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United States Senate

Friday, May 15, 2009

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, and Related Agencies
Dirksen, Room 131
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, and Related Agencies
Dirksen, Room 156
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Sen. Cochran:

As the Subcommittee prepares to mark up the fiscal year 2010 appropriations bills, I respectfully request your attention to the following list for New Mexico and Federal level projects. The list is ordered alphabetically and does not denote my priorities for funding.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Resources and Services Administration

AVANCE, Inc. (HRSA) **$250,000**

The requested funding would sustain and expand the services afforded by AVANCE, Inc. to families with vulnerable children in New Mexico. The funding would allow for the establishment of a regional office to increase the numbers of families served from its current three cohorts to nine in FY10 and, in doing so, help build community and public support for its growing program expansion in New Mexico. The regional office will work with the Doña Ana County Health Department (a current partner). The Department of Children, Youth and Families; AmeriCorps VISTA; community resource centers and other partners to leverage funding sources to help maintain and expand the nationally-recognized research evidence-based parent-child education model. This expansion is expected to create up to 20 new jobs.

Bernalillo County, District 1 Public Health Office – Stanford Health Clinic (HRSA) **$850,000**

The District 1 Public Health Office, otherwise known as the Stanford Health Clinic, houses the largest public health office in Bernalillo County. The Clinic provides administrative offices for public health in a six-county area and provides critical safety net health care services to residents of Bernalillo County. The existing facility was constructed in the 1950s, is not ADA compliant, has become functionally obsolete, does not meets the growing needs of the community both in clinical and administrative office space, and needs significant renovation to be a viable health clinic. The facility has become a financial burden on the County as the existing building systems (i.e. HVAC, plumbing, electrical) are constantly in need of maintenance. In addition, parking is prohibitive to the delivery of services. Since the original request, a 60,000 square foot building has been acquired at 2400 Wellesley NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Stanford Clinic will occupy approximately 30,000 square feet of the building. Funds will be used to purchase

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medical equipment, furniture, and office equipment as part of the renovation project. Benefits of a new facility include: improved access to public health, ADA compliance, and an overall healthier and safer environment for staff and clients. There is increasing demand for public health services that the existing facility is unable to accommodate. This funding will create approximately 229 new jobs in the region.

Border Area Mental Health Services, Inc. (HRSA) **$750,000**

The requested funding would be utilized by Border Area Mental Health Services, Inc., to help finance the replacement of its existing outpatient clinic. The new facility would be approximately 15,000 square feet in size. The demand for mental health counseling/substance abuse outpatient therapy (intensive outpatient methamphetamine treatment) at our Deming clinic has increased tremendously over the past five years. forcing our therapists and caseworks to "double up" in existing office space. The clinic currently employs more than two dozen therapists, caseworkers and clerical staff. Additional staff would be hired once the new facility is completed and 24 existing jobs will be maintained.

City of Farmington (HRSA) **$275,000**

Requested funding would be used by the City of Farmington, NM for crisis response and recovery support for public inebriates. It would involve intervention, detoxification and diversion to residential and/or intense outpatient treatment program. The system of care will incorporate the concepts of Assertive Community Treatment (ACT), Community Reinforcement Approach (CRA), and Motivational Interviewing, as well as researched evidence based practices. A majority of the population we propose to serve is within the CDBG service area, and more than 85% are Native American; as such, all programs will hold cultural competence and sensitivity as a major priority. This project is collaborative as the City is working in partnership with local courts, law enforcement, San Juan County, Presbyterian Medical Services, Totah Behavioral Health, Four Winds Recovery Center and the community. It is estimated that the requested funding would create two to three new jobs and help retain one existing position.

Doña Ana County (HRSA) **$850,000**

The requested funding will be used by Doña Ana County for planning, design and construction of the Doña Ana Country Crisis Triage Center. Doña Ana County currently lacks the infrastructure needed to deal with individuals who are mentally ill and lack resources to access traditional care paradigms. The Crisis Triage Center, as it is planned, will be approximately 5800 square feet. It will have the capacity to house 12 individuals in crisis for up to 23 hours. The Center will offer 24-hour staffing for coordinating a mental health crisis system for the County. The requested funding will create approximately 25 new jobs.

