

1. Your name and district number:

Tim Jennings. 32

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?

There needs to be more education on what it takes to raise a healthy baby from conception to 3yrs of age. It will clearly show what it takes. It takes two.

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?

I would require identification of both parents to get benefits

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?

There needs to be more self esteem and responsibility programs for teens

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?

The only programs are through churches.

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

Coordinate programs that shows the value of loving, holding, cuddling and conflict resolution

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

Don't give up!