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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Trujillo, C/Roybal ORIGINAL DATE 1/27/2020
Caballero LAST UPDATED _____ HB 98

SHORT TITLE Supplemental Income for Disabled Homeless SB _____

ANALYST Esquibel

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY20	FY21		
	\$750.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY20	FY21	FY22	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		\$79.6	\$79.6	\$159.2	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Human Services Department (HSD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 98 (HB98) would appropriate \$750 thousand from the general fund to the Human Services Department (HSD) to support a statewide initiative for supplemental security income (SSI) and social security disability insurance (SSDI) outreach to people experiencing homelessness who have a disability and providing them access to disability benefits.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HB98 includes an FY21 appropriation to HSD for \$750 thousand from the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY21 would revert to the general fund.

In its FY21 budget request, HSD requested an additional supportive housing position to assist with management of BHSD's statewide supportive housing programs. Administration of the provisions of HB98 would expand BHSD's supportive housing responsibilities and require funding the additional position at a projected cost of \$79,599. Funding for this position is included in both the LFC and Executive FY21 HSD budget recommendations.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HSD reports SSI-SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) is a national initiative designed to increase access to the disability income benefit programs administered by the Social Security Administration for eligible adults and children who are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness and have a serious mental illness, medical impairment, or a co-occurring substance use disorder. Nationally, approximately 28 percent of individuals who apply for SSI-SSDI are approved on initial application. For people who are homeless, that percentage is less. When applications are denied, appeals can take an average of one year to complete. According to SAMHSA, states and localities implementing the SOAR model in 2019 reported an average approval rate of 63 percent within approximately 108 days on initial SSI-SSDI application (<https://soarworks.prainc.com/article/soar-outcomes-and-impact>).

New Mexico's SOAR program is concentrated in Bernalillo, Santa Fe, and Dona Ana counties and had an 82 percent application approval rate in 2017-2018, putting it in the top ten states for SOAR success (*SOARWORKS New Mexico*). In addition to helping individuals access income supports to enable them to move out of homelessness, SOAR also encourages employment to increase individuals' income and promote recovery.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The Human Services Department's Behavioral Health Services Division (BHSD) indicates in implementing the provisions of the bill, BHSD would contract with direct service agencies to hire SSI-SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) staff to provide outreach to disabled homeless individuals to assist them in applying for SSI and SSDI. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) SOAR Technical Assistance Center works with states and local communities to develop sustainability plans for SOAR programs.

HSD reports to implement HB98, BHSD would contract with direct service agencies in communities across the state to hire SOAR staff who would work full time doing SOAR applications to get homeless people with disabilities appropriate SSI-SSDI benefits. BHSD would utilize technical assistance from SAMHSA and the NM Coalition to End Homelessness, NM's designated state lead on SOAR, to provide technical assistance as agencies hire and train SOAR staff and as the outreach program expands into new communities.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

HB98 relates to House Bill 2, the General Appropriation Act, which includes \$4 million in both the LFC and Executive recommendations to housing initiatives. HB98 also relates to HB19, SB25, and SB45 which all include appropriations to address homelessness.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The Human Services Department's Behavioral Health Services Division (BHSD) chairs the Housing Leadership Group which is an ad hoc subcommittee of the Behavioral Health Collaborative, comprised of state agencies, service providers, housing providers, housing developers, managed care organizations, nonprofit organizations serving the homeless, and consumers. The Housing Leadership Group addresses homelessness by promoting supportive housing for people with behavioral health and other disabilities. BHSD would work with the members of the Housing Leadership Group to help determine the most beneficial expansion of SOAR in New Mexico communities.

RAE/sb