



# State of New Mexico

## *Office of the Governor*

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Contact: Jon Goldstein  
(Santa Fe) 505-476-2248

### **Governor Richardson Leads Effort to Restore Funding for Vital Nutritional Program for Needy Families**

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson is leading an effort to restore federal funding to the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). The Bush Administration has proposed eliminating funding to this program that will provide 6.4 million nutritional food packages to half a million mothers, infants, children and low income seniors across the country in 2006.

"I am very concerned that eliminating this program will leave our most vulnerable citizens, especially our kids, without access to healthy, nutritional foods," said Governor Richardson. "We must keep this vital lifeline open. Young children need good nutrition to grow up strong and healthy."

Governor Richardson today sent a letter to the Chairs and Ranking Members of the U.S. Senate and House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittees to urge that this funding be restored. The letters were also signed by Governor Brian Schweitzer of Montana, Governor Jennifer Granholm of Michigan, Governor Tom Vilsack of Iowa, Governor Rod Blagojevich of Illinois and Governor Brad Henry of Oklahoma.

CSFP operates in 32 states and the District of Columbia. It is available to seniors who are at or below 130% of the federal poverty level, as well as to low income pregnant and post partum women and children under six with incomes at or below 185% of poverty. Approximately 18,000 New Mexicans benefit from this program that is run by the Food and Nutrition Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"I want to thank Governor Richardson for his leadership on this issue," said Vicki Metheny of Farmington, the Immediate Past President of the National CSFP. "His action gives hope to all the children, mothers and seniors who rely on this essential program."

The Governor's letter is attached.