Guadalupe County (HRSA) **$975,000**

Guadalupe County requests $975,000 in funding for furniture, fixtures and equipment for a replacement Guadalupe County Hospital and Medical Office Building in Santa Rosa, NM. The current facility is 57 years old and in danger of being closed due to its obsolete and dilapidated condition. The new facility will provide in-patient care, lab, X-ray, CT scans, and a 24-hour ER, as well as provide space for a pharmacy, primary care and public health. Services will be expanded to include endoscopy, and room will be provided for rural medical resident training in coordination with UNMHSC. A total of at least 64 persons will be employed within the facility.

The total cost is approximately $13 million. Guadalupe County Hospital has purchased the land, plans to invest $5-7 million from hospital savings in the project, and has pending application to the USDA Community Facilities Program for a Direct Loan for the balance. Approximately 64 new jobs will be created during the replacement of Guadalupe County Hospital.

La Familia Medical Center (HRSA) **$150,000**

Requested funding would be utilized in Santa Fe County by La Familia Medical Center to develop an intervention program focused on reducing obesity by increasing exercise and promoting healthy eating choices among families of diabetic patients. The funding will support development of materials in Spanish and English to include exercise guides, food portion guides and cook books with healthy recipes adapted from traditional food choices in the region. Exercise aids such as weights, elastic stretch bands and pedometers will be provided to participants. An educator and a promotora will be added to our dietician to comprise the core staff to provide teaching not only in the clinic but in the community. The program will be offered to the 1600 diabetics we manage and their families. Through collaboration with other community programs, the reach of the program will be extended beyond our practice. Efficacy of the program will be measured by monitoring body mass index (BMI), the standard for defining obesity, and change in diet as reflected in food diaries kept for the duration of the pilot project. The requested funding will create approximately two new jobs.

La Familia Medical Center (HRSA) **$150,000**

Requested funding would be utilized in Santa Fe County by La Familia Medical Center to develop an intervention program focused on diagnosis and management of depression in diabetic patients. La Familia Medical Center manages 1600 diabetic patients and their families. Depression is a common finding in patients with chronic diseases and often plays a significant role in no non-compliance with treatment plans. Patients will be screened for depression. Those with depression risk will be asked to complete PHQ-9 depression diagnostic and severity questionnaire. Based on the response the patients will be staged and assigned to one of three intervention tracks – Mild, Moderate or Severe. A Community Health Worker will provide follow-up and case management to all participants. Those patients in the Moderate and Severe Groups will also be seen by a licensed Behavioral Health Specialist and, where indicated, by a psychiatrist. Progress in diabetes management and depression will be measured quarterly using clinical parameters of diabetes care and the PHQ-9 depression test to assess progress. The requested funding will create approximately three new jobs.

Los Alamos National Laboratory Foundation (HRSA) **$550,000**

Requested funding will be used by the Los Alamos National Laboratory Foundation in Espanola, New Mexico to continue and expand the First Born® Program, a parental involvement/education and home visitation program, in northern and southern New Mexico over the next two years. This program will employ 30 people in the following counties: Rio Arriba, Los Alamos, Santa Fe and Grant. FBP will serve an estimated 1,500 parents and children annually. By continuing and expanding this program, the Los Alamos National Laboratory Foundation will produce an effective model for home visitation which can be replicated across New Mexico and around the country, and will be able to provide education, training and support necessary to ensure a child's positive health, social and emotional development, from pre-natal to three years, for New Mexico parents and children.

Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute (HRSA) **$900,000**

The requested funding will be used by Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute (LRRI) in Albuquerque, New Mexico for the following purpose: infrastructure expansion that will allow LRRI to conduct pre-clinical / clinical trials for development of FDA-approved pharmaceuticals. The requested funding would help LRRI to expand its pre-clinical / clinical support services by renovating a vacant, large facility in the Albuquerque metropolitan area. The proposed renovation would consist of building a 50-to-100 bed Phase I clinical trial unit, as well as expanding a preclinical testing facility on existing land used by LRRI adjacent to the Isleta Pueblo. LRRI provides research services to the $30 billion pharmaceutical drug and development industry, including: basic research, FDA-mandated animal model testing, and conducting different phases of clinical trials on humans. If the clinical trial facilities requested here are built, there will be clear national benefits by helping move pharmaceuticals through the safety and efficacy testing process. These services would be conducted in an Albuquerque area that is greatly economically disadvantaged - the area has been designated as a Metropolitan Redevelopment Area (MRA). The infusion of highly-educated white-collar professionals in this area, after the completion of the testing facility, will have a significant economic multiplier effect for the rest of the surrounding area. This project will create an estimated 1,200 direct and indirect jobs.

New Mexico Department of Health (HRSA) **$500,000**

The New Mexico Department of Health requests funding to expand the Healthy Kids, Healthy New Mexico Model into five additional communities (Roswell, Albuquerque, Taos, Grants and one Native American Community). Childhood obesity rates continue to soar, nearly quadrupling in the past 30 years. Increases in childhood obesity have resulted in dramatic increases in Type II diabetes and heart disease, a phenomenon that rarely existed a generation ago. In order to address this trend, New Mexico first piloted the Healthy Kids community model in Las Cruces in 2007. This model creates a process, in which a diverse group of local leaders and members come together, to build a collaborative 1 and 5 year action plan to reduce childhood obesity and diabetes. These action plans identify the steps needed to implement locally determined healthy eating and physical activity programs. This request would allow the Department of Health to expand this model and create five additional jobs.

New Mexico Department of Health (HRSA) **$800,000**

The requested funding will be used to re-establish a grant program for private physicians to assist them in paying the license costs for a federally certified electronic health record system and cover the cost of connecting physicians participating in the grant program to a statewide health information exchange. The grant would fund 50% of the first year license costs for a private physician to utilize federally certified electronic health record system. The grant would be capped at $15,000 per physician (the average grant in FY08 was $5,000) and would only be available for the first year license costs. Grantees would also be eligible for subsidized fees for usage of a statewide health information exchange. The New Mexico Department of Health ran a similar program in FY08 and resulted in assisting 122 physicians in 36 communities across the state. No additional jobs would be created; however, ten existing jobs would be maintained as a result of this appropriation.

PMS Presbyterian Medical Services (HRSA) **$976,000**

The requested funding will be used by Presbyterian Medical Services in Santa Fe, New Mexico to fully implement a nationally certified, HIPAA compliant, interoperable Electronic Health and Dental Record (EHR/EDR) system to reduce adverse clinical events, provide enhanced levels of chronic care management and maximize preventive care opportunities for patients and providers. This federal investment would provide for staffing, training, software, hardware and equipment – including digital x-ray equipment for PMS dental clinics. When fully implemented, the PMS EHR/EDR system will connect 37 PMS sites serving over 52,000 patients in 14 New Mexico counties and over 109 individual providers. The total requested amount is $976,000 and is estimated to create seven to eight IT and training jobs.

PMS Presbyterian Medical Services (HRSA) **$315,000**

The requested funding will be used by Presbyterian Medical Services in Santa Fe, New Mexico to replace fleet of vehicles used for healthcare transportation including, services for children, services for developmentally disabled individuals, and ambulances services.

Sandia National Laboratories (HRSA) **$2,000,000**

The requested funding will be used by Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, NM and the University of Texas to develop, maintain, support, and distribute a comprehensive national, predictive healthcare modeling system that will involve the nation's top experts in healthcare, economics, and computer modeling. Utilizing intelligent agent-based modeling approaches, the modeling system will be enable assessment of large-scale effects of healthcare policies on total cost of government and capture the health outcomes at the level of individuals. The Institute will develop a comprehensive national model that can be used by policy-makers and researchers to answer larger questions regarding the effects of national policy decisions on the healthcare system as a whole, deploy the model as open-source, maintain a data repository, and offer training and education to the national healthcare modeling community. The model and related programs will be developed and delivered over a five year period, with ongoing support thereafter. The requested funding will create approximately 62 new jobs.

