



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

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Governor Richardson Announces \$37 Million Package to Support UNM Health Sciences Center

(Santa Fe, NM) -- Governor Bill Richardson today announced his support for a nearly \$37 million funding package for the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center (UNMHSC). This package is a direct outgrowth of the UNMHSC Summit the Governor held in December to find ways to improve and increase access to health care.

“We heard from hundreds of people at the Health Sciences Center Summit and many had excellent ideas,” said Governor Richardson. “We are committed to maintaining the highest quality instruction at the School of Medicine while also supporting New Mexico’s premier public hospital. The Health Sciences Center plays a vital role in the healthcare of all New Mexicans and deserves this level of commitment.”

Governor Richardson’s budget recommendation includes:

- \$10 million non-recurring appropriation for their uncompensated care fund, which was the primary focus of the Governor’s Summit, held last December.
- \$ 4.7 million in recurring trauma funding for the state’s only Level I trauma center. This is UNMHSC’s portion of a larger trauma package the Governor is recommending.
- \$ 2 million to be paid by the state for support of the State Coverage Insurance (SCI) program. The SCI program draws additional federal funding to insure low-income adults.
- \$4.8 million estimated benefit to UNMHSC from the Governor’s \$23 million investment in specific Medicaid coverages. This includes a return to 12-month certification, allowing certain income disregards when calculating a person’s

eligibility for Medicaid, raising pre-natal care to 235% of the federal poverty level, increasing outreach to children, and expanding dental benefits for Medicaid recipients. In addition, the Governor is calling on the legislature to support a premium-assistance program for children ages five and younger in order to provide health insurance for children who cannot afford insurance but do not qualify for Medicaid.

- \$1.4 million to invest in training more physicians for rural and underserved areas through UNMHSC's BA/MD program.
- Finally, Governor Richardson supports replacing the Bernalillo County Mill Levy with a gross receipt tax within Bernalillo County to support UNMHSC. This will have an estimated benefit to UNMHSC of \$10 million. This shift would allow support for the Health Science Center to be absorbed by all gross receipts taxpayers in Bernalillo County rather than solely by property owners.

The Governor's budget also includes a four percent pay increase for faculty and staff. This will equal an increase of \$4 million in faculty/physician and staff salaries at the school and will help retain physicians in New Mexico, one of the Governor's top priorities.

"I want to thank Governor Richardson for his strong support and for helping us to maintain the world class expertise we have in our physician faculty," said Paul Roth, M.D., Executive Vice President of UNMHSC. "This is a tremendous investment in health care, especially for those most in need."