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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/25/06

SPONSOR Ruiz LAST UPDATED _____ HB 119

SHORT TITLE STATEWIDE HOMELESS PROGRAMS & SERVICES SB _____

ANALYST Weber

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$500.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates SB 117

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Health (DoH)

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 119 appropriates \$500 thousand from the general fund to the Human Services Department for the purpose of expanding access to programs and services for homeless persons.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$500 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY07 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to The University of New Mexico Homelessness Awareness and Advocacy Group about 35% of Albuquerque's homeless are chronically mentally ill or mentally incapacitated. According to some estimates, between 25 to 75 percent of the homeless have substance abuse issues. They comprise the most obvious segment of the homeless to the general public. Yet, a substantial portion of the homeless (30%) are women and children. Families are the fastest growing sub-group of homeless people in Albuquerque, following the larger national trend.

At least 35% work part- or full-time.

The Department of Health contributes:

The Behavioral Health Services Division's (BHSD) Projects Assisting Transitions from Homelessness (PATH) program data from FY 2005 indicates that approximately 73% consumers served had a co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorder. (BHSD 2005 PATH data). As part of the National Homeless Policy Academy, the New Mexico team identified 3 key elements in ending homelessness for consumers: adequate income, affordable housing and access to appropriate services.

A report by a Department of Health task force on chronic homelessness to the Health and Human Services Legislative Committee identified factors impacting a person's risk for homelessness, which included lack of access to affordable housing, lack of access to affordable health care, lack of community supports. (SJM 52 & HJM 82 Task Force on Homelessness, NM Department of Health, 2003).

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