



Significant Issues

Domestic violence issues continue to plague New Mexico and we have one of the highest rates per capita (15.1 incidents per 1,000 persons) of any state. A Violence Policy Center report ranked New Mexico eight nationwide in incidents of domestic violence. In Bernalillo County, there have been five deaths attributed to domestic violence since January 1, 2003. Every year throughout the United States, there are an estimated 1.5 million injuries from domestic violence, more than the combined number of muggings, rapes and car accidents. Most victims are women and children. Those children that are not physically harmed may have difficulties later in life and may continue the cycle of abuse if counseling services are not immediately available.

For federal fiscal year 2002, CYFD contracted services assisted 14,000 individuals and families impacted by domestic violence. This service was performed through 23 shelters throughout the state. These shelters typically expend all of the state funds by February each year and need to seek additional funding from other sources to continue services.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The appropriation of \$2,000.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2004 shall revert to the general fund. Expenditures are authorized in fiscal years 2003 and 2004. The 2002 General Appropriation Act for fiscal year 2003 provides \$4,625.0 for domestic violence programs in the CYFD operating budget. CYFD estimates that \$332.0 of this appropriation would be spent in FY03 and \$1,668.0 in FY04.

**ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

CYFD will have to expand contractual services for domestic violence programs throughout the state. As a normal practice, CYFD spreads new domestic violence funding equally across the 23 shelters and providers under contract to CYFD. This may not be the best method of expanding services in areas of immediate need. The agency should review needs throughout the state and make the distribution of new revenue in line with the needs.

**POSSIBLE QUESTIONS**

1. How will CYFD use the additional funds available for domestic violence shelters and programs?
2. Does CYFD need additional staff support to effectively manage the program?
3. What is the estimated need and cost for domestic violence services throughout the state?

GAC/njw