

20 Ways in 20 Days
 Way 16 Day



20 ways New Mexicans will be hurt by more budget cuts

Potential Cut: In 2009, the Legislature did not appropriate any money for the New Mexico Housing Trust Fund.¹ Unless the state raises more revenue, the Housing Trust Fund is likely to go unfunded next year as well.

Potential Consequences: Since it was formed in 2005, the Housing Trust Fund has been a powerful tool for creating affordable homes for low- and moderate-income New Mexicans. It has funded the creation of more than 1300 homes throughout the state.

The need for affordable housing is dire. New Mexico public schools saw a 40 percent increase in the number of homeless students between the 2006-07 and 2007-08 school years.² It costs \$32,000 a year to provide emergency shelter to a family of four. Many New Mexico families are struggling in the current recession to keep their housing. This is not the time to decrease funding for a cost-effective solution to homelessness.

A Better Choice: A balanced approach that includes raising revenues is the best strategy for weathering the recession.

Legislators have a clear choice: they can continue to not fund a program that keeps families off the streets or they can choose a balanced approach—one that doesn't lay all the sacrifice on working families and that offers a sensible, long-term solution.

We urge them to make the *Better Choice for New Mexico*.

First things First, New Mexico. Tell our Legislature: **Don't balance the budget on the backs of New Mexico's working families.** Instead, open the books on tax breaks for special interests, close the loopholes for out-of-state corporations, and rollback tax cuts for the wealthy.

Visit *Better Choices New Mexico* on <http://betterchoicesnewmexico.com> for more information about the group and specific revenue generators.

- AMERICA VOTES EDUCATION AND ACTION FUND
- AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES
- AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS NEW MEXICO
- CENTER FOR CIVIC POLICY
- COMMUNITY ACTION NM
- CONSERVATION VOTERS NM
- COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA
- DRUG POLICY ALLIANCE NM
- FAMILIES AND YOUTH, INC.
- HANDS ACROSS CULTURES
- HEALTH ACTION NEW MEXICO
- INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS
- LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NM
- LUTHERAN ADVOCACY MINISTRY
- NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION NEW MEXICO
- NM ADULT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
- NM CENTER ON LAW AND POVERTY
- NM CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
- NM COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS
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- NEW MEXICO SOLUTIONS
- NM VOICES FOR CHILDREN
- NM YOUTH PROVIDERS ALLIANCE
- RESULTS – SANTA FE
- ST. JOSEPH COMMUNITY HEALTH
- SANTA FE ALLIANCE
- SOUTHWEST ORGANIZING PROJECT

1 HB2, Final Version, 2009; <http://legis.state.nm.us/Sessions/09%20Regular/final/HB0002.pdf>
 2 State Homeless Education Coordinator, Family Services