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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/17/09

SPONSOR Griego, E. LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Bernalillo Homeless Youth Transitional Living SB 489

ANALYST Aubel/Haug

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$125.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates SB489;
Relates to HB102, HB497, HB513, SB176, and SB192

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)
Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)
Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)
Corrections Department (CD)
Juvenile Probation Board (JPB)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 489 appropriates \$125.0 from the general fund to the Department of Finance and Administration, Local Government Division, to provide a transitional living program in Bernalillo County that offers temporary shelter, board, living skills education, behavioral health services and social services to homeless and runaway youth between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$125.0 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.

According to the February 2008 revenue estimate, FY10 recurring revenue will only support a base expenditure level that is \$575 million less than the FY09 appropriations before the 2009 solvency reductions. All appropriations outside of the general appropriation act will be viewed in this declining revenue context.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HB 314 provides funding for a transitional living program in Bernalillo County that offers temporary shelter, board, living skills education, behavioral health services and social services to homeless and runaway youth age sixteen to twenty-one years old. Homeless youth are individuals under the age of eighteen who lack parental, foster, or institutional care. These young people are sometimes referred to as "unaccompanied" youth. Causes of homelessness among youth fall into three inter-related categories: family problems, economic problems, and residential instability.

According to DFA, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in the US Department of Justice estimated the number of homeless and runaway youth in 2002 at 1,682,900. This number is equally divided among males and females, and the majority of them are between the ages of 15 and 17. The average number of youth in Albuquerque falling into this category is unknown but a "point-in-time" estimate reported by CYFD is 22.

HB 314 would appear to provide transitional services for youth outside the CYFD system. However, CYFD notes that the bill does not indicate additional eligibility criteria or restrictions relative to youth status or CYFD involvement. CYFD currently works with two existing transitional living programs in Bernalillo County for CYFD-involved youth (Youth Development Inc.'s Casa Hermosa and Hogares). The agency suggests that this bill would increase transitional living program capacity in Bernalillo County for CYFD-involved youth, increase transition opportunities for youth, and potentially decreasing youth homelessness.

CD points out that such intervention most likely reduces the need for the young people to commit crimes to survive. The cost for a person entering either a CYFD facility or the corrections system is substantial. According to CYFD, the client cost per day in a juvenile facility is \$296.27, or about \$108 thousand annually. Judges commit youth for one or two years to CYFD; youthful offenders, those sentenced for a serious crime, are sentenced to stay in a CYFD facility until age 21. Costs reported for adult offenders in New Mexico private prisons are \$27,761 for males and \$31,600 for females.

The PED notes that expanding funding for homelessness programs statewide, including TLS, may assist youth in acquiring life skills to meet academic standards and potentially close the achievement gap.

The purpose of a transitional living program, as stated on the Hogares website, is "to help a youth possess the skills to secure a living space of their own and manage their lives successfully."

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

CD points out that a smaller prison population and smaller probation/parole caseloads would give current staff more time and resources to provide services to current prisoners and probationers/parolees.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

DFA would need to execute a contract with an organization that does not violate the anti-donation clause.

DUPLICATION, RELATIONSHIP

HB 314 duplicates Senate Bill 489.

HB 314 relates to other bills making appropriations for similar programs to help at-risk youth or at-risk caretakers around the state:

- House Bill 102: \$50 thousand – Rio Grande Corridor;
- House Bill 497: \$10 thousand – Valencia County;
- House Bill 513: \$30 thousand – Taos;
- Senate Bill 176: \$10 thousand – Valencia County; and
- Senate Bill 192: \$230 thousand – Tohatchi Chapter of the Navajo Nation.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The capacity and population of juvenile facilities in the Albuquerque area as of November 21, 2008 are noted below.

	Facility	Capacity	Clients	Beds Available
Juvenile Reintegration Facility	Albuquerque Girls Center	15	6	9
Secure Facility	Albuquerque Boys Center	15	12	3
Secure Facility	YDDC	146	108	38

CYFD notes that clients suitable for a transitional program fit into two broad categories: those who have aged through the foster care system and appear ready for independent living and those who are being discharged from the juvenile justice system and do not have an appropriate home environment to return to for a successful reintegration into the community.

GH/svb