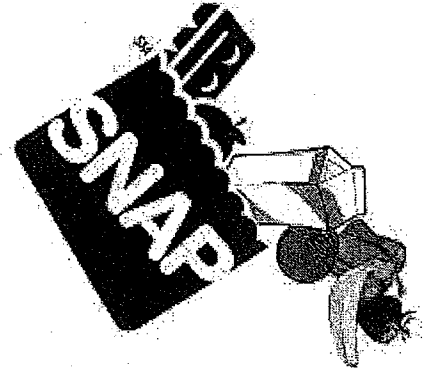


# 62,000 New Mexicans at Risk of Losing Food Assistance

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The Governor plans to expand work requirements to the following people who receive food assistance:

- Teenagers, age 16-17 who are not in school
- Parents of children over 6 years old
- Adults between the ages of 50-60.



## ***The Expansion is Beyond Federal Requirements***

- Federal Law only requires adults between the ages of 18-50 who do not have children or a disability to work.
- Most states have a voluntary program.

## ***This Expansion Will Cost New Mexico Over \$8 Million Dollars***

- HSD estimates that work requirements will cost \$150-\$250 per person and 62,000 participants will be added to the program.
- $\$150 \times 62,000 = \$9.3$  Million.
- New Mexico will only receive \$819,000 in federal funding for the program, leaving the state to cover the additional millions.

## ***HSD Does Not Have the Resources to Administer a Work Program that Meets Federal Requirements***

- A 2014 USDA Audit of New Mexico's current work program found numerous systemic problems:
  - Failing to provide clients with information about work requirements
  - Improperly terminating food assistance of participants who were in compliance
  - Illegal billing of federal funds by SL Start, the corporation that administers the requirements.
- Public records from HSD show that HSD terminated food assistance for 63% of participants who had to comply with the current requirements.<sup>1</sup>
- USDA data shows that HSD improperly terminates or denies food assistance in 49% of all cases.
- There is no data showing the program helped people find employment.

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<sup>1</sup> While we are confident of our analysis because it is based on data obtained from HSD and the USDA, HSD disputes this figure and is working with the Center to come to an agreement on this statistic.