

House Bill 545 Appropriations to the Aging and Long-Term Services Department (thousands)

	Services	Original Amount	Amended Amount
1	Aging network services such as congregate meals and home-delivered meals	\$ 1,295.8	\$ 1,904.2
2	Volunteer programs	\$ 106.4	\$ 155.9
3	Alzheimer's programming	\$ 35.0	\$ 51.5
4	Competitive athletic and fitness programming for seniors	\$ 37.4	\$ 54.5
5	Legal services for seniors	\$ 10.0	\$ 15.1
	Total	\$ 1,484.0	\$ 2,181.2

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriations of \$1.5 million contained in this bill are a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY20 shall revert to the general fund.

ALTSD said they would distribute this funding through the area agencies on aging and other contractors that offer senior services, volunteer programs, evidence-based Alzheimer’s programs, competitive athletic and fitness programs and legal services for seniors. This would require staff time and management of contracts and reconciliation of this appropriation to monitor to ensure compliance with the intent of the Bill and appropriation.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

In FY19, the legislature appropriated \$36.9 million to the Aging and Long-Term Services Department for the Aging Network Program. Through contracts with local government and non-profit entities, the Area Agencies on Aging distributed funding for the services mentioned in the bill including congregate and home-delivered meals.

ALTSD provided the following:

The increased funding for evidence-based Alzheimer’s programming in northern NM could enable more dementia caregivers to participate in education and training shown to reduce the burden of caregiving responsibility. The Alzheimer’s Association, NM Chapter, through a contract with ALTSD, currently provides an evidence-based dementia caregiver education program available state-wide.

The increased funding can eliminate waitlists, provide for case management for the Area Agencies on Aging, and allow for additional services.