St. Vincent Hospital (HRSA) **$550,000**

Requested funding will be used by St. Vincent Hospital in Santa Fe, NM to purchase equipment necessary to capture all clinical data in electronic format for the hospital's ambulatory care services. St. Vincent serves more than 250,000 people; is licensed for 268 beds; offers a quality team of 250 physicians representing 22 specialties; has 13,000 admissions and 60,000 emergency visits annually; and has a staff of 1,300 employees. St. Vincent plans to participate fully with the transition to electronic medical records (EMRs). By purchasing required EMR equipment for ambulatory care records, it will be able to start data integration for 12 clinics supporting over 100 physicians, mid-level providers and office staff. Total job creation connected to this appropriation request is 40 jobs.

Taos County (HRSA) **$882,000**

Requested funding would be utilized for explanation to gain much needed square footage , upgrades, and repairs to the existing Taos County Public Health building. The Taos public health department averages 1,400 appointments per month to clients who are unable to access healthcare otherwise. This health office would employ 14 full-time equivalents. Services

provided include Family planning services, immunizations, flu shots, HEP C , HIV, STD screening and treatment or referral for treatment, vital records, communicable disease management, TB screening and treatment, Breast and cervical cancer program, WIC program, CMS program, Healthy Lifeways program in partnership with Sangre de Cristo, Health promotion and education as well as being point of contact for the local community in access to care. Expansion, upgrades and repairs are necessary to the Taos Public Health building to ensure both a safe and structurally sound building as well as to house all current and future programs serving our rural and underserved community. The requested funding would help create four to five additional jobs.

University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center **$3,000,000**
Interdisciplinary Education Building (HRSA)

The requested funding would be used to construct different types of classroom/teaching spaces, including but not limited to: general classrooms, lecture halls, collaborative group teaching spaces, and case-method rooms. The 30 year old antiquated facilities at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center (UNM-HSC) in Albuquerque, NM serve a combined population of over 9,100 students, faculty, and staff. Since 1971, 26 academic programs have been added to the offerings of the UNM-HSC. With the growth of the UNM-HSC's programs and the rapid technological changes that have occurred in healthcare and education over the past three decades, the existing facilities are no longer able to support superior educational programs. The UNM-HSC houses the only School of Medicine in New Mexico, providing over one-third of the State's practicing physicians. The UNM-HSC also houses programs in nursing, pharmacy, and diagnostic and therapeutic sciences. All of these programs provide the graduates that are crucial to New Mexico's healthcare infrastructure, and given the shortages in nursing and pharmaceutical professionals, it is imperative that these continue at current or expanded enrollment levels. The UNM-HSC also provides continuing education opportunities for current practitioners in the state, enabling these individuals to maintain licensure in their areas of expertise. New facilities are required to maintain program accreditation in these areas. The requested funding would create approximately 130 new jobs.

University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center – **$700,000**
Southwest Diabetes and Heart Disease Prevention Research Center (HRSA)

The requested funding will be used by the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico to establish the Southwest Diabetes and Heart Disease Prevention Research Center. This request for $700,000 will fund a proposal to initiate a new prevention program aimed at reducing diabetes-related heart and blood vessel diseases in New Mexico by 25%. Nationally, approximately 80% of patients with diabetes will die of heart disease or stroke. These diseases are highly prevalent in New Mexico, particularly in underserved populations, where the death rate is significantly higher than the national average. There is a critical need to develop healthcare practices that identify pre-diabetes more readily, since at least one-fourth of adults in the US (54 million) are known to have pre-diabetes, but fewer than 5% are aware that they do. The center will develop a unique model that can be employed by other states and communities to reduce the burden of heart and vascular disease attributed to diabetes throughout the United States. This program will employ a total of 20 to 30 individuals in full and part-time positions to implement both the screening program and the research initiative of the Center.

University of New Mexico **$750,000**
Office of the Executive Vice President
UNM Health Sciences Center (HRSA)
Requested funding will support seven new positions for Health Evaluation and Research Office (HERO) agents (5 for county programs and 2 for Tribal Communities). HERO's are modeled on the highly successful County Extension Office model of the state land grant institutions and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The additional HERO agents will increase access for communities to health services, coordinate educational programming and research participation to address locally derived health priorities. The HERO sites will be further supported by local organizations providing space and in-kind support for operations of the HERO offices.

