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20 Ways in 20 Days  
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20 ways New Mexicans will be hurt by more budget cuts

**Potential Cut:** An across-the-board budget cut could affect the Child Support Enforcement Division (CSED) of the Human Services Department, to the detriment of New Mexico children.

**Potential Consequences:** The CSED serves almost 17,000 parents who need assistance collecting their court-ordered child support. The program collected \$111 million in child support payments from non-custodial parents last year.<sup>1</sup> That money goes right back into the local economy as parents spend it to feed, clothe and house their children. Deep budget cuts may impair this program's ability to provide this important service, meaning more children will go without the basic necessities they need in order to grow up healthy and successful.

**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 helps parents provide for their children 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*.

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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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<sup>1</sup> NM Human Services Department press release, Sept. 25, 2009; <http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/pdf/newsroom/nr/25-Most-Wanted-9-25-09.pdf>

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