

Presented to the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee
and the Legislative Federal Funding Stabilization and Affordability Subcommittee

August 18, 2026

Government Results and Opportunity Update

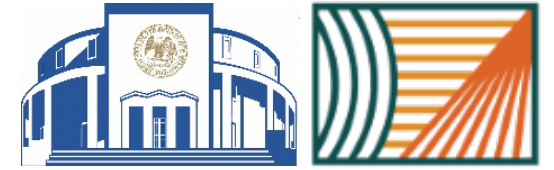
Dr. Sarah Dinces

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Simon Miller

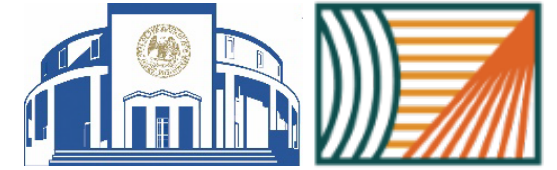
Performance Analyst
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Agenda



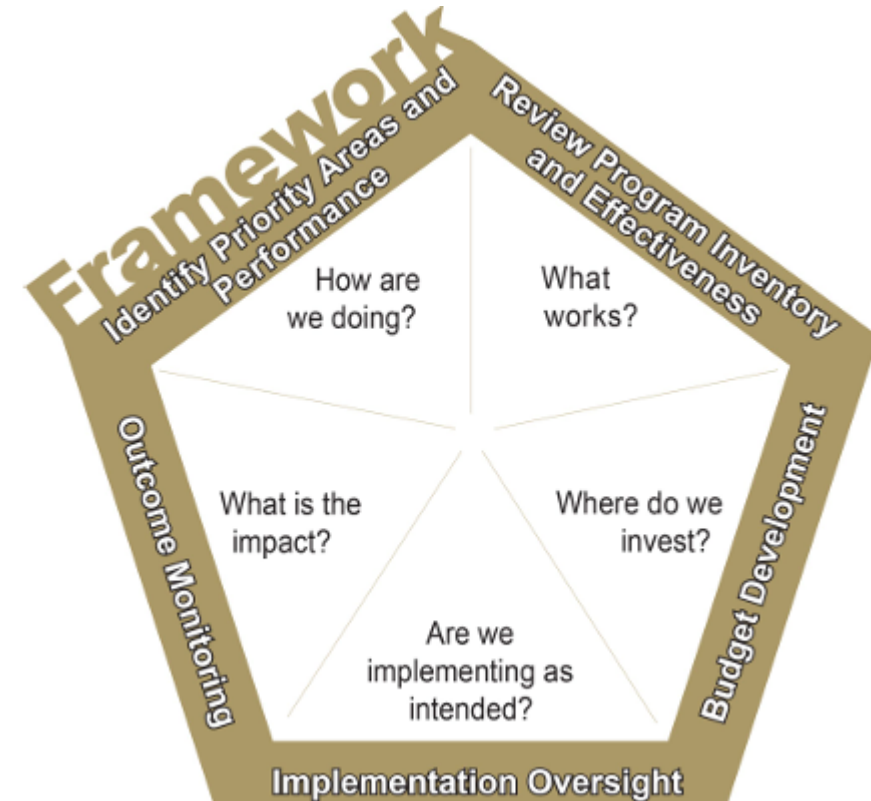
- **History**
- **2026 Bill Summary**
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- **How to Assess Agency GRO Plans**
 - How to Determine Research Quality
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 - List of GRO Appropriations 2024-2026
 - 2025 Appropriations GRO Evaluation Plan Ratings
 - Instructions to Agencies with 2026 GRO appropriations

The Benefits of GRO

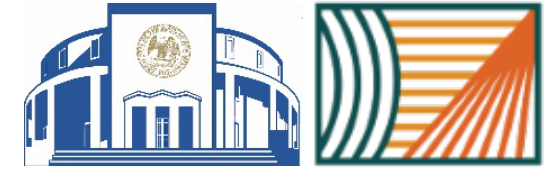


- GRO is intended to provide a mechanism to fund new initiatives/pilots
 - Pilots are programs for which the state is unsure of the impact
 - If a pilot works, the state may want to expand the program
- GRO allows the state to determine if a program is working **prior** to putting funding in the base.

For example, the legislature provided \$15 million to study special education teacher stipends. This allows the state to first determine whether the program is successful in recruiting and retaining special education teachers before adding this funding to PED's base budget.



GRO Background



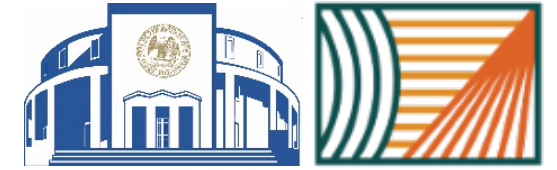
- In 2024, the Legislature created the Government Results and Opportunity Program and Expendable Trust Funds
- In 2025, the Legislature amended the Public Education Reform fund to require evaluation plans for appropriations for this fund for K-12
- From 2024 through 2026, the state has appropriated **\$634.5 million** from the GRO and PERF funds to 22 agencies

	FY25	FY26	FY27
GRO	\$216 M	\$237 M	\$64.5 M
PERF	-	\$61.8 M	\$55.2 M
Total	\$216 M	\$298.8 M	\$119.7 M

Note: Funding includes only money from the GRO or PERF funds and does not include GRO-D

- In 2025, the governor vetoed a bill to add evaluation and accountability plans to the Government Results and Opportunity Program fund appropriations, but signed HB158 this year
- This presentation focuses on the 3-year GRO appropriations and does not discuss the GRO-D / member-directed appropriations made in 2024 and 2026.

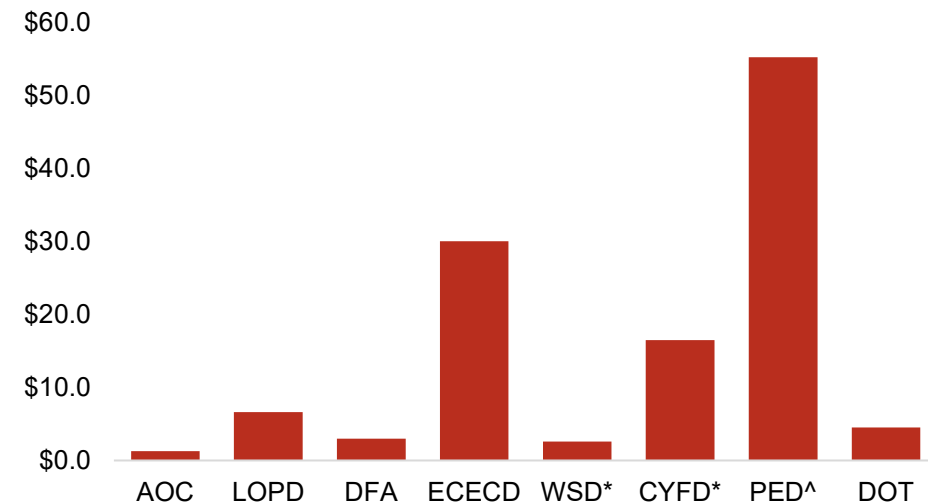
Bill (HB158) Summary



Laws 2026 Chapter 29 (HB158) modifies the government results and opportunity program fund to strengthen accountability by requiring evaluation.