Valencia Health Commons (HRSA) **$500,000**
Requested funding of $500,000 would be used by the Valencia Health Commons to develop a hospital and health commons facility in Valencia County, New Mexico. There is currently no hospital or 24 hour health care facility in this county of over 70,000 people. Significant planning and development work has already been completed and this would allow for final planning and development. Total facility construction costs are estimated at $50 million and would be financed through bonds. It is anticipated the facility will create over 150 permanent jobs.

Village of Los Lunas (HRSA) **$2,000,000**
The requested funding will be used by the Village of Los Lunas in Los Lunas, New Mexico to construct and equip a new 21,802 sq.ft. Family Health Commons to provide comprehensive medical, dental and behavioral health care services for Valencia County. The building would be located on State land leased to the Village of Los Lunas. FCCH, a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) System that has provided care to the residents for the past 32 years will operate the facility utilizing it's nationally and internationally recognized "Commons" approach to delivery of comprehensive primary care services. Valencia County is considering the use of County Indigent Funds to cover the cost of care to the uninsured and underinsured. Land has been designated and the project is design ready with the completion of schematic drawings. It includes 18 exam rooms, 10 dental operatories and program and administrative space to house a staff of 50. It is estimated that 12,000 individuals will be provided a medical care home with 30,000 encounters generated each year. The requested funding would create approximately 27 new jobs.

YMCA McLeod Mountainside (HRSA) **$145,000**
The Super Family Fit Center at the YMCA McLeod Mountainside branch in Albuquerque, NM requests funding to provide families a safe family activity area providing shelter from the dangerous sun while allowing families access to enjoy YMCA family activities. The funding would provide a sunshade awning, updated sprinkler system, landscaping, picnic tables, lounge chairs, recycling bins, trash receptacles, age appropriate playground and a family fun center. The center would provide a Family Fit Project to allow families to exercise through technological fitness equipment called "XRKADE" that allows families to play together through video participation that burns calories and raises heart rates. A full XRKADE Family system can be placed in the Family Wellness Center where the YMCA provides scholarship funds and affordable resources for all families to participate without prejudice. The requested funding would create approximately twelve new jobs.

Centers for Disease and Prevention

Center of Excellence for Hazardous Materials Management (CDC) **$900,000**

The Center of Excellence for Hazardous Materials Management biomonitoring project has been established to sample the Chihuahuan Raven population, a universally recognized scavenger species that bioaccumulates pathogens and toxins. The birds are sampled for the H5N1 and West Nile viruses, as well as environmental toxins. The requested funding will be used for salaries, equipment, and materials to continue this biomonitoring research and will allow for testing of a broader spectrum of target pathogens (e.g., swine flu). The project has established baseline information in the area of southern New Mexico, west Texas, and the U.S.-Mexico border regions of New Mexico and Texas. Through monitoring of the "sentinel" species, an area of detection or "sentinel curtain" has been identified that, through continual monitoring, can detect the arrival and/or distribution of pathogenic organisms. In particular, the arrival of the H5N1 virus is a matter of homeland security and is of nationwide importance. Results of sampling thus far have detected hazardous materials that require further investigation. This biomonitoring project has required several years to establish baseline information and obtain statistical power. Continuation of this project will build upon these statistics and provide ongoing surveillance of the U.S.-Mexico border region for arrival of pathogenic organisms and even banned pesticides. The requested funding is to be used for programmatic expenses and equipment. Six to ten new jobs will be created as a result of this appropriation request.

