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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/23/08

SPONSOR     Rainaldi     LAST UPDATED                      HB                     

SHORT TITLE     Culturally Sensitive Substance Abuse Programs     SB     82    

ANALYST     Weber    

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$150.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From  
Human Services Department  
Indian Affairs Department

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 82 appropriates \$150 thousand from the general fund to the Indian Affairs Department for a culturally competent substance abuse program for the Ramah Chapter of the Navajo Nation.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$150 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

The Indian Affairs Department notes:

Issues related to cultural differences in the context of health care are especially salient for the Indian population in New Mexico. According to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights:

For many Native Americans, there is a concern that health care providers' cultural insensitivity and the lack of acceptance of traditional healing practices and traditional medicine may create barriers to receiving care. Accordingly, it is important that 'culturally competent' health services be available to Native Americans. If health services are not offered to the targeted patient population in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner, treatment will remain ineffective and any effort to eliminate racial and ethnic health care disparities will fall short.

Native Americans suffer disproportionately from alcohol and substance abuse. According to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, for the period between 2002-2005, Native Americans were more likely than members of other ethnic groups to have experienced alcohol or illicit drug use disorders, meaning dependence or abuse. During that same period, 10.7% of Indians were found to have an alcohol use disorder, compared to 7.6% among other racial groups, while 5% of Indians were found to have an illicit drug use disorder, compared to 2.9% in the population overall.

According to 2000 Census estimates, approximately 74.72% of McKinley County's 74,798 residents are Native American. The Ramah Chapter is located within McKinley County New Mexico. "Between 1975 and 1985, McKinley County experienced chronic alcoholism at nineteen times the national average, alcohol-related traffic accidents at seven times the national average, and deaths from all alcohol-related causes at four times the national average." It is thought that McKinley County's alcohol problem "is a problem endemic to Indian Country. According to 2002 Indian Health Service statistics, American Indians and Alaska Natives die from alcoholism at nearly eight times the rate of Americans generally.

There are many recognized traditional healing approaches from various ethnicities in New Mexico. Those include Native American traditional healers, Hispanic curanderos, the Sikh communities, and other groups. Many Native American traditional healing practices have been shown to be effective means of addressing substance abuse and related disorders in New Mexico, utilizing interventions such as talking circles, tribal/sheriff/Governor/marriage sponsors, sweat lodge