

20 Ways in 20 Days
Way 8 Day



20 ways New Mexicans will be hurt by more budget cuts

Potential Cut: New Mexico launched its pre-kindergarten program in 2005 and enrollment has steadily grown. Still, pre-k only serves a small percentage of 3- and 4-year-olds in New Mexico.¹ Deeper cuts will mean that even fewer children will benefit from this important program.

Potential Consequences: Most of a child’s brain development—80 percent—takes place before that child enters first grade. This development provides the foundation for later learning, yet the vast majority of our state investment in education doesn’t start until after that critical window has closed. As a result, children do not perform as well in school as they could, and test scores and graduation rates suffer.

Numerous long-term studies have shown that pre-K programs pay off handsomely in the long run by reducing crime rates and improving earnings.²

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 prepares our kids for success in school 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 facebook.com for more information about the group and specific revenue generators.

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

1 www.fightcrime.org/reports/PreKstate06/nmprekbrief.pdf

2 *Enriching Children, Enriching the Nation*, Robert G. Lynch, the Economic Policy Institute, Washington, DC, 2007