University of New Mexico Southwest Diabetes and Heart Disease Prevention Research Center (CDC) **$1,100,000**

The University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, NM requests support of $1,100,000 to initiate a prevention program aimed at reducing diabetes related heart and blood vessel diseases in New Mexico by 25%. This center will be the first in the nation to focus on understanding and treating pre-diabetes and the debilitating blood vessel complications, and will serve as a model for demonstrating how coordination of clinical and basic science research can lead to significant improvement in health and decrease in healthcare costs. The blood vessel and heart diseases associated with diabetes are initiated during the time before diabetes occurs; a 10-year period of minimal blood sugar elevation known as "pre-diabetes." This program will use a three-pronged approach to reduce heart and blood vessel diseases related to diabetes. First, patients throughout the state with pre-diabetes will be identified using existing databases and established cost-effective screening efforts. Second, in order to develop early intervention strategies, specialized physicians from UNM will analyze these findings to establish therapeutic approaches to pre-diabetes and prevention of the associated blood vessel diseases. These physicians will also work with community providers to adopt these best practices throughout the State. Third, scientists at UNM will harness the power of its existing heart disease research program to specifically address the problem of when and how pre-diabetes causes blood vessel changes that become irreversible and lead to heart and blood vessel disease. The requested funding will create approximately eight additional jobs.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment and Training Administration

HELP-New Mexico's Border Institute of Excellence (ETA) **$950,000**

HELP-New Mexico's *Border Institute of Excellence* (BIE) will expand the effort to address the violence and distribution of drugs by implementing a first line of defense and drug demand reduction initiative along the US/ Mexico border and throughout New Mexico – that will train 300 Drug Demand Outreach Specialists in the most contemporary intervention and outreach prevention approaches. These Drug Demand Outreach Specialists once trained will administer these approaches to the tens of thousands of existing drug consumers and their families in the counties in New Mexico bordering Mexico to include of Luna, Hidalgo, and Dona Ana and in the other high impact counties of the state. The BIE will create over 100 jobs per year (300 over three years) in New Mexico among low income residents.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Fund for the Improvement of Education

Best Buddies New Mexico (FIE) **$750,000**

The requested funding would be used to support Best Buddies program chapters in 24 middle schools, high schools, and colleges across the state of New Mexico. Best Buddies is the only organization in New Mexico dedicated to providing friendship opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities. Our unique mission and innovative programs fill a void in the educational system for people with intellectual disabilities, as Best Buddies helps them develop the social skills that aid in their employment, independence and community integration. The Arc, a leading advocate for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, estimates that 3% of the population has an intellectual disability. When applied to New Mexico's population from the 2000 census, it would amount to 121,253 citizens in the state with intellectual disabilities who could benefit from our services. In 2007, there were 17,205 students with intellectual disabilities enrolled in New Mexico's public high schools (www.IDEAdata.org). These students are segregated from their non-disabled peers in separate classrooms, at lunch, in the hallways, and outside of school. Best Buddies New Mexico could help alleviate this isolation by promoting social integration at 24 middle school, high school, and college chapters. The requested funding will create approximately three new jobs.

Family YMCA (FIE) **$337,000**

A collaboration of the YMCA Española Teen Center (operated by The Family YMCA), Española Public Schools (EPS) and Rio Arriba Juvenile Justice Board seeks funding to target youth at risk in Española, New Mexico--a historically underperforming school district--in the areas of habitual truancy, out of school suspension, disruptive behaviors and acts of violence for the purpose of improving this target population's school performance. Recent information from Carlos Vigil Middle School, which serves the Espanola Valley area, indicates 17% of CVMS students engages in at-risk behavior in the areas of habitual truancy, out of school suspension, disruptive behaviors and acts of violence. Our goals are: 1) to address truancy, out of school suspensions and disruptive behavior through after school enrichment activities which will lead to regular school attendance, an essential element of improved school performance, 2) to assure high-level participation in strength-based, esteem building and personal skills development

through after-school enrichment activities; 3) to improve academic performance through remedial academic services. We will use the criteria cited by the National Center for Dropout Prevention to identify targeted students that will be given priority to access the program activities. Currently our community has no resources to offer our targeted students to access opportunities that offer positive daily interactions in healthy settings with supportive, caring adults. Sixteen new jobs will be created as a result of the requested funding.

