

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/19/08

SPONSOR Miera LAST UPDATED _____ HB 20

SHORT TITLE UNM Raza Planning Resource Center SB _____

ANALYST Haug

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$100.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)
University of New Mexico (UNM)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 20 appropriates \$100.0 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico for the Resource Center for Raza Planning.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2009 shall revert to the general fund.

HED states that this request was submitted by the University of New Mexico for \$100,000 to the New Mexico Higher Education Department for review, but it is not included in the Department's funding recommendation for FY09.

The HED's evaluation table of FY09 Research and Public Service Projects provided to the LFC classifies this project as a "would not oppose if funding available" project. Reasons for this classification decision are not provided. (LFC Report 07-20, Higher Education Department Review of Selected Research and Public Service Projects, January 12, 2008, Table 4, p76.)

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HED states that the purpose of the appropriation is to pay for the expansion of the Resource Center for Raza Planning (RCRP). RCRP is a Center in the School of Architecture and Planning, whose mission is to promote the sustainability and survivability of traditional communities in New Mexico. It was formed to contribute to the community development efforts of the traditional communities in New Mexico.

According to UNM, The Resource Center for Raza Planning is a UNM initiative that increases the outreach of UNM to New Mexico communities and increases the accessibility of New Mexico residents to the university's School of Architecture and Planning. The Resource Center for Raza Planning is a service-learning program that has effectively provided access to UNM services and expertise to improve the quality of life for New Mexico communities. Through RCRP UNM graduate students:

- Acquire hands-on community development skills and experience through various real world projects
- Gain in-depth knowledge of planning issues affecting local traditional communities in New Mexico
- Work with a team of planning faculty and other planning students dedicated to improving the quality of life of New Mexico residents

Further, UNM states that over the next five years, the Resource Center for Raza Planning will create structural linkages between UNM programs and New Mexico communities that provide technical support for both, conduct student recruitment campaigns, develop effective interfaces between UNM's many programs, and build the capacity of New Mexico residents in the professions of Architecture and Planning.

UNM says that the Resource Center for Raza Planning utilizes community service as a vehicle to enhance the academic experience and ensure the successful completion of students' academic goals. Through RCRP, students have performed valuable, significant, and necessary service that has direct and clearly identifiable benefits to local communities. Projects are in the realm of economic policy and development; sector planning; infrastructure development including water, sewer, drainage and road improvements; site designs; community impact assessments; surveys; youth curriculum; and facilitating public participation processes.

In addition UNM states that students utilize RCRP to gain experience as professionals and as citizens of their communities. Approximately forty (43) students that have worked for RCRP have gone on to work professionally in various fields including local, state and federal government positions, and various non-profit organizations. RCRP has employed an additional 25 students to help with organizing work and door-to-door surveys. RCRP also utilizes many volunteers to help with specific tasks.

GH/mt