

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

Frank A. Otero, District 8

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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?**

Allocating 1-2% of the TANF budget would benefit young individuals in relationships because they would be better prepared to plan for the long term. They would be informed about the serious reality of entering into a relationship with another person and how responsible decisions should be made to live a prosperous life with real self satisfaction.

**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 advocate to support programs and those qualified to assist in the education of children, individuals, and families. By spending a little on prevention, family crisis spending could be reduced in time.

**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?**

By educating teens about abstinence and emphasizing the importance of obtaining higher education in order to establish a solid financial foundation.

**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?**

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Youth Development Incorporated offers various services to assist couples and families. Although, many programs have received reductions during the recent years due to tough economic times. Valencia County has a significant population in need of couple relationship education.

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

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NM Coalition for Healthy Families can help me strengthen families in New Mexico by offering professional assistance to make me aware of the problems and by suggesting possible interventions. NMCHF appears to be a source of useful information for decision makers.

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

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I believe in families. I have been married to my wife, Evelyn, for thirty-five years, and we have two daughters including five grandchildren. We also help out with my father and her mother. I served on the Los Lunas Schools Board of Education between 2007 and 2011, and I am proud of my service as board president during the school year 2008-2009. I live my life for my family, and I am concerned member of the community. I would like to take my knowledge and experience to Santa Fe to advocate for families.