SANTA FE COUNTY
Resolution No. 2005 - 43

A Resolution Supporting the Reauthorization of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant (TANF) and Other Related Programs

WHEREAS, the success of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant ("TANF") depends on counties' flexibility to target local needs and support participants' work activities; and

WHEREAS, without that flexibility and the funding to implement it, the working families who are struggling toward self-sufficiency will lose supportive services and many will fall back on cash assistance; and

WHEREAS, welfare reform is an ongoing process of supporting working families in gaining self-sufficiency, not a one-time removal of families from the welfare rolls; and

WHEREAS, counties are spending a much greater portion of their funding on supportive services for working families than on cash assistance, and some TANF participants who find work continue to need assistance with support services such as childcare; and

WHEREAS, as the job market has tightened, unemployed participants need additional assistance finding jobs and cash assistance caseloads are increasing; and

WHEREAS, TANF funding must be able to react quickly to economic downturns and other emerging issues by having unallocated reserves that states can tap quickly; and

WHEREAS, many individuals on TANF have multiple barriers to employment, such as mental health issues, substance abuse, and a lack of education and training.

COUNTY CLERK
VALERIE ESPINOZA
SANTA FE COUNTY NEW MEXICO

BCC RESOLUTIONS
COUNTY OF SANTA FE) PAGES: 2
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for Record On The 13TH Day Of April, A D , 2005 at 08.37 And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1375241 Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Valerie Espinoza
Deputy _____ County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

SFC CLERK RECORDED 04/13/2005

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Santa Fe strongly supports reauthorizing TANF and related programs in such a manner as to maximize local flexibility and urges that the following substantive provisions be included in legislation reauthorizing TANF and related programs:

- Maintain the federal contribution to TANF at the current level of funding of $16.8 billion per year and add an annual inflation increase.
- Restore the Social Services Block Grant ("SSBG") to at least the level authorized in the 1996 law of $2.8 billion per year in fiscal year 2004 and each succeeding fiscal year.
- Increase funding for the Child Care and Development Fund ("CCDF") to meet the needs of eligible families, while maintaining the funding and flexibility in the TANF block grant.
- Preserve the flexible use of TANF funds by eliminating carve-outs and set-asides.
- Preserve the flexibility to transfer 10 percent of TANF to SSBG and 30 percent of TANF to CCDF.
- Preserve and increase state flexibility in administering the federal time limits and work requirements.
- Work participation rates and required hours of work for two-parent and single parent families should be the same.
- Allow states and counties to count all required elements of an individual's employability plan as work.
- Restore Medicaid and Food Stamps eligibility to all legal immigrants regardless of their date of entry and allow states to cover new legal immigrants under the Child Health Insurance program.
- Provide at least twelve months of transitional Medicaid, Food Stamps and childcare to families who leave TANF.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 12th day of April, 2005.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Michael D. Anaya, Chairman

ATTEST:

Valerie Espinoza, Santa Fe County Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Stephen C. Ross, Santa Fe County Attorney

COUNTY CLERK NEW MEXICO VALERIE ESPINOZA SANTA FE COUNTY

SFC CLERK RECORDED 04/13/2005