- HB158 requires that initiatives funded through the GRO be evaluated for impacts on outcomes, with an emphasis on causal evaluation when possible.
- For FY27 through FY29, agencies funded for GRO pilot projects include:
 - AOC (FY27), LOPD, DFA, ECECD, WSD, CYFD, and DOT

**GRO Appropriations from the 2026
GAA, by Agency**
(in millions)

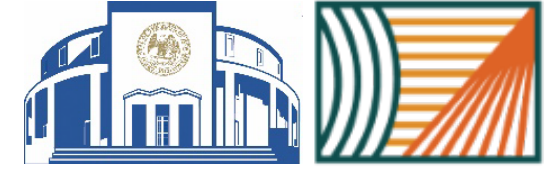


Note: ^PED appropriations are from PERF;

*WSD and CYFD had 2 separate GRO appropriations

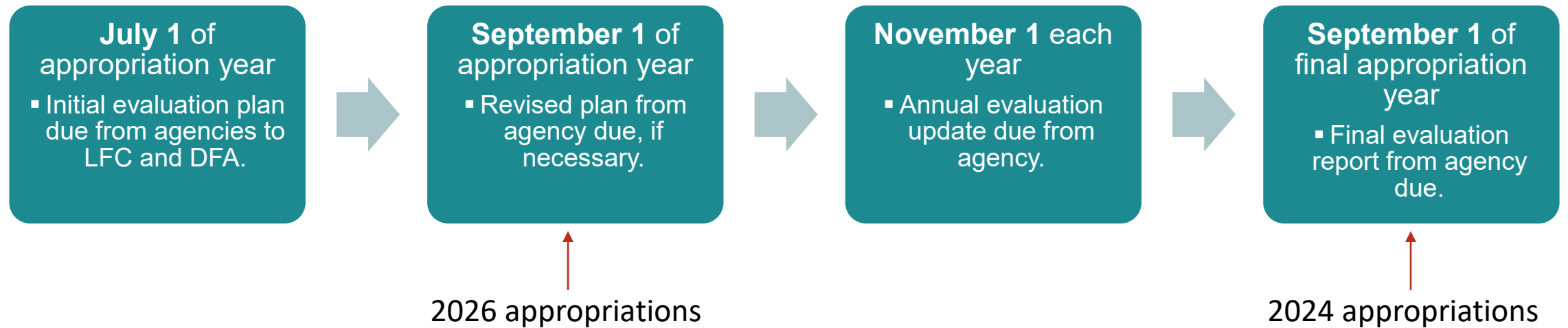
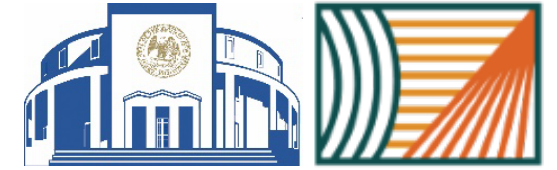
Source: HB2

2026 (FY27) GRO Appropriations

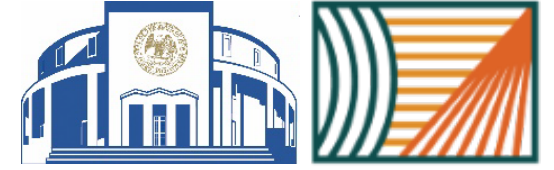


Agency	Amount	Budget Language	Notes
AOC	\$1.26 M	For the expansion of assisted outpatient treatment programs, a competency diversion pilot and other behavioral health programs, for expenditure in fiscal years 2027 and 2028	Appropriated for 2 years.
LOPD	\$6.6 M (\$2.2M/year)	To pilot hourly rates for contract attorneys	
DFA	\$3 M (\$1 M/year)	For distributions to state agencies pursuant to a rate schedule adopted pursuant to Section 15-3B-18 NMSA 1978.	
ECECD	\$30 M (\$10M/year)	To continue implementation of the wage and career ladder framework.	
WSD	\$600K	To implement and evaluate youth pre-apprenticeship programs.	Appropriated for 1 year
WSD	\$2 M (\$666.6/year)	For the office of housing operations	
CYFD	\$4.5 M (\$1.5M/year)	For startup and operational costs of evidence-based programs delivered in a community-based setting, including youth mentoring services, for high-risk youth within the juvenile justice facilities program.	
CYFD	\$12M (\$4M/year)	For a dedicated SafeCare unit within the protective services program to provide in-home services to families reported to the agency for suspected abuse or neglect.	50% federal funding
DOT	\$4.5 M (\$1.5M/year)	To perform road safety audits and site assessments on state and local roads.	
Total	\$64.5 M		

Timeline of GRO



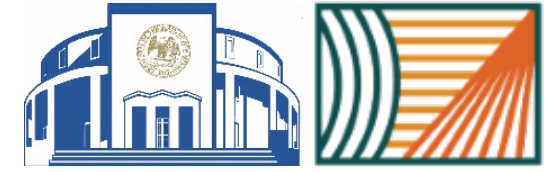
Implementation Considerations



- By **May 1** each year, DFA and LFC will issue instructions to agencies on accountability and evaluation plans for GRO-funded programs.
- The evaluation plans will include the goals and expected outcomes of the program, the specific actors and activities associated with the program, and a description of how the program will be evaluated and how the evaluation will be reported.
- By **September 1*** of the final year of the appropriation, agencies will submit a final report, then DFA and LFC will consider the evaluation results and **provide a recommendation** regarding recurring funding for the program.
- DFA and LFC plan to **review the status** of each evaluation **annually** throughout the course of GRO-funded programs and have included interim reporting each November.

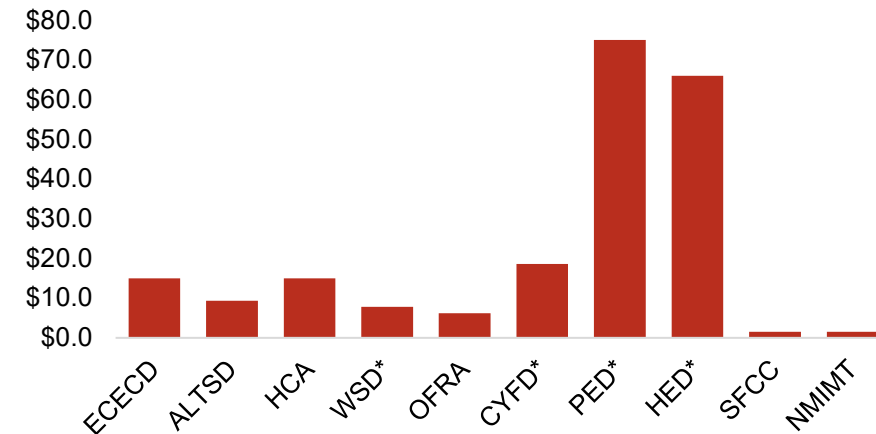
*statute states July 15, but allowing agencies more time to align with budget requests and PERF

Implications for Agencies



- Agencies will be required to develop initial evaluation plans by **July 1** of the first year of GRO-funded programs, then consider feedback from DFA and LFC to develop a final evaluation plan by **September 1** of the same year.
- In the final year of the appropriation, agencies are required to submit a final evaluation report by **September 1st**
 - DFA and LFC have worked together to develop a plan for pilot projects funded in the first years of GRO.
 - 2024 (FY25) appropriations are expected to provide a **final report by Sept. 1st** this year.
 - The agencies expected to submit a final report this fall are: ECECD, ALTSD, HCA, WSD, OFRA, CYFD, PED, HED, SFCC, NMIMT.

