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LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS
54th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2020

Bill Number	<u>SB133</u>	Sponsor	<u>Stefanics</u>
Tracking Number	<u>.216085.1</u>	Committee Referrals	<u>SCORC/SFC</u>
Short Title	<u>Mobility for All Grant Program</u>		
Analyst	<u>Waite</u>	Original Date	<u>1/30/2020</u>
		Last Updated	<u>2/7/2020</u>

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 133 (SB133) makes an appropriation to the University of New Mexico (UNM) board of regents for the UNM Center for Development and Disability (CDD). The appropriation is for the CDD to convene a statewide work group to develop a strategic plan to seek and to apply for a “Mobility for All” pilot program grant from the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT).

FISCAL IMPACT

SB133 appropriates \$40 thousand from the general fund to the UNM board of regents for expenditure in FY21. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY21 shall revert to the general fund.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

UNM did not request funding for this project through the Higher Education Department and Legislative Finance Department formal vetting process, the research and public service project process. The House Appropriations and Finance Committee Substitute for House Bills 2 and 3 (HB2/HAFCS) does not include an appropriation to the UNM CDD for this project.

The “Mobility for All” grant is a new program through USDOT’s federal transit administration (FTA), which seeks to improve mobility options for older adults, people with disabilities, and individuals of low income. Limited access to transportation can affect the health and economic vitality of a community and disproportionately affect these populations. The FTA expects to distribute a total of \$3.5-million in grant money to fund projects that enable transportation connections to jobs, education and health services. It is unclear how much each project can expect to receive, however FTA reserves the right to cap the amount a single recipient or state may receive as part of the selection process. The maximum federal share of project costs is 80 percent. The applicant is required to fund 20 percent of the total project cost, while documenting the source of the local match in the grant application.

Analysis from UNM Health Sciences Center states that SB133 is aligned with its mission and cites a 2015 CDD report as evidence that this effort would benefit New Mexicans with disabilities. In *Barriers to Access to Health Care for People with Disabilities in New Mexico: Towards Improved Public Health Practice*, the authors found a significant disparity between people with disabilities and people without disabilities in terms of transportation and access to health care. The UNM CDD, established in 1990, is New Mexico's center for excellence in developmental disabilities education, research and service, and is an eligible applicant for this grant. These centers are authorized by the federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 to build the capacities of states and communities to respond to the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The work group shall include individuals representing advocacy groups, stakeholders, and state agencies, including the Department of Transportation, the Department of Health, the Human Services Department, the Aging and Long-Term Services Department, the Public Education Department, the Workforce Solutions Department, the Veterans' Affairs Department, the Vocational Rehabilitation Division of the Public Education Department and the Developmental Disabilities Planning Council. CDD will be required to dedicate professional and administrative staff to organize the task force, facilitate the development of the strategic plan and prepare an application for funding.

There is no direction as to if, by when, and to whom the work group will present its strategic plan.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The application deadline for "Mobility for All" pilot funding was January 6, 2020. The FTA has not announced future funding opportunities.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LESC Files
- University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center

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