



For Immediate Release  
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## **Governor Bill Richardson Names Poverty Reduction Task Force**

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson today announced members of his Poverty Reduction Task Force. The Task Force will develop specific recommendations for legislative, regulatory and infrastructure initiatives to reduce poverty and income inequality in New Mexico.

"Each of these individuals is on the front lines of this fight everyday, making significant differences in their own communities," Governor Richardson said. "By pooling together their unique talents and perspectives we will develop real, comprehensive solutions to this growing problem."

Taxation and Revenue Secretary Rick Homans and UNM Sociology Professor Susan Tiano will co-chair the Tax Force. The Governor has also asked the following to serve on the Task Force:

- \* Secretary Pam Hyde, Human Services Department
- \* Secretary Dorian Dodson, Children, Youth and Families Department
- \* Secretary Betty Sparrow Doris, Workforce Solutions Department
- \* Secretary Reed Dasenbrock, Higher Education Department
- \* Glenn Smith, Director of Workers' Compensation Administration
- \* Rev. Charles Becknell, Southern Christian Leadership
- \* Mary Garcia, Executive Director of Albuquerque Indian Center
- \* Melody Wattenberger, Executive Director of Roadrunner Food Bank
- \* Ruth Hoffman, Lutheran Advocacy Ministry
- \* Mike Loftin, Executive Director of Homewise
- \* Greg Ortiz, Vice Chairman of All Indian Pueblo Council
- \* Allen Sanchez, NM Conference of Catholic Bishops
- \* Sharon Welsh, Executive Director of Santa Fe Community Housing Trust
- \* Mark Allison, Supportive Housing Coalition
- \* Dr. Carol Spencer, President of San Juan College
- \* Richard Santos, UNM Professor of Economics
- \* Cynthia Berjarano, NMSU Professor of Criminal Justice
- \* Robin Brule, Executive Director of CNM Foundation

- \* Chris Chavez, Executive Director of New Mexico Federation of Labor
- \* Stacey Cox, CEO of Community Action of Southern NM

The Governor suggested a range of issues to be researched and considered by the Task Force, including:

- \* Strategic initiatives to address hunger, housing and child care needs
- \* Adequate compensation and a fair minimum wage
- \* Changes in the working family and child care tax credits
- \* More equity in the unemployment compensation system
- \* Easing access to higher education
- \* Making it easier for people to move to areas with better employment opportunities
- \* Assisting former prisoners in finding employment

The Task Force will submit a report on its recommendations to the Governor in September.

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