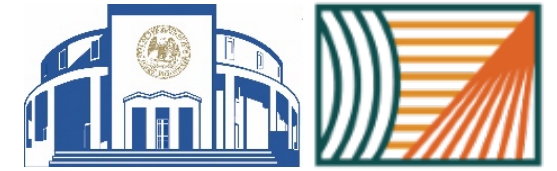
**GRO Appropriations from the 2024
GAA, by Agency**
(in millions)



Note: WSD, CYFD, PED and HED had multiple GRO appropriations

Source: HB2

How Will Appropriations be Assessed by DFA and LFC Staff?



GRO appropriations will be reviewed at least annually

1. During the first 2 fiscal years of an appropriation, ratings will be based upon:

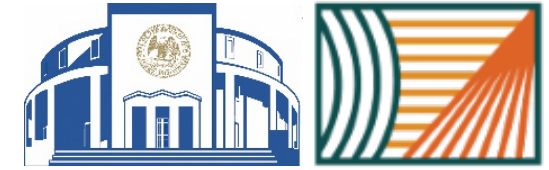
- a) Logic model
- b) Performance measures
- c) Existence of an independent evaluation plan
- d) How the results will be communicated

2. The final evaluation report will be rated based upon:

- a) What were the project's goals?
- b) What was the study quality?
- c) How was the data collected?
- d) What were the results?

The reports and ratings will be used to give the legislature and executive information about whether to continue funding.

How to Determine Research Quality?



Research quality also depends on:

1. Soundness of the logic model
2. Quality of the study
3. Independence of the study
4. Adequacy of statistical tests
5. Adequacy of the reporting

Evidence Pyramid.



Level 1: Systematic Reviews & Meta-analysis of RCTs; Evidence-based Clinical Practice Guidelines

Level 2: One or more RCTs

Level 3: Controlled Trials (no randomization)

Level 4: Case-control or Cohort study

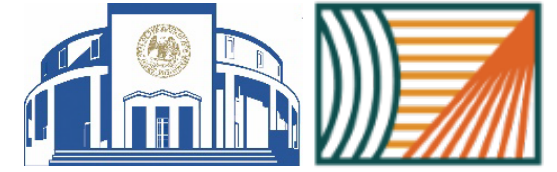
Level 5: Systematic Review of Descriptive and Qualitative studies

Level 6: Single Descriptive or Qualitative Study

Level 7: Expert Opinion

Source: UNM

FY26 (2025) Evaluation Plan Ratings

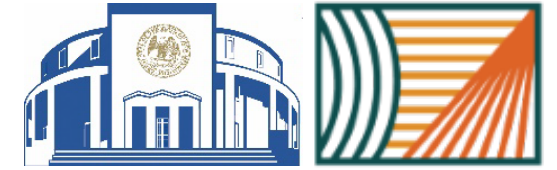


- **28** GRO appropriations in 2025 HB2, to **13** agencies, at **\$237 million**
 - Most were 3-year appropriations, but 10 were 2-year (meaning final reports are due this fall)
 - 13 evaluation plans were received, 2 agencies did not submit requested plans by the deadline
 - Received no plans for 2-year appropriations, as agencies are likely focusing on final reports
- Overall, agencies reported strong logic models and performance measures, but evaluation plan quality varied. Most included outcomes, but **only half of evaluation plans were set up to allow the agency to know if the program causes the intended impact**
- Certain appropriations may not lend themselves to traditional evaluation. For those, LFC and DFA are suggesting assessing spending and outcome-based performance measures to determine impact

Evaluation Plans should include:

- A logic model
- Performance measures
- Evaluation plan, the more reliable the better
- How the results will be communicated

Next Steps



Information about GRO and PERF appropriations overall and individual appropriations will continue to be provided to the Legislature

November GRO hearings to discuss:

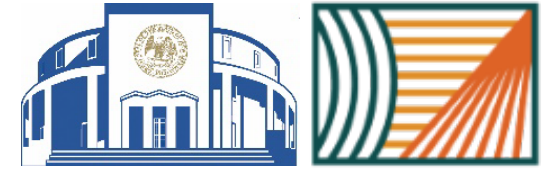
- final evaluation reports (2024 and select 2025 appropriations); and
- evaluation plans (2026)

LFC and DFA staff will review reports and revise information provided to agencies to refine the process.

- DFA and LFC staff are working on a scorecard for recommendations on continued funding, which will likely have the following elements:

Appropriation Year	Agency	Purpose	Goals	Data	Study Quality	Results	LFC Staff Rec
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Questions?



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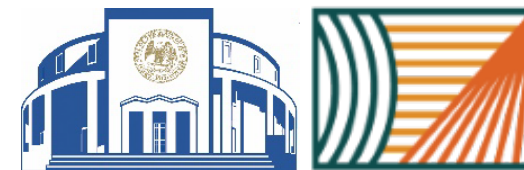
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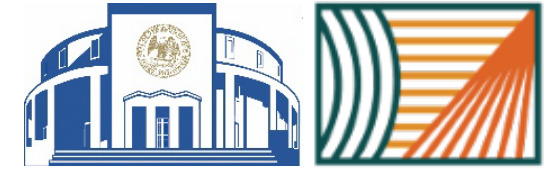
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Appendix: List of GRO appropriations 2024-2026



Original Appropriation Year	BU	Agency	Purpose	FY25 \$ (1,000s)	FY26 \$ (1,000s)	FY27 \$ (1,000s)	FY25 Expenditures	FY26 Expenditures YTD (1000s)
2024 GAA	61100	Early Childhood Education & Care Department	PARTIAL VETO To pilot a wage and career ladder for infant and toddler early educators in classrooms with children whose families are enrolled in childcare assistance and to fund a randomized control study of the program.	\$5,000.0	\$5,000.0	\$5,000.0	\$5,000.0	\$4,878.2
2024 GAA	62400	Aging & Long Term Services Department	PARTIAL VETO For the New Mexicare program and to fund a randomized control study of the program.	\$3,125.0	\$3,125.0	\$3,125.0	\$812.2	\$2,984.3
2024 GAA	63000	Health Care Authority	For a pilot to expand evidence-based behavioral health services, including screening brief intervention and referral to treatment and certified community behavioral health clinics, to sustainably bill medicaid once fully operational.	\$5,000.0	\$5,000.0	\$5,000.0	\$5,000.0	\$5,000.0
2024 GAA	63100	Department of Workforce Solutions	PARTIAL VETO For the implementation of a trades career exploration pilot program targeted toward disconnected and disengaged young adults and evaluation of employment outcomes of participants.	\$2,000.0	\$2,000.0	\$2,000.0	\$2,000.0	\$2,000.0
2024 GAA	63100	Department of Workforce Solutions	PARTIAL VETO To implement and evaluate youth re-employment, apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs targeted towards disengaged and disconnected young adults who are currently unemployed or at risk of being unemployed and are not currently enrolled in high school.	\$600.0	\$600.0	\$600.0	\$600.0	\$600.0

