

Governor Bill Richardson Commits \$250,000 for State HIV/AIDS Program

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SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson today directed the Department of Health to use \$250,000 on the state's HIV/AIDS program.

“We need to do this now as a stopgap measure to avoid cutting off access to this important program,” said Governor Richardson. “For the long-term, the Health Department will continue to explore all options to sustain services for these clients.”

The cost of drugs and health care for individuals with HIV/AIDS has increased rapidly while the federal grants that provide 63 percent of the funding for the state's HIV program has remained relatively flat for the last three years.

The money will come from the federal, fiscal-relief funds. Governor Richardson also directed Secretary of Health Patricia Montoya to aggressively seek other resources for this program both within the state and at the federal level.

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