Innovate-Educate New Mexico (FIE): **$250,000**

The requested funding would assist in the development of a New Mexico STEM workforce through enhanced STEM education via a statewide collaboration, coordination, and evaluation of existing initiatives web-enabled by an innovative one-stop e-depot. Innovate-Educate NM has partnered with the top 20 IT companies in the U.S. to establish a statewide STEM and education partnership. A critical need in our State is a database that can serve as a resource for educators, students, parents and industry throughout the state. Partners to help develop and collaborate will be IDEAL-NM, NMSU College of Education STEM Center, Santa Fe Community College, UNM STEM Center, Northern New Mexico College, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Sandia National Laboratories, the Northern New Mexico Network, and Project 2012, the SC Challenge and others. The proposed request will align and assist in coordinating state STEM activities with the goals mandated in the America Competes Act. The web-enabled one-stop e-depot will maximize benefits through increased dissemination, innovative usability, maximization of on-line career pathways, and inclusion of all rural areas. IDEAL-NM will maintain and update the site as part of its ongoing operations, with Innovate Educate New Mexico providing supplemental funding to IDEAL-NM through its operating budget. Seven new jobs are estimated.

Inquiry Facilitators Inc. (FIE) **$350,000**

Funds will be used to support the 9th annual RoboRAVE International robotics competition in Albuquerque, NM, facilitation of student involvement, and outreach efforts supporting the event. For the last eight years, the RoboRAVE International has been actively engaging New Mexico middle and high school students and teachers in STEM competitions using robotics. The dramatic increase in the number of returning students and teachers as well as new programs becoming involved, going from 11 teams from 4 schools in 2001 to 154 teams from 39 schools and programs in 2009, is a measure of the success of this program. The unprecedented collaboration of industry (e.g., LEGO, Intel, Sandia National Labs), New Mexico colleges and universities, and NM K-12 STEM programs (e.g. MESA, Supercomputing Challenge, Starbase La Luz Academy), has resulted in the opportunity, given funding, to reach two to three times the current number of students throughout the state of New Mexico. Support of this program will allow us to continue building on the current student profile which is approximately 35% female, 20% Native American, and 40% Hispanic. While the major metropolitan areas (Albuquerque and Las Cruces) are represented, they are only two of over 20 communities sending teams (most with populations of less than 10,000) from all four corners of our state. Four new jobs are estimated.

New Mexico Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement, Inc. (FIE) **$250,000**

The requested funding would be used to provide webinar workshops and specialized videoconferencing math, engineering, and science classes to students throughout the state. The

New Mexico Mathematics, Engineering, Science, Achievement, Inc. has 115 middle and high schools and 5,000 students throughout the state of New Mexico. NM MESA currently provides leadership workshops by bringing speakers to middle and high school campuses. It offers in-school MESA classes in limited schools. NM MESA can service more students by providing webinar workshops and specialized videoconferencing MESA classes at 21 schools and a minimum of 450 students a year throughout the state of New Mexico. These enhanced services will create four part-time jobs throughout the state of New Mexico depending on the local school capacity.

Save the Children Rural Literacy Program, New Mexico (FIE) **$500,000**

Requested funds would be used to support a rural literacy program in the Northern and Western regions of New Mexico. Save the Children operates a highly effective afterschool rural literacy program in 13 schools, providing supplemental educational services with a proven track record of improving children's reading skills. There are approximately 23,000 rural poor children under the age of 12 living in New Mexico, and a recent study showed that almost 60% of fourth graders in schools throughout the rural areas of the state scored below the basic level of reading achievement. These staggering numbers illustrate the substantial need for our services targeting at-risk children in rural New Mexico communities. Funds will be dedicated towards curriculum and assessment materials, computers and technological equipment, and ongoing training and technical assistance needs. Additionally, funding will be devoted towards equipment and supplies for a physical activity and healthy snack component of the afterschool program. Twenty-six new jobs will be created.

Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education

Eastern New Mexico University Technology (FIPSE): **$400,000**

Eastern New Mexico University requests funding to complete an upgrade of computers in student labs and to extend campus wireless connectivity across campus to serve 4,300 largely first-generation students in rural eastern New Mexico. Students, over 80% of whom receive financial aid (49% are Pell recipients) and come from high poverty rural counties, need access to state-of-the-art technology that makes them competitive in the 21st century job market. Without assistance, costs for these technology upgrades would require increases in tuition. The requested funding will result in the creation of five new jobs.

