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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/6/06
 LAST UPDATED 2/7/06

SPONSOR Ortiz y Pino HB _____

SHORT TITLE UNM Family Development Program SB 646

ANALYST Lewis

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	150.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB 491/SB 79 (UNM Family Development Program)

Relates to HB 726 (Expand UNM Family Development Program)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

Public Education Department (PED)

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 646 appropriates \$150,000 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico to pay for the Family Development Program to perform outreach and education in parenting to families living in poverty in Albuquerque.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$150,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2007 shall revert to the general fund.

As of 2/6/06, Senate Bill 415 includes \$400,000 to expand services for the Family Development Program, including personal services and employee benefits of additional full-time-equivalent positions;

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to the University of New Mexico (UNM), the Family Development Program (FDP) within the UNM College of Education, provides research-based professional development workshops throughout New Mexico, and disseminates educational materials relevant to children's early education and development. The workshops and materials reflect current research on the critical importance of children's development in the first years of life and on how children learn best. They are based on research in family-centered, multicultural, bilingual education and match national recommendations for best practices for training teachers to help teachers and family members respond to young children's earliest delight in learning.

UNM notes that in 2004-2005, FDP brought together 1,385 teachers, staff, parents and other family members from 98 communities throughout New Mexico to participate in 116 professional and skills development workshops. FDP's Family Development Journal is distributed semiannually to school superintendents, directors of instruction, elementary school principals, early childhood educators, parents, and pediatricians, various community-based programs, and, through a partnership with the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD), to 8,000 registered child care providers.

According to the Higher Education Department (HED), the Family Development Program is one of the top initiatives identified by the UNM Board of Regents for this year.

HED states that the Family Development Program (FDP) is positioned to make a significant contribution to the state's early childhood and family support agenda through expanded legislative funding. The funds would secure needed program staff to meet statewide annual requests for community-based parenting training and develop a new web-based approach to increase accessibility and educational support for teachers and families. Also, this initiative would reinforce state goals to close the achievement gap and assure educational success for all children, especially those living in poverty.

HED notes that New Mexico is the first state in the nation to implement a program of this type, which utilizes the latest brain research information about how children learn. With past state support and other grant money, this internationally recognized program provides statewide training to members of the public as well as state entities. It serves the community directly by promoting opportunities for families and individuals to recognize their strengths, set their own agendas, and make creative changes in their lives.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

According to HED, this appropriation would reinforce state goals to close the achievement gap and assure educational success for all children, especially those living in poverty.

ML/yr