

10 Ways in 10 Days

10 ways budget cuts will hurt working New Mexicans



The Cut: Both the executive and legislative budget recommendations severely under-fund Medicaid—by \$25 million and \$38 million, respectively. But this will actually result in a much deeper cut. Since we will lose the federal matching funds for every state dollar we hold back, it really means the Medicaid budget will be short anywhere from \$85 million to \$130 million total.

The Consequences: Without full funding, the Human Services Department may be forced to:

- Eliminate necessary services for adults, such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, and vision care.
- Further reduce payment rates to health care providers throughout New Mexico.
- Cut thousands of people from State Coverage Insurance (SCI).
- Reduce services for long-term care programs.

Medicaid is more than just good health care for low-income New Mexicans, children, and people with disabilities, it's also good medicine for New Mexico's economy. The influx of federal dollars creates economic activity and supports jobs in the health care sector. SCI provides an affordable alternative for small businesses wanting to offer their employees health insurance in order to stay competitive with big employers. Medicaid also keeps everyone's health insurance costs down as it covers care that would otherwise be uncompensated.

Under-funding Medicaid is a bad prescription for New Mexico.

A Better Choice: Governor Martinez and the Legislature need to take a balanced approach to addressing our state's revenue crisis. They should:

- Get rid of tax giveaways that do not create jobs.
- Ensure that profitable corporations and the rich pay their fair share.
- Make big out-of-state corporations and banks play by the same rules as our home-grown businesses.
- Make our system of tax breaks more transparent and accountable.

It's only fair that we stand up for New Mexico families and small businesses.

Urge our politicians to make the *Better Choice for New Mexico*.

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