New Mexico State University – **$150,000**
International Youth Employment Unit (FIPSE)

New Mexico State University (NMSU) requests funding to support the creation of an *International Youth Employment Unit* with the initial focus on Latin America. The *International Youth Employment Unit* at NMSU will gather and analyze data concerning youth unemployment, but also measure the results achieved or otherwise by governments, NGO's and others who are striving to deal with this problem. Based on its findings, the Unit will develop training materials which it will share on-line and also offer its users an inter-active *dialogue.* Because of NMSU's close proximity to Mexico and its excellent relations with NGOs and government groups in that country, Mexico will be one of the countries the Unit will focus its attention on. The difficulties linked to youth unemployment in developing countries are growing steadily worse, especially for those under 25 years of age. The lack of economic prospects and jobs has put increased pressure

on governments to find ways and means of responding. The problem is compounded by the potential for disenfranchised youth in many of these countries to become willing recruits for terrorist and extremist groups or illegal immigrants seeking employment in the U.S. The data generated by the Unit will provide valuable information to various governmental agencies, NGO's and others which are seeking solutions to this problem. Five new jobs will be created with this funding.

University of New Mexico Taos Telecommunications Distance Education Center (FIPSE) **$1,500,000**

The University of New Mexico requests funds for technology and wiring at the UNM-Taos Branch Community College Telecommunications/Distance Education Center. The Telecommunications Center will promote Web-based learning; accommodate various teaching environments including distance and online formats; provide technological flexibility such as video-on-demand; and offer state-of-the-art training and equipment in support of UNM-Taos educational programs. To date, the campus has 40,000sf of classroom and office facilities built on campus over the past few years. There are 11 additional rented sites. Enrollment has increased by 18% from Fall 2007 to Fall 2008. These overcrowded facilities serve a combined population of more than 1,600 students, faculty, and staff. Since 2003, when UNM-Taos became a branch community college, academic programs have been added in education, nursing, natural resources, and sustainable building. With the growth of the campus and programs, and the advance of educational technology, the existing facilities cannot support vital educational programs for economic development. Thirty-six new jobs will be created with this requested appropriation.

FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Family-to-Family Health Information Centers **$10,000,000**

Funds will be used to continue support of Family-to-Family Health Information Centers (F2F-HICs). These organizations are statewide, parent-run information and referral centers that provide information on health care and insurance to families of children/youth with special health care needs, such as disabilities or chronic medical conditions. The Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) of 2005 authorized federal grants, administered by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, for the creation of F2F-HICs as part of the Family Opportunity Act. The DRA mandated that federal grants be provided for an F2F-HIC in every state and the District of Columbia by FY2009. The law provided direct funding for F2F HIC grants in FYs 2007-2009: $3 million in FY2007, $4 million in FY2008, and $5 million in FY2009. The DRA did not provide funding after FY 2009 and thus, all 51 centers will lose Federal funding as of June 2010. $10 million is requested for FY2010. An increase to $10 million is needed in FY2010 to assist more special-needs children, their families, and their health care providers; to expand training and technical assistance to grantees; and to make these valuable services available to additional regions.

National History Day, Inc. **$5,000,000**

Funds will be used to support the National History Day (NHD) program as authorized in P.L.108-474 for the purpose of continuing and expanding its activities to promote the study of

history and improve instruction. The core event is a national contest for students in grades six through twelve. The majority of federal funds would be distributed to NHD state programs to improve low performing schools, provide teacher professional development, and offer hands-on elementary and secondary student mentorship from college and university students. National History Day, Inc. is a nonprofit education organization that delivers yearlong programs dedicated to improving the teaching and learning of history.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has a pecuniary interest in congressionally directed spending items that I have requested, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

Let me conclude by saying how much I appreciate all of the hard work and attention you have always given to the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations process. If you have any questions about these programs, please feel free to contact me or have your staff contact Frederick Isasi (224-0164) on health issues and Peter Zamora (224-0163) on education issues.

Sincerely,

Jeff Bingaman
United States Senator