



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

For Immediate Release
June 30, 2006

Contact: Jon Goldstein
505.476.2248

Governor Richardson Urges Groups to Apply for Disability Program Funding

\$200,000 in Grants Available July 1

(Santa Fe, NM) -- Improving the quality of life for New Mexicans with disabilities is the mission of the Governor's Commission on Disability, and there is now \$200,000 in new funds available for non-profit organizations to pursue that goal.

Governor Richardson and the 2005 Legislature appropriated these funds for the Quality of Life Small Grants Program. Beginning July 1, the Commission on Disability will be accepting applications from across the state from non-profit groups who have proposals to improve education, employment, accessibility, assistive technology and other quality of life issues for disabled residents.

"I am committed to improving opportunity for New Mexico's disability community," said Governor Richardson. "I urge all eligible organizations to take advantage of this program."

The maximum grant will be \$25,000. These small grants for disability related projects can be the launch pad for creative solutions.

"We want to get the word out, especially to rural areas where many projects for New Mexicans with disabilities are needed and where these funds can make a major difference in daily lives," said Dr. Mary Beresford, commission director.

There are over 300,000 New Mexicans who report having disabilities. This is a significant portion of New Mexico's population and one whose talents and energies, if fully utilized, can improve the quality of life for all residents.

Dr. Tony Cahill, chairperson of the Commission Board of Directors said “this is a great opportunity for grass-roots organizations to apply for funds to work in their community.”

Applications for the grant program are available from the commission which can be reached toll-free at 1-877-696-1470. Grant funds may be used to complement an existing program for disabled people. Applications must be submitted by August 4, 2006.

#30#