

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 1/22/08

SPONSOR Trujillo LAST UPDATED _____ HB 242

SHORT TITLE Santa Fe Youth Transitional Living Services SB _____

ANALYST Propst

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$50.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 242, Making an Appropriation for Youth Transitional Living Services in Santa Fe, appropriates \$50.0 thousand from the general fund to DFA for a transitional living program in Santa Fe that provides apartments and life skills development for homeless youth ages 16 to 21.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$50.0 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY09 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

CYFD notes that the bill would provide funding for a Transitional Living Program in Santa Fe County that would serve homeless and runaway youth sixteen to twenty-one years of age. The program would offer temporary shelter, board, living skills education, behavioral health and social services to this population.

In 2002, the US Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention estimated that there are nearly 1.7 million homeless and runaway youth in the United States.

Many homeless youth leave home after years of physical and/or sexual abuse, addiction of a family member, and/or parental neglect; and many of these youth have been in child welfare custody or foster care. Studies show that homeless youth benefit from programs that meet immediate and basic needs first, including housing, and then help them to address other aspects of their lives (National Coalition for the Homeless, Fact Sheet #13, August 2007). A Colorado study suggests it costs less than \$6 thousand to permanently move a homeless youth off the streets, compared to the more than \$53 thousand required to maintain a youth in the criminal justice system for one year (www.medicalnewstoday.com, June 12, 2007).

CYFD funds and manages transitional living programs within the state for both youth aging out of foster care, and youth paroling from the juvenile correctional facilities. The bill does not appear to offer a provision for coordinating or collaborating with existing CYFD-funded transitional living and service programs.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

CYFD notes that the term “temporary shelter” most frequently refers to programs for runaway and homeless youth lasting under 30 days while the term “transitional living” most frequently refers to programs lasting up to 18 months.

WEP/bb