



BENEFITS...CHANGE!

75% of the money that funds the **Benefits Information Centers**, as they now exist, **will run out on December 31, 2011.**

SO WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN?

- **Benefits Advisors** are informing people receiving benefits and partner agencies about the lack of funding.
- **Benefits Advisors** are assisting people in becoming even more independent in reporting, tracking, and doing basic work. Assistance may not be available to help at the present level.
- **People** being served by benefits advisors under this funding will have their cases closed in September.
- **Beginning** in October, the Albuquerque, Roswell, and Las Cruces offices will accept no more referrals. People in these locations will be referred to the Santa Fe office **505-954-8543 or 1800-318-1469.** Phone calls will be returned on the priorities below:
 1. Those working will be called within five working days.
 2. Those seriously looking for work will be called within a month.
 3. Those that just have questions will be called as time allows, or refer to a **Work Incentive Seminar Event** meeting.



CHANGES!

- There will be 1.2 benefits advisors instead of five.
- **Most** benefits advisement will be provided over the phone, computer, and fax machine.
- **Limited** one on one service will be offered.
- **Two Work Incentive Seminar Events** meetings per quarter will be scheduled.
- These changes may come sooner, depending on staffing issues.
- **Please note:** The New Mexico Division of Vocational Rehabilitation is exploring other possibilities to retain this important service to New Mexicans with disabilities.



WHAT YOU CAN DO!

- **Talk** to everyone, but mainly United States Congressman and Senators. Find phone numbers and e-mail addresses by clicking on this website, **<http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>**.
- **Tell** them you strongly support Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) and tell them your story about how Benefits Advisement helped you work or make more money, and manage your benefits.



Remember that the Benefits Advisors have been here to serve you, help you find work, learn to manage your paperwork, and help disabled individuals become more independent. We are proud to offer help, but mostly Benefits Advisors are proud of your efforts and courage!