



For Immediate Release  
May 23, 2008

Contact: Allan Oliver  
505-476-2214

## **Governor Bill Richardson Steps In to Keep Sierra County Hospital Open Over Memorial Day Weekend**

SANTA FE –Today Governor Bill Richardson directed the Human Services Department to provide emergency financial assistance to the Sierra Vista Hospital in Truth or Consequences, in order to keep services running during the busiest weekend in Sierra County.

The Sierra Vista Hospital was experiencing a severe cash flow problem that risked jeopardizing service delivery. The Human Services Department was able to quickly assist them by cutting a check today for \$500,000 in Medicaid funds that will allow the Sierra Vista Hospital to keep its doors open over this busy holiday weekend. The department will also send in a team to work with the hospital staff to provide technical assistance with future billing management.

“We worked hard to get this done quickly and make sure that Sierra Vista’s Hospital doors stays open and fully operational during the big Memorial Day Weekend,” said Governor Richardson. “With thousands of tourists in the T or C and Elephant Butte area, it’s critical to have access to quality emergency and regular health care.”