

2. The overall goals of welfare reform are to move people from welfare to work, reduce the incidence of teen pregnancy and encourage healthy marriages and family formation. TANF allows funds to be spent for marriage and couple relationship education, responsible fatherhood programs, financial education, and parenting programs. What benefits do you see for allocating 1-2% of the TANF budget in New Mexico for services to strengthen families?

Actually lowers social and economic costs to individual families and eventually to the State by keeping families together.

3. Research has consistently shown that the social, educational, health and economic outcomes of children in healthy, two-parent families are better than those living in single-parent households. New Mexico has among the highest rates in the nation for teen pregnancies, school drop-outs, juvenile crimes and women and children living in poverty. New Mexico spends \$225 million every year dealing with the outcomes of families in crisis. If you are elected, what would you do to strengthen families?

Increase the part of the TANF budget that strengthens families to do more outreach so those at most risk become involved,

4. The percentage of children in poverty in New Mexico is 26% higher than the national average. There are many factors contributing to this phenomenon including the fact that 45% of infants in New Mexico are born to teen parents. If you are elected, how would you reduce the number of teen pregnancies in New Mexico?

Include in school curriculums the economic information about the disadvantages of teen pregnancy, and encourage study instead of sex.

5. Studies show that couple relationship education (e.g., conflict resolution, communication skills, understanding of gender differences, etc.) results in happier and healthier marriages. What programs and services are available to couples and families in your district?

Mostly Church programs.

6. How can the NM Coalition for Healthy Families help you strengthen families in New Mexico?

Outreach with programs in my District at Community Centers where those with lower incomes can go for advice.

7. Do you have any additional ideas or comments regarding New Mexico's families?

Dysfunctional families are much to costly to ignore.