As costs for providing health care continue to rise, it is important that we work closely with our federal partners to ensure that we can provide the kinds of services people need. In our fight against substance abuse there is not a silver bullet or a quick fix,” added Governor Richardson.

SAMHSA Administrator Charles G. Curie said: "Access to Recovery is based on the knowledge that there are many pathways to recovery from addiction. The promise of this initiative -- founded on a belief in individual choice -- is that it ensures the availability of a full range of treatment options, including the transforming power of faith. That was the President's intent in creating this program in the first place, and requesting \$600 million over three years in his 2003 State of the Union address."