



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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First Lady Barbara Richardson Announces \$36,000 for Mora/Colfax County Head Start Program

Funding enables program to continue

SANTA FE- First Lady Barbara Richardson today announced that Governor Bill Richardson gave \$36,000 in federal fiscal relief monies to the Mora/Colfax County Head Start program. The program serves 169 children in two counties and four school districts. The money will be used to complete a new facility for the program.

The funding comes at a critical point for the Mora/Colfax County Head Start program as their lease on their old facility expired on June 30, 2006. The announced funding allowed the program to complete its new facility by July 1, 2006 and continue helping children and families in Mora and Colfax County without a break in services.

“I am pleased that we are able to find the necessary funding for a new facility to keep this program up and running,” First Lady Barbara Richardson said. “Programs like this are vital to the children and families of New Mexico and to ensuring that our students have the tools that they need to be successful in school.”

The purpose of this program is to provide low income families and their children the opportunity to succeed in their schooling by offering comprehensive services in health, socialization, education, physical and dental exams and nutrition with little cost to the families.

The program recently partnered with the Raton Commission and the Raton Housing Authority to provide a new facility for the Head Start program through a collaborative grant. This produced a state of the art facility. Due to the high cost of the building, the original design was scaled down but even with that, the program was unable to occupy the facility due to the inability to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Construction Industries Division (CID) and the State Fire Marshals Office regulations.

The announced funding coupled with \$16,000 in remaining money coming from the program's operating funds will allow the facility to meet the building standards of the ADA, CID and State Fire Marshals Office.

"We are so grateful for the Governor's dedication to our program and his interest in helping," said Joseph Griego, Head Start Director. "It has been a difficult process to secure this funding and the Governor's willingness to step up shows his commitment to the children and families of New Mexico."

The announced funding is provided by "Federal Fiscal Relief" funds appropriated by Congress in the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003.

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