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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/10/09

SPONSOR Barreras LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 497

SHORT TITLE Valencia County At-Risk Youth Program SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Haug

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$10.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates SB 176

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)  
 Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)  
 Public Education Department (PED)  
 Juvenile Parole Board (JPB)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 497 appropriates \$10.0 from the general fund to the Department of Finance and Administration, Local Government Division, for a program in Valencia county to provide holistic alternative healthy lifestyle workshops for parents, grandparents and guardians of youth who are victims of substance abuse or addiction or domestic violence or who are engaged in unhealthy and risky behaviors.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$10.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of Fiscal Year 2010 shall revert to the general fund.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

CYFD noted that approximately 3.6 percent of New Mexico’s total population lives in Valencia County. In 2007, 327 adults, children and offenders in Valencia County received domestic violence services. As of December 31, 2008, there were 89 youth who were on probation through the juvenile justice system in Valencia County. CYFD stated based upon the data, it appears approximately 400 people could be served by the program.

CYFD noted the proposed legislation does not provide a definition or description of holistic alternative healthy lifestyle workshops.

DOH reported that data from the 2007 “Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey” indicates that 51.1 percent of 9th to 12th graders drank in the past 30 days in Valencia County. However, other measures of risky behaviors (binge drinking, marijuana and other drug use) have shown improvements for Valencia County since the last survey which was conducted in 2005.

DOH reported the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration states that only evidence-based programs should be considered for effective results when working with youth and /or their parents in addressing substance use issues. Appropriate parenting programs for guardians of at-risk youth are intensive and require multiple sessions to have the desired effective of positively influencing their child’s behaviors. Most evidence-based programs are registered through the National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Policies. DOH noted it is unclear if the envisioned workshops in the proposed legislation will be evidence-based programs.

DOH’s Office of Substance Abuse Prevention and Behavioral Health Initiatives funds substance abuse prevention programs statewide. Part of the Office of Substance Abuse Prevention and Behavioral Health Initiatives’ role is to work with community-based organizations on implementing evidence-based programs and could be, if requested, of assistance to Valencia County.

The PED notes that the program proposed for Valencia County may increase the awareness of unhealthy behaviors and positively impact resiliency factors, thereby increasing access to educational opportunities for children and youth and potentially positively impacting academic performance.

**DUPLICATION**

House Bill 497 duplicates Senate Bill 176.

**OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

DOH reported the 2007 “Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey” data indicated that Valencia County’s population for grades 9th to 12th was 57 percent Hispanic. Information disseminated may need to be offered in both English and Spanish.

GH/mt