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# 20 Ways in 20 Days

## Way 6 Day

20 ways New Mexicans will be hurt by more budget cuts

**Potential Cut:** The state's College Affordability Fund stands to lose as much as \$20 million.

**Potential Consequences:** The College Affordability Fund was established to "encourage New Mexico students with financial need to attend and complete education programs at public post-secondary educational institutions in New Mexico."<sup>1</sup> The Commission on Higher Education recommended the creation of the fund, noting how little the state spends on need-based financial aid.

Awards are capped at \$1,000 each semester, so a \$20 million cut could mean that as many as 20,000 low-income students may be unable to get this financial assistance for completing their degrees.

**A Better Choice:** While some cuts are inevitable, we urge lawmakers to take a more balanced and fair approach by raising revenue as well.

Legislators have a clear choice: they can either cut funding for college tuition assistance or they can take a more 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 expenditures, close the loopholes for out-of-state corporations, and rollback the tax breaks for the wealthy.

Follow *Better Choices New Mexico* on facebook.com for more information about the group and specific revenue generators.



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NM VOICES FOR CHILDREN

RESULTS – SANTA FE

SANTA FE ALLIANCE

SOUTHWEST ORGANIZING PROJECT

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<sup>1</sup> Fiscal Impact Report for SB 669, 2005 regular session, <http://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/05%20regular/firs/SB0669.pdf>