

**1. Your name and district number:**

Pablo Martinez Dist. 58

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**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?**

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Provide an opportunity to reach more of the folks that need the service.

**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?**

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We must educate our young people as to the perils of teen pregnancy. I believe that we must also work with parents on this grave issue. Many of these teens come from broken families and or families that were in the same situation when they were young.

**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?**

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It Takes a village to educate a child, likewise we must work with the total family if we are going to be successful.

**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?**

Some of the local churches, the mental Health program and CYFD are programs that work specifically on these issues. they should be expanded to other agencies.

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

The Coalition presently provides information services to those folks that want it. I believe the Coalition could expand their services and offer training to more agencies and public programs.

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

As a lifelong educator our school encountered and worked on similar issues. We accepted students from the other two high schools because they did not want to deal with the issue. we offered counseling and support to the teens 95+% of these teens graduated and became productive members in our community, To my recollection during my 23 year tenure at my campus we did not experience more than 5 or six teen girls that started with our school get pregnant, Working with the youth and providing alternatives which are more constructive are very beneficial.