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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT



SPONSOR: Papen DATE TYPED: 1/29/02 HB _____

SHORT TITLE: Statewide Programs for Homeless SB 212

ANALYST: Esquibel

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY02	FY03	FY02	FY03		
\$1,000.0				Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates HB 80

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC files

Responses Received From

Veterans' Service Commission
 Department of Health
 New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority
 Children, Youth and Families Department

No Response

The Department of Finance and Administration

SUMMARY

Synopsis

Senate Bill 212 appropriates \$1,000.0 from the general fund to the Department of Finance and Administration for the purpose of contracting for various services and programs statewide for the homeless. This bill contains an emergency clause that makes this appropriation available immediately.

Significant Issues

Contracts authorized in this appropriation are emergency shelter, meals, transitional housing, emergency and permanent housing, disabled and mentally ill, therapeutic child-care for homeless children, special health care programs and homelessness prevention assistance to avoid eviction and foreclosure and to include veterans and disabled persons.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$1,000.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2003 shall revert to the general fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

None reported.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

- It is estimated that there are as many as eight thousand (8,000) homeless people in New Mexico at any one time. A snap-shot survey taken by the New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness reported that on February 15, 2001, 122 families with children entered an emergency shelter, 156 families with children received transitional housing services and 87 received permanent supportive housing services, for a total of 365 active clients in a day. Experts in the field have come to recognize that many chronically homeless persons suffer from co-occurring disorders, such as a combination of mental health and substance abuse problems, exhausting current health and social service delivery systems. In most instances, homeless persons with co-occurring disorders will present to and be managed by the mental health system.
- The current safety net for homeless children and families includes federally qualified health centers, Medicaid and Medicare disproportionate share hospitals, migrant and rural health centers and informal systems of care provided through charitable organizations.
- The underlying causes of homelessness include a lack of affordable housing, inadequate living wages, seasonal or part-time employment, domestic violence, substance abuse and mental health issues.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

- What other programs does New Mexico currently have to deal with these issues?
- Can this appropriation be made to an existing program that would cover the range of issues contained in this bill?

RAE/njw