
20 Ways in 20 Days Way 17 Day



20 ways New Mexicans will be hurt by more budget cuts

Potential Cut: The General Assistance (GA) program was underfunded during the 2009 legislative session. The governor put some federal stimulus money into the program to keep it solvent, but GA recipients still took a 10 percent decrease in their benefits. More cuts could mean even lower benefits along with a severe decline in enrollment.

Potential Consequences: The GA program provides a critical source of income for people who have a disability, cannot work, and have no other financial resources. It is a last resort safety-net for some of New Mexico's most vulnerable residents. Without GA, many people would become homeless because they would no longer be able to pay for their housing. Like many of the programs our lawmakers are considering cutting back on, GA is much more cost effective than the alternative—that is, repairing the damage that will be a direct result of the cuts.

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 make deeper, more damaging cuts in the funding that is the last resort for New Mexicans who cannot work due to a disability 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.

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