



# State of New Mexico

## *Office of the Governor*

**Bill Richardson**  
*Governor*

For Immediate Release  
August 9, 2006

Contact: Jon Goldstein  
(505) 476-2248

## **Governor Richardson Announces Major, \$6.5 Million Investment in Fighting Meth Addiction**

(Santa Fe, NM) -- Governor Bill Richardson today announced a major, \$6.5 million, investment in curbing the problem of meth addiction in New Mexico. The plan comprehensively addresses the range of services needed to fight meth and treat meth addiction. The \$6.5 million plan calls for \$3.4 million in operation funds and \$3.1 million in capital investments.

“Meth is the number one illegal drug problem New Mexico faces,” said Governor Richardson. “Its destructive effects threaten our communities and our families as well as create a burden for our legal and health care systems. This is a comprehensive, targeted plan that is designed to build upon programs that are working.”

The Governor’s \$6.5 million plan includes:

- A \$3.1 million capital investment in more detox treatment facilities in the most heavily affected areas of the state – San Juan, Bernalillo, Grant, and Eddy counties. This effort will serve more than 3,600 people who need help to break their meth addiction.
- A \$3.4 million statewide investment in programs and services including:
  - Approximately \$2 million to launch six new intensive outpatient programs and establish one-year of after-care services to help people continue to curb their addictions and to fund more beds for residential treatment services.
  - \$1.25 million to create new prevention and treatment services for meth addicts, and establish crisis intervention teams in Bernalillo and Dona Ana Counties with specific methamphetamine training. This also includes starting meth, DWI, alcohol and other drug treatment and rehab programs in San Juan County.
  - And approximately \$150,000 for training local law enforcement as well as primary care and behavioral health providers throughout the state to develop critical incident teams. Priority will be given this year to areas where the crisis is most critical.

“This plan builds upon the actions we have already taken to fight meth, punish dealers and get help for addicted individuals,” said Governor Richardson. “Because of bills I signed into law after the last session, today we have limited access to one of the major building blocks used to ‘cook’ meth and dramatically increased penalties on meth dealers.”

Gov. Richardson signed House Bill 211 in March. This law helps limit access to one of the major building blocks to "cook" meth by making pseudoephedrine - a common ingredient in cold medicine - a controlled substance that can be legally distributed only by a licensed pharmacist.

Gov. Richardson also signed House Bill 179 in March, which increases penalties on meth dealers. This law increases the penalty for the sale of meth or possession of meth with the intent to sell. Meth will now carry the same penalties that are applied to heroin and cocaine dealers.

These new laws work in concert with the other anti-meth measures the Richardson Administration has taken to make life tougher for meth dealers. This includes amending the Drug Precursor Act, to give the state Board of Pharmacy the authority to regulate over the counter drugs and chemicals used to make meth and bills making it easier to charge an offender with child abuse if a child is negligently or intentionally placed in an environment where there are the chemicals and equipment used to produce meth.

“This treatment and prevention funding, stronger penalties and focused resources, will make a difference,” said Governor Richardson. “We can help those addicted to this dangerous drug while also strongly punishing meth pushers. Strong penalties and effective treatment will help make New Mexico safer.”