

1. Your name and district number:

William Soules, NM Senate, Dist 37

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?

Children raised in a family in crisis is going to have much more difficult times in school and relationships. Stronger families will result in benefits for years to come.

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?

Economic pressures are one of the biggest threats to families. We need to ensure that families have access to social safety nets, financial planning and resource allocation training so that they can manage budgets and meet the family needs.

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?

Appropriate family planning, timely birth control information, and information on sexuality. We need to provide

teens with accurate information and assist them in making good choices. We can't leave it to chance.

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?

Unsure.

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

Through timely, accurate, and appropriate information.

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

No Response