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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/16/09

SPONSOR Ulibarri LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Grants Women's Shelter & Community Center SB 520

ANALYST Peery-Galon

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$90.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)
 Department of Health (DOH)
 Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)
 New Mexico Corrections Department (NMCD)
 Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 520 appropriates \$90.0 from the general fund to the Children, Youth and Families Department to fund operational expenses at a women's shelter and community services center in the city of Grants.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$90.0 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 December 2008 revenue estimate, FY10 recurring revenue will only support a base expenditure level that is \$293 million, or 2.6 percent, less than the FY09 appropriation. All appropriations outside of the general appropriation act will be viewed in this declining revenue context.

CYFD noted the appropriation in the proposed legislation is not part of the department's budget

request or the Executive recommendation for fiscal year 2010.

NMCD noted if the money helps prevent women from having to commit crimes in order to survive while homeless or living on the streets and also provides job training/placement and other community services to these women, these individuals are less likely to be sentenced to prison or placed on probation or parole for committing crimes. This could potentially reduce the NMCD's prison population and probation/parole caseloads to a minimal degree.

NMCD reported the cost per client to house a female inmate at a privately operated facility is \$31,600 per year. The cost per client in Probation and Parole for a standard supervision program is \$1,205 per year. The cost per client in Intensive Supervision programs is \$3,848 per year. The cost per client in Community Corrections is \$3,830 per year. The cost per client per year for male and female residential Community Corrections programs is \$25,161.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DOH reported the Grants Women's Shelter reported sheltering a total of 104 individuals from July 1 through December 31, 2008, for a total of 1,286 shelter nights. About 50 percent of those sheltered were adult women and 40 percent were children. In addition to shelter and meal services, the shelter provides child care and support services, offender services, transportation assistance with court appearances and temporary restraining orders. According to shelter staff, one purpose of the funding in the proposed legislation is to cover heating costs.

DOH noted domestic violence is a widespread problem in the state. An estimated 32 percent of women reported having experienced such violence and 64 percent reported it having occurred in the context of a current relationship (NM Interpersonal Violence Data, Central Repository; reported in NM Women's Health Profile 2009, www.newmexicowellwoman.com). Shelters provide a safe haven for victims until they can make more permanent safe living arrangements.

NMCD noted a shelter and related community services for these at-risk women has the potential to reduce the number of new criminal convictions, and thus perhaps reduce the department's prison population and probation/parole caseloads to at least a minimal degree.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

CYFD has performance measures related to the percent of adult victims receiving domestic violence services.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

CYFD noted the proposed legislation requires administrative services related to the developing and monitoring of contract services. CYFD is currently providing contract administration to similar programs.

NMCD reported 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.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

DOH reported an estimated 85 percent of clients served by the Grants Women’s Shelter are Native American. Reported rates of domestic violence are higher among Native Americans; and twice as high among new mothers in NM (NM Interpersonal Violence Data, Central Repository; and NM Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System).

NMCD stated in conjunction with the Governor’s Prison Reform Task Force, the department supports any programs and services that enable individuals to avoid committing crimes in the first place. These programs and services may help reduce the department’s prison population and probation/parole caseloads, and help make New Mexico communities safer.

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