Original Appropriation Year	BU	Agency	Purpose	FY25 \$ (1,000s)	FY26 \$ (1,000s)	FY27 \$ (1,000s)	FY25 Expenditures	FY26 Expenditures YTD (1000s)
2024 GAA	68000	Office of Family Representation and Advocacy	To conduct a pilot project and rigorous outcome evaluation of multidisciplinary team legal services for children, youth and adults whose children are in the custody of or are at-risk of being in the custody of the children, youth and families department in Bernalillo and Dona Ana counties. The office of family representation and advocacy shall seek federal Title IV-E reimbursement for eligible multidisciplinary	\$2,062.5	\$2,062.5	\$2,062.5	\$1,920.4	\$2,050.7
2024 GAA	69000	Children, Youth and Families Department	PARTIAL VETO To implement and evaluate outcomes of a pilot program to incentivize attainment of masters-level social work licensure to develop and retain caseworkers in the child protective services program. The children, youth and families department shall report quarterly on the number of caseworkers with a masters-level social work license in a child protective services caseworker position and of masters-level social workers retained more than twelve months in protective services caseworker roles.	\$562.5	\$562.5	\$562.5	\$556.6	\$343.4
2024 GAA	69000	Children, Youth and Families Department	PARTIAL VETO For a pilot to expand evidence-based implementation of multilevel response statewide in the child protective services program, pursuant to Section 32-4-4.1 NMSA 1978. The children, youth and families department shall report quarterly on the number of families receiving a multilevel response, the percentage of multilevel response eligible families who engage in services, the percentage of participating families in multilevel response who have a traditional child protective services investigation within a twelve-month period and the percentage of participating families in multilevel response with a substantiated case of child maltreatment.	\$1,400.0	\$1,400.0	\$1,400.0	\$15.0	\$781.3
2024 GAA	69000	Children, Youth and Families Department	PARTIAL VETO For recruitment, training and support of treatment foster care and foster care providers to support hard-to-place children. The children, youth and families department shall report quarterly on the number of treatment foster and foster care families recruited, trained and have a child in custody of child protective services in their care, number of treatment foster and foster care families recruited and trained that maintain their provider status and the number of youth in child protective services care placed in an office, out-of-state, congregate care or shelter setting.	\$1,250.0	\$1,250.0	\$1,250.0	\$1,188.0	\$780.1

Original Appropriation Year	BU	Agency	Purpose	FY25 \$ (1,000s)	FY26 \$ (1,000s)	FY27 \$ (1,000s)	FY25 Expenditures	FY26 Expenditures YTD (1000s)
2024 GAA	69000	Children, Youth and Families Department	PARTIAL VETO For a pilot to expand evidence-based prevention and intervention programs, including safe care home visiting, published in the federal Title IV-E prevention services clearinghouse or that may be reimbursed by medicaid. The children, youth and families department shall report quarterly on the number of families participating in evidence-based community based prevention and intervention programs that are in the Title IV-E clearinghouse or eligible for medicaid reimbursement, the percentage of participating families subject to a child protective services investigation and the percentage of participating families with a substantiated case of child maltreatment.	\$3,000.0	\$3,000.0	\$3,000.0	\$300.6	\$2,040.5
2024 GAA	92400	Public Education Department	For educator clinical practice programs	\$20,000.0	\$20,000.0	\$20,000.0	\$17,167.0	\$18,218.0
2024 GAA	92400	Public Education Department	For stipends and pay differentials to fill hard to staff special education postitions	\$5,000.0	\$5,000.0	\$5,000.0	\$3,850.1	\$4,753.1
2024 GAA	95000	Higher Education Department	PARTIAL VETO For New Mexico community colleges and regional universities to pay up to the full cost of student tuition and fees for workforce training courses not eligible for other state financial aid and that result in an industry-recognized credential or endorsement. This funding may also be used to subsidize costs of students involved in apprenticeships or internships and for program development. Higher education institutions shall submit an implementation plan to the higher education department prior to receipt of funding and include identification of the types of certificates or credentials offered and the employers and industries eligible for internship and apprenticeship support. The higher education department shall distribute this funding to higher education institutions based on their proportional share of instruction and general funding no later than August 1st of each year	\$20,000.0	\$20,000.0	\$20,000.0	\$20,000.0	\$20,000.0
2024 GAA	95000	Higher Education Department	To pilot and evaluate the expansion of integrated basic education and skills training programs to provide basic skills and workforce development training or disengaged and difficult to reach adults who are unable to access other federal funds for integrated education training	\$2,000.0	\$2,000.0	\$2,000.0	\$1,882.2	\$1,858.6

Original Appropriation Year	BU	Agency	Purpose	FY25 \$ (1,000s)	FY26 \$ (1,000s)	FY27 \$ (1,000s)	FY28 \$ (1,000s)	FY25 Expenditures (blank if NA)	FY26 Expenditures YTD (1000s)
2024 GAA	96200	New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology	For geothermal resource development	\$500.0	\$500.0	\$500.0		Not in SHARE	Not in SHARE
2024 GAA	96600	Santa Fe Community College	For a suicide prevention training program	\$500.0	\$500.0	\$500.0		Not in SHARE	Not in SHARE
2025 GAA	21800	Administrative Office of the Courts	For grants to judicial districts and criminal justice coordinating councils, based on the submitted regional plans to enhance regional case management, behavioral health grant writing, peer-operated crisis response and recovery support services, behavioral health, homeless outreach and engagement and family support services pursuant to the Behavioral Health Reform and Investment Act. Funds may be used by judicial districts based on the submitted regional plans for specialty diversion, problem-solving and treatment courts and associated programs and pretrial services. The administrative office of the courts shall develop program models, standards, guidelines and program evaluation requirements for implementing, enhancing and expanding court related programs. Any unexpended balances remaining at the end of fiscal year 2029 shall revert to the government results and opportunity fund.		\$2,333.3	\$2,333.3	\$2,333.3		\$0.4
2025 GAA	21800	Administrative Office of the Courts	For the special court services program to provide legal assistance to individuals.		\$500.0	\$500.0	\$500.0		\$497.2
2025 GAA	21800	Administrative Office of the Courts	For the special court services program for electronic monitoring of pretrial defendants.		\$1,277.9	\$1,277.9	\$1,277.9		\$1,234.8
2025 GAA	21800	Administrative Office of the Courts	For pretrial services.^		\$1,200.0	\$1,200.0	\$0.0		\$941.0
2025 GAA	21800	Administrative Office of the Courts	For call centers, including the turquoise call center.^		\$800.0	\$800.0	\$0.0		\$800.0

Appropriations highlighted in orange may not lend themselves to traditional evaluation and will be evaluated differently. ^ Appropriation funded for less than 3 years

Original Appropriation Year	BU	Agency	Purpose	FY26 \$ (1,000s)	FY27 \$ (1,000s)	FY28 \$ (1,000s)	FY26 Expenditures YTD (1000s)
2025 GAA	25200	Second Judicial District Attorney	For court monitors and to implement competency provisions of Chapter 4 of Laws 2025.^	\$250.0	\$250.0	\$0.0	\$250.0
2025 GAA	30500	Attorney General	For the office of the child advocate contingent on enactment of House Bill 5 or similar legislation of the first session of the fifty-seventh legislature creating the office.^	\$650.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$101.8
2025 GAA	37800	Personnel Board	To implement the recommendations of the 2024 Personnel Act study.	\$950.0	\$950.0	\$950.0	\$946.7
2025 GAA	42000	Regulation and Licensing Department	For compliance officers, vehicles and equipment for the cannabis control division.	\$2,343.0	\$1,038.0	\$1,039.0	\$622.0
2025 GAA	42000	Regulation and Licensing Department	For law enforcement officers for the cannabis control division, contingent on enactment of House Bill 10 or similar legislation of the first session of the fifty-seventh legislature granting law enforcement powers to agents of the cannabis control division.	\$1,615.0	\$1,150.0	\$1,150.0	\$945.8
2025 GAA	44000	Office of Superintendent of Insurance*	For operating expenses contingent on enactment of Senate Bill 42 or similar legislation of the first session of the fifty-seventh legislature enacting a New Mexico Child Safety and Welfare Act.*^	\$85.2	\$85.2	\$0.0	\$0.0
2025 GAA	51600	Department of Game and Fish	For agency capacity building to conserve species of greatest conservation need, including the American beaver.	\$3,500.0	\$3,500.0	\$3,500.0	\$3,500.0
2025 GAA	63000	Health Care Authority	For medical services for incarcerated persons up to ninety days prior to release, including case management, medication-assisted treatment, thirty-day supply prescription drugs and other medical services.	\$26,799.6	\$26,799.6	\$26,799.6	\$4,785.6
2025 GAA	63000	Health Care Authority	To support food banks statewide and ensure access to nutritious food with up to fifty percent of the first-year appropriation used for expanding capacity and the remainder for food purchases.	\$10,000.0	\$10,000.0	\$10,000.0	\$10,000.0
2025 GAA	63000	Health Care Authority	For food for women with high-risk pregnancies and people on the community benefit.	\$21,522.9	\$21,523.1	\$21,523.1	\$18,454.5
2025 GAA	63000	Health Care Authority	To provide medical respite for the homeless.	\$16,306.2	\$16,306.2	\$16,306.2	\$7.0

