

1. Your name and district number:

Senator Nancy Rodriguez District 24

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?

Among other benefits, Healthier family relationships, thus less domestic violence, less child abuse, responsible financial planning and budgeting, thus making home ownership more possible and overall better health outcomes.

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?

Continue to support counseling programs, support educational programs for teenagers, including improved school tutoring programs, workforce training programs, continue to support better Healthcare options and healthcare coverage and better health education.

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?

Through more support, Sex education with emphasis on teen pregnancy and the responsibility associated with it. Encouraging, through family counseling, the importance of healthy family relationships. Providing work incentive programs and training.

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?

Free of charge family counseling on all the areas above

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

Continue to be a team working together; continuing communication, collaboration and commitment to bring in new ideas. Continue to do your research and statistics and share your results with me.

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

I want to thank you for your incessant support of New Mexico's families. Your pursuit to strengthen families in New Mexico is making a great difference. I am in your team Thank you.