

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current and previously issued FIRs are available on the NM Legislative Website ([www.nmlegis.gov](http://www.nmlegis.gov)) and may also be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 3/12/19

SPONSOR Lopez LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Resources for Certain Grandparents SM 126

ANALYST Klundt

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY19	FY20	FY21	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>		NFI	NFI			

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Memorial

Senate Memorial 126 (SM126) requests the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) to reconvene the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren taskforce to study and recommend concrete policy changes that could be implemented in order to expand the availability of resources and assistance to grandparents raising grandchildren, including financial resources and, particularly, the provision of maintenance payments for the care and support of children placed in the care of a kinship caregiver; provisions of the federal Family First Prevention Services Act to assist grandparents raising grandchildren; legal services; food and housing assistance; and programs relating to medical care, child care, transportation and education. The Human Services Department, CYFD and the Aging and Long-Term Services Department are also requested to coordinate and provide staff support to the task force.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No additional fiscal impact is identified at this time. CYFD reported the agency produced the 2014 report which led to the establishment of this task force. CYFD has sat on this task force since its inception.

## SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Previously, the taskforce identified the following:

“1) Resources and assistance is provided through numerous different systems and (system) agency staff is not trained to serve them.

Recommendations: appropriate funds in the amount of \$200,000 to encourage community-based statewide organizations develop supportive services; ensure that Income Support Division (ISD) case workers are trained on the eligibility of GRG and the grandchildren themselves for public benefits; that each ISD office have an identified expert on the eligibility of GRG, and the grandchildren themselves for public benefits.

2) GRG face income and other barriers to accessing subsidized childcare.

Recommendation: Amend the NM Administrative Code to make grandparents and other kinship caregivers eligible for child care subsidy regardless of income or their status as legal guardians.

3) There is often no opportunity to plan in advance for the addition of children to the household; grandparents need immediate help to navigate the multiple systems.

Recommendations: Make Medicaid case management services available to GRG; ensure that when grandparents take grandchildren into their homes they are not threatened with eviction from public housing authorities.

4) When GRG attempt to enroll their grandchildren in school they are sometimes turned away, even though Federal Law guarantees these children the right to enroll immediately.

Recommendations: Insert the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Act into state law; appropriate state funds to supplement funds received through federal McKinney-Vento Act to ensure comprehensive training annually of school personnel with specific focus on rights of children being raised by grandparents and unaccompanied youth; appropriate state funds to create a fully staffed office at the Public Education Department to promote and support access to education for children and youth who qualify as homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act.

5) GRG identify legal services as a top priority, but current resources are not adequate to meet the need.

Recommendation: Ensure GRG have access to legal services by increasing the current appropriation to the Department of Aging and Long Term Services by an additional \$100 thousand.

6) The long-term success of grandparent headed households depends on access to quality behavioral health services, but the State's behavioral health system is in disarray, especially in rural areas.

Recommendation: The Taskforce realizes that to address the problems and inadequacies of NM's behavioral health system is beyond their scope of work; still they express deep concern and lend support to other efforts currently underway such as the John Paul Taylor Taskforce.”

KK/al