*The OSI appropriation was not budgeted because the component of SB42 relevant to OSI was not included in the final version of Senate Bill 42.

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Original Appropriation Year	BU	Agency	Purpose	FY26 \$ (1,000s)	FY27 \$ (1,000s)	FY28 \$ (1,000s)	FY26 Expenditures YTD (1000s)
2025 GAA	69000	Children, Youth and Families Department	To fund personnel costs to meet Kevin S., et al. v. Blalock, et al., No. 1:18-cv-00896 settlement caseload standards. The department shall annually report to the legislative finance committee the number and percent of caseworkers who hold caseloads that meet the settlement agreement standards and the number and percent of caseworkers who hold caseloads that do not meet the settlement caseload standards.	\$10,000.0	\$10,000.0	\$10,000.0	\$9,794.2
2025 GAA	69000	Children, Youth and Families Department	To establish, pilot and review the outcomes of a child welfare training academy. The children, youth and families department shall seek reimbursement for any cost eligible for federal Title IV-E reimbursement. The federal funds appropriation includes six hundred sixty-one thousand six hundred dollars (\$661,600) from federal Title IV-E revenue.	\$2,461.6	\$2,461.6	\$2,461.6	\$1,720.1
2025 GAA	69000	Children, Youth and Families Department	For personnel to respond to inquiries from the office of child advocate contingent on enactment of House Bill 5 or similar legislation of the first session of the fifty-seventh legislature creating the office.^	\$300.0	\$300.0	\$0.0	\$9.6
2025 GAA	69000	Children, Youth and Families Department	For case aides to assist caseworkers in the protective services division pursuant to the remedial order in the Kevin S., et al. v. Blalock, et al., No. 1:18-cv-00896 settlement agreement. The children, youth and families department shall report quarterly to the legislative finance committee the number of case aide positions posted, the number of case aide positions hired and the number of case aide positions retained, by county. The children, youth and families department shall seek federal Title IV-E reimbursement for eligible expenses.^	\$4,800.0	\$4,800.0	\$0.0	\$4,762.5
2025 GAA	69000	Children, Youth and Families Department	To create regional on-call emergency response teams in the protective services division pursuant to the remedial order in the Kevin S., et al. v. Blalock, et al., No. 1:18-cv-00896 settlement agreement. The children, youth and families department shall report quarterly to the legislative finance committee the number of emergency response team positions posted, the number of emergency response team positions hired and the number of emergency response team positions retained, by county. The children, youth and families department shall seek federal Title IV-E reimbursement for eligible expenses.^	\$2,800.0	\$2,800.0	\$0.0	\$1,381.7

Appropriations highlighted in orange may not lend themselves to traditional evaluation and will be evaluated differently. ^ Appropriation funded for less than 3 years

Original Appropriation Year	BU	Agency	Purpose	FY26 \$ (1,000s)	FY27 \$ (1,000s)	FY28 \$ (1,000s)	FY26 Expenditures YTD (1000s)
2025 GAA	69000	Children, Youth and Families Department	For personnel to provide data and meet data obligations pursuant to the remedial order in the Kevin S., et al. v. Blalock, et al., No. 1:18-cv-00896 settlement agreement. The children, youth and families department shall provide the legislative finance committee with the documentation submitted to the Kevin S. arbiter in response to the remedial order which requires the children, youth and families department to provide documentation about how the department calculated the number and positions needed to meet Kevin S. agreement data submission requirements. The children, youth and families department shall seek federal title IV-E reimbursement for eligible expenses.^	\$900.0	\$900.0	\$0.0	\$682.3
2025 GAA	69000	Children, Youth and Families Department	For foster care maintenance payment rate increases. The children, youth and families shall report quarterly to the legislative finance committee the number of foster care families recruited, the number of foster care families with a child in the custody of protective services in their care and the number of children and youth in child protective services care placed in an office, out-of-state, congregate care or shelter setting. The children, youth and families department shall seek federal Title IV-E reimbursement for eligible expenses^	\$2,500.0	\$2,500.0	\$0.0	\$2,457.7
2025 GAA	69000	Children, Youth and Families Department	For operating expenses contingent on enactment of Senate Bill 42 or similar legislation of the first session of the fifty-seventh legislature enacting a New Mexico Child Safety and Welfare Act.^	\$2,600.0	\$2,600.0	\$0.0	\$2,211.4
2025 GAA	77000	Corrections Department	For medication-assisted treatment.	\$11,300.0	\$11,300.0	\$11,300.0	\$2,819.4
2025 GAA	95000	Higher Education Department	For a distribution to state-controlled four-year degree-granting higher education institutions for student retention initiatives. The distributions shall be determined by a formula created by the department in consultation with the legislative finance committee. To qualify for a distribution, the current year retention rate for first-time, full-time students retained to the second year must exceed the retention rate for the prior year. The formula shall provide an equal per student distribution provided that no institution shall receive an award greater than one and one-half percent of the general fund appropriation for instruction and general expenses for the prior fiscal year.	\$4,500.0	\$6,500.0	\$9,000.0	\$4,500.0

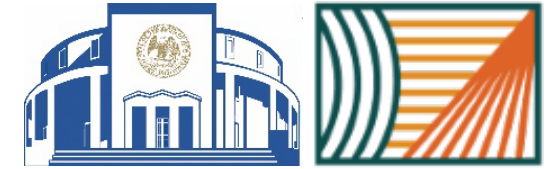
Appropriations highlighted in orange may not lend themselves to traditional evaluation and will be evaluated differently. ^ Appropriations funded for less than 3 years

Original Appropriation Year	BU	Agency	Purpose	FY26 \$ (1,000s)	FY27 \$ (1,000s)	FY28 \$ (1,000s)	FY26 Expenditures YTD (1000s)
2025 GAA	95400	New Mexico State University	For the college assistance migrant program.	\$333.0	\$333.0		Not in SHARE
2025 GAA	95400	New Mexico State University	To coordinate, plan, design, implement, operate, promote and establish a statewide online education program in partnership and coordination with other state education institutions. Any unexpended balances remaining at the end of fiscal year 2026 shall not revert and may be expended through fiscal year 2028.^	\$12,000.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	Not in SHARE
2025 GAA	92400	Public Education Department	For attendance initiatives to reduce excessive student absenteeism, contingent on enactment of Senate Bill 201 or similar legislation of the first session of the fifty-seventh legislature requiring evidence-based program evaluation for projects receiving appropriations from the public education reform fund. Up to two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) may be used by the public education department to conduct a randomized controlled trial to evaluate and monitor outcomes. The other state funds appropriation is from the public education reform fund.	\$6,200.0	\$6,200.0	\$6,200.0	\$5,284.8
2025 GAA	92400	Public Education Department	For training educators in evidence-based math instruction, contingent on enactment of Senate Bill 201 or similar legislation of the first session of the fifty-seventh legislature requiring evidence-based program evaluation for projects receiving appropriations from the public education reform fund. Up to two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) may be used by the public education department to conduct a randomized controlled trial to evaluate and monitor outcomes. The other state funds appropriation is from the public education reform fund.	\$4,500.0	\$4,500.0	\$4,500.0	\$3,274.6
2025 GAA	92400	Public Education Department	For a pilot program to support students who are unhoused, contingent on enactment of Senate Bill 201 or similar legislation of the first session of the fifty-seventh legislature requiring evidence-based program evaluation for projects receiving appropriations from the public education reform fund. Up to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) may be used by the public education department to conduct a quasi-experimental study to evaluate and monitor outcomes. The other state funds appropriation is from the public education reform fund.	\$2,100.0	\$2,100.0	\$2,100.0	\$1,783.5
2025 GAA	92400	Public Education Department	For innovative or strategic school staffing models, contingent on enactment of Senate Bill 201 or similar legislation of the first session of the fifty-seventh legislature requiring evidence-based program evaluation for projects receiving appropriations from the public education reform fund. Up to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) may be used by the public education department to conduct a randomized controlled trial to evaluate and monitor outcomes. The public education department may waive requirements for class load, teaching load, minimum salary levels and staffing patterns for schools in the treatment group. The other state funds appropriation is from the public education reform fund.	\$2,600.0	\$2,600.0	\$2,600.0	\$2,353.8

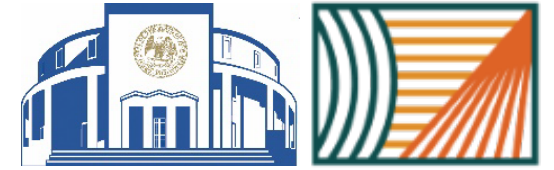
^ Appropriation funded for less than 3 years

Original Appropriation Year	BU	Agency	Purpose	FY26 \$ (1,000s)	FY27 \$ (1,000s)	FY28 \$ (1,000s)	FY29 \$ (1,000s)	FY26 Expenditures YTD (1000s) (blank if NA)
2025 GAA	92400	Public Education Department	For training secondary educators in evidence-based reading instruction, contingent on enactment of Senate Bill 201 or similar legislation of the first session of the fifty-seventh legislature requiring evidence-based program evaluation for projects receiving appropriations from the public education reform fund. Up to two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) may be used by the public education department to conduct a randomized controlled trial to evaluate and monitor outcomes. The other state funds appropriation is from the public education reform fund.	\$5,200.0	\$5,200.0	\$5,200.0		\$5,173.6
2026 GAA	21800	Administrative Office of the Courts	For the expansion of assisted outpatient treatment programs, a competency diversion pilot and other behavioral health programs, for expenditure in fiscal years 2027 and 2028^		\$1,265.4	\$0.0	\$0.0	
2026 GAA	28000	Public Defender	To pilot hourly rates for contract attorneys		\$2,200.0	\$2,200.0	\$2,200.0	
2026 GAA	34100	Department of Finance and Administration	For distributions to state agencies pursuant to a rate schedule adopted pursuant to Section 15-3B-18 NMSA 1978.		\$,000.0	\$1,000.0	\$1,000.0	
2026 GAA	61100	Early Childhood Education & Care Department	To continue implementation of the wage and career ladder framework.		\$10,000.0	\$10,000.0	\$10,000.0	
2026 GAA	63100	Department of Workforce Solutions	To implement and evaluate youth pre-apprenticeship programs^		\$600.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	
2026 GAA	63100	Department of Workforce Solutions	For the office of housing operations		\$666.6	\$666.6	\$666.6	
2026 GAA	69000	Children, Youth and Families Department	For startup and operational costs of evidence-based programs delivered in a community-based setting, including youth mentoring services, for high-risk youth within the juvenile justice facilities program.		\$1,500.0	\$1,500.0	\$1,500.0	

^ Appropriation funded for less than 3 years



Original Appropriation Year	BU	Agency	Purpose	FY27 \$ (1,000s)	FY28 \$ (1,000s)	FY29 \$ (1,000s)
2026 GAA	69000	Children, Youth and Families Department	For a dedicated SafeCare unit within the protective services program to provide in-home services to families reported to the agency for suspected abuse or neglect.	\$4,000.0	\$4,000.0	\$4,000.0
2026 GAA	80500	Department of Transportation	To perform road safety audits and site assessments on state and local roads.	\$1,500.0	\$1,500.0	\$1,500.0
2026 GAA	92400	Public Education Department	To conduct a randomized controlled trial on high impact tutoring during the school day to improve student reading proficiency and math proficiency. Up to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) may be used by the public education department to evaluate and monitor outcomes. The other state funds appropriation is from the public education reform fund.	\$5,100.0	\$5,100.0	\$5,100.0
2026 GAA	92400	Public Education Department	To conduct a randomized controlled trial of innovation zones to improve student attendance, graduation and employability. Up to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) may be used by the public education department to evaluate and monitor outcomes. The other state funds appropriation is from the public education reform fund.	\$7,200.0	\$7,200.0	\$7,200.0
2026 GAA	92400	Public Education Department	To conduct a randomized controlled trial of community schools to improve student attendance. Up to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) may be used by the public education department to evaluate and monitor outcomes. The other state funds appropriation is from the public education reform fund.	\$6,100.0	\$6,100.0	\$6,100.0



Appendix: 2025 GRO Appropriation Evaluation Plan Ratings

Appropriation Year	Agency	Short Purpose	Years of Funding	Logic Model	Performance Measure	Evaluation Plan	Communication of Results	Notes
2025	AOC	For grants to judicial districts and criminal justice coordinating councils, based on the submitted regional plans to enhance regional case management, behavioral health grant writing, peer-operated crisis response and recovery support services, behavioral health, homeless outreach and engagement and family support services pursuant to the Behavioral Health Reform and Investment Act.	3	Most elements clearly defined.	Clearly defined, mixture of outputs and outcomes	Causal evaluation with moderate to high rigor	No plan for communicating results.	Agency intends to contract with an independent evaluator to develop and conduct a rigorous evaluation. Plan for communicating results was not requested on our eval plan template.
2025	AOC	For the special court services program to provide legal assistance to individuals.	3	Only activities and outputs defined, no outcomes.	Only output performance measures, no outcomes	Implementation and outputs evaluation (non-causal)	No plan for communicating results.	Like many of the 2025 GRO appropriations, a causal evaluation doesn't seem to even make sense for the intended use of these funds. Plan for communicating results was not requested on DFA/LFC eval plan template.
2025	AOC	For the special court services program for electronic monitoring of pretrial defendants.	3	No logic model.	Most are clearly defined, mixture of outputs and outcomes.	Causal evaluation limited rigor	No plan for communicating results.	Plan for communicating results was not requested on our eval plan template.
2025	AOC	For pretrial services.	2					Eval plan not requested (final eval due Sept 1 2026)
2025	AOC	For call centers, including the turquoise call center.	2					Eval plan not requested (final eval due Sept 1 2026)
2025	2nd DA	For court monitors and to implement competency provisions of Chapter 4 of Laws 2025.	2					Eval plan not requested (final eval due Sept 1 2026)
2025	NMAG	For the office of the child advocate contingent on enactment of House Bill 5 or similar legislation of the first session of the fifty-seventh legislature creating the office.^	2					Eval plan not requested (final eval due Sept 1 2026)
2025	SPO	To implement the recommendations of the 2024 Personnel Act study.	3					Eval plan not submitted

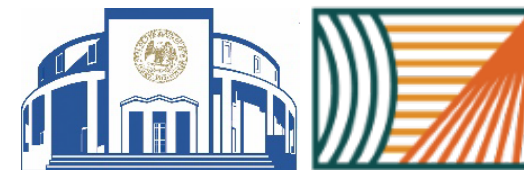
Appropriation Year	Agency	Short Purpose	Years of Funding	Logic Model	Performance Measure	Evaluation Plan	Communication of Results	Notes
2025	RLD	For compliance officers, vehicles and equipment for the cannabis control division.		Most elements clearly defined.	Most are clearly defined, mixture of outputs and outcomes.	Implementation and outcomes evaluation (non-causal)	Public report	Like many of the 2025 GRO appropriations, this one does not readily lend itself to a rigorous causal evaluation.
2025	RLD	For law enforcement officers for the cannabis control division, contingent on enactment of House Bill 10.		Most elements clearly defined.	Most are clearly defined, mixture of outputs and outcomes.	Implementation and outcomes evaluation (non-causal)	Public report	Like many of the 2025 GRO appropriations, this one does not readily lend itself to a rigorous causal evaluation.
2025	DGF	For agency capacity building to conserve species of greatest conservation need, including the American beaver.	3					Eval plan not submitted
2025	HCA	For medical services for incarcerated persons up to ninety days prior to release, including case management, medication-assisted treatment, thirty-day supply prescription drugs and other medical services.		Most elements clearly defined.	Most are clearly defined, mixture of outputs and outcomes.	Implementation and outcomes evaluation (non-causal)	Public report	The evaluation WILL be conducted by a third-party, but the design is 'descriptive time series' which is not quasi-experimental.
2025	HCA	To support food banks statewide and ensure access to nutritious food with up to fifty percent of the first-year appropriation used for expanding capacity and the remainder for food purchases.		Most elements clearly defined.	Most are clearly defined, mixture of outputs and outcomes.	Implementation and outcomes evaluation (non-causal)	Public report	Like many of the 2025 GRO appropriations, this one does not readily lend itself to a rigorous causal evaluation.
2025	HCA	For food for women with high-risk pregnancies and people on the community benefit.		Most elements clearly defined.	Most are clearly defined, mixture of outputs and outcomes.	Causal evaluation with moderate to high rigor	Public report	Pregnant woman study seems rigorous, community benefit seems less so.
2025	HCA	To provide medical respite for the homeless.		Most elements clearly defined.	Most are clearly defined, mixture of outputs and outcomes.	Implementation and outcomes evaluation (non-causal)	Public report	
2025	CYFD	To fund personnel costs to meet Kevin S., et al. v. Blalock, et al., No. 1:18-cv-00896 settlement caseload standards.		Most elements clearly defined.	No performance measures.	Implementation and outputs evaluation (non-causal)	No plan for communicating results.	No mention of how data will be reported or how the time series analysis will be conducted
2025	CYFD	To establish, pilot and review the outcomes of a child welfare training academy.		Most elements clearly defined.	Clearly defined, mixture of outputs and outcomes	Causal evaluation limited rigor	No plan for communicating results.	How does CYFD define quality child welfare practice? Increased specificity re outcomes would improve logic model



Appropriation Year	Agency	Short Purpose	Years of Funding	Logic Model	Performance Measure	Evaluation Plan	Communication of Results	Notes
2025	CYFD	For personnel to respond to inquiries from the office of child advocate contingent on enactment of House Bill 5 or similar legislation.	2					Eval plan not requested (final eval due Sept 1 2026)
2025	CYFD	For case aides to assist caseworkers in the protective services division pursuant to the remedial order in the Kevin S., et al. v. Blalock, et al., No. 1:18-cv-00896 settlement agreement.	2					Eval plan not requested (final eval due Sept 1 2026)
2025	CYFD	To create regional on-call emergency response teams in the protective services division pursuant to the remedial order in the Kevin S., et al. v Blalock, et al., No. 1:18-cv-00896 settlement agreement.	2					Eval plan not requested (final eval due Sept 1 2026)
2025	CYFD	For personnel to provide data and meet data obligations pursuant to the remedial order in the Kevin S., et al. v. Blalock, et al., No. 1:18-cv-00896 settlement agreement.	2					Eval plan not requested (final eval due Sept 1 2026)
2025	CYFD	For foster care maintenance payment rate increases.	2					Eval plan not requested (final eval due Sept 1 2026)
2025	CYFD	For operating expenses contingent on enactment of Senate Bill 42 or similar legislation	2					Eval plan not requested (final eval due Sept 1 2026)
2025	NMCD	For medication-assisted treatment.	3	Only activities and outputs defined, no outcomes.	No performance measures.	Causal evaluation with moderate to high rigor	Report to DFA/LFC	Logic model, should be more specific as to how to measure each outcome. For reporting, plan states will report to legislative stakeholder but does not specify timeline.



Appropriation Year	Agency	Short Purpose	Years of Funding	Logic Model	Performance Measure	Evaluation Plan	Communication of Results	Notes
2025	HED	For a distribution to state-controlled four-year degree-granting higher education institutions for student retention initiatives.		Most elements clearly defined.	Clearly defined, mixture of outputs and outcomes	Implementation and outcomes evaluation (non-causal)	No plan for communicating results.	Logic model could benefit from more specificity
2025	NMSU	For the college assistance migrant program.		Most elements clearly defined.	No performance measures	Implementation and outcomes evaluation (non-causal)	No plan for communicating results.	Unclear what performance measures are used to monitor interim performance and no information regarding how results will be communicated.
2025	NMSU	To coordinate, plan, design, implement, operate, promote and establish a statewide online education program in partnership and coordination with other state education institutions. Any unexpended balances remaining at the end of fiscal year 2026 shall not revert and may be expended through fiscal year 2028		Most elements clearly defined.	Performance measures written but not clearly defined.	Causal evaluation limited rigor	Public report	Increased outcome specificity for the logic model and performance measures would be helpful. Unclear if annual reports are public or private.



Appendix: GRO Instructions to Agencies

Government Results and Opportunity Fund Instructions for Program Evaluation: FY27-FY29

The Government Results and Opportunity (GRO) program fund provides mid-term nonrecurring funding (e.g. funding over three years) to pilot new approaches to improve outcomes. This letter provides agency instructions and training information for appropriations received from the GRO program fund. Agencies are responsible for providing plans for implementation and measurement of impact of GRO investments to help determine if GRO pilot projects should receive recurring funding.

The Department of Finance and Administration (DFA), in consultation with the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC), is responsible for jointly developing and approving instructions for accountability and evaluation plans. These instructions will be submitted annually to the agencies with funded programs or initiatives by **May 1**, and are designed to guide the effective implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of GRO-funded programs.

Agencies are required to submit an initial accountability and evaluation plan to DFA and LFC for each funded program by **July 1** of the fiscal year in which the appropriation is made. If revisions are requested by DFA and LFC staff, a revised plan must be submitted no later than **September 1** of the same year. Each plan should include:

Statute Reference: HB 158 (2026)
HB 158 (2026) established the requirement for agencies to conduct causal impact evaluations for appropriations from the Government Results and Opportunity (GRO) Program Fund.

1. Clearly defined program goals, objectives, and expected outcomes outlined in a logic model;
2. A description of program activities and roles of participating entities;
3. A determination of the program's evidence base (as defined on page 3 of this document);
4. Performance metrics and a monitoring plan; and
5. A comprehensive evaluation design, including methods of analysis and timeline for reporting results.

A template for evaluation plans is provided in this document beginning on page 3.

Evaluation updates, **due by November 1** each year, should include how much funding has been spent to date, current program implementation status, and any notable findings, achievements, or challenges. A final evaluation report is due by **July 15** of the final fiscal year of the appropriation to inform future funding recommendations. This final report must include program outcomes and limitations. Measurement of program outcomes will be key in receiving recurring funding, in particular agencies should conduct a study that adequately measures the causal impact using a control or comparison group. Studies not including the use of a comparison or control group are unlikely to receive recurring funding.

The collaborative approach to program design and evaluation aims to enhance rigor, utility, and trust of program evaluations by improving data quality and promoting shared accountability. It is particularly

important that agencies' evaluation plans meet expectations outlined by DFA and LFC, which include providing sufficient detail to assess both program effectiveness and implementation fidelity. The goal is to ensure public programs and initiatives are evidence-based and cost-effective, and to understand the circumstances under which programs can drive meaningful improvements in outcomes statewide.

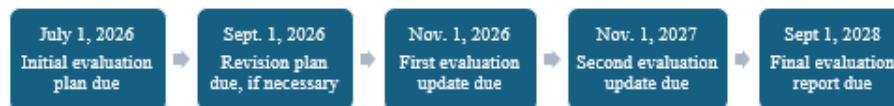
How Will We Support You?

We know this can feel like a heavy lift. That's why we're here to help:

- **Introductory Training Session:** Join us and Results For America, national experts in evidence-based policy making, for a live training session on **June 2 from 10 AM to 12 pm in RM 307 of the Capitol** to walk through the process, expectations, and tools. This training session is required for all agencies receiving GRO appropriations.

Plan to have both program and finance staff attend the training and participate in the process.

- **Technical Assistance:** DFA and LFC staff are available **anytime** to provide one-on-one support! Just reach out to the contacts below.
- **Clear Timeline:** Evaluation plans for each GRO appropriation are to be submitted by **July 1** to DFA and LFC.



Need Help? Contact Us!

LFC Contacts

Sarah Dinces, Principal Program Evaluator | 505-986-4571 | Sarah.Dinces@nmlegis.gov

DFA Contacts

Simon Miller, Performance Analyst | 505-479-2963 | Simon.Miller@dfa.nm.gov

Shanthi Bangi, Performance Analyst | 505-394-5286 | Shanthi.Bangi@dfa.nm.gov

Evaluation Plan Template

Program:	Indicate which legislative appropriation this plan addresses.
Contacts for Annual Progress Updates	Please use this space to provide primary points of contact at your agency for progress updates, expected by November 1 of each year.
Problem Statement:	Use this space to write a succinct problem statement the program is attempting to address. <Example of problem statement guidance here .>
Overarching Goals:	Use this space to list three to five overarching goals for the program.
Underlying Assumptions and Research Base:	Use this space to include a brief summary regarding whether the program has been shown to work and whether the program is classified as evidence-based, research-based, promising, or does not yet have rigorous research. For definitions of these terms, see below and Section 6-3A-3 NMSA 1978. <Clearinghouses can be a useful tool in determining what research has been conducted. Relevant clearinghouses include the Evidence to Impact Clearinghouse Database and the What Works Clearinghouse. Please also provide links to the study or clearinghouse that helped form this rationale. If the program or initiative the agency plans to implement is not listed in a clearinghouse and has no published research, it is considered to have no rigorous evidence. If there <u>is</u> one or two published articles that do not use randomized controlled trials or other highly reliable research designs, the program is considered promising. If there are several studies, but none use rigorous designs—or if there are only one or two rigorous studies—it is research-based. If multiple studies use highly reliable research designs, or if a systematic literature review exists, the program is considered evidence-based.>

Logic Model

Building a logic model helps clearly articulate what a program aims to accomplish. It shows the relationships between program resources, activities, outputs, and expected outcomes, and serves as a framework for planning, implementation, and evaluation. In the logic model below, fill in the boxes to identify who is responsible for implementation, the activities each actor will carry out, how you will measure whether activities are implemented as intended, and the expected short- and long-term outcomes. See the [Institute for Education Sciences](#) for more information about logic models.

Actors	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes
List the entities will be responsible for implementing the program (one row per actor). <i>Examples: PED, school districts and charter schools, schools, educators, evaluators.</i>	List the specific activities each actor will be responsible for carrying out during implementation. <i>Examples: Awarding funding, providing technical support, collecting and cleaning data, training staff.</i>	List the measures used to determine whether activities are being implemented as intended. <i>Examples: Number of participants, attrition rate, number of times an activity was carried out, engagement metrics.</i>	List the short-term and long-term measures that may be used to provide evidence that the program is making a difference. Short-Term: Benefits for participants. Long-Term: Benefits for entire program. <i>Examples: Knowledge, skills, proficiency rates, graduation rates, chronic absence rates, additional outcomes for participants.</i>
	•	•	Short-Term Outcomes
	•	•	•
	•	•	Long-Term Outcomes
	•	•	•

Program Evaluation Plan and Description of Methods

A program evaluation plan provides a roadmap for determining whether a program is achieving its expected outcomes. It should include information about the target population, data collection methods, and planned data analysis. If needed, refer to the [World Bank pre-analysis plan checklist](#) for additional guidance.

Target Population and Sampling	- What is the target population of the program? (For example, is the program run at a classroom level, a school level, or a districtwide level? Is the program predominantly for a specific demographic or at-risk group?) - What are the eligibility criteria for applying and participating in the program? - How will you select participants? (For example, random selection, stratified sampling, propensity score matching)?
Evaluation Approach and Methods	- Describe how your evaluation will be conducted. - Specify what methods and statistical tests PED plans to use. See UNM's research hierarchy for information on reliable research methods. - If you are planning to assess the program's causal impact on student achievement, explain exactly how this will be done (for example, randomized control trials, matched comparisons). - If you cannot assess causal impact: Provide a clear rationale for your proposed evaluation design.
Data Collection	- What data collection methods will be used? - Who will be responsible for collecting the data?
Implementation Timeline	Outline a proposed timeline for activities across the appropriation period:
	Year One (2026-2027):
	Year Two (2027-2028):
	Year Three (2028-2029):

Fiscal Plan and Description

As the appropriations for the GRO-funded initiatives are allocated across multiple fiscal years, this space is intended to better understand the plan for allocating funds and what fiscal activity can be expected across the three fiscal years.

Funding Plan	- How does the agency intend to flow out funds from GRO? - How many, and which, recipients are anticipated to receive funding from the GRO-funded initiative? - By when will funding begin in the initial program year of the GRO-funded initiative? - How will the agency determine which recipients receive what amount of funding or will the agency be the direct recipient? - Does the agency intend to evenly allocate the funding distributed to recipients and if not, what factors are being considered that influence the amount of funding each will receive?
Evaluation Funding	- How does the agency intend to use the set-aside in the GRO funding for evaluation? - Will the evaluations be conducted by the agency or by external entities? If external, please identify the entity. Contracting with an external entity can be useful but is not necessary.
Funding Flowthrough Timeline	Outline a proposed timeline for fiscal activity across the appropriation period:
	Year One (2026-2027):
	Year Two (2027-2028):
	Year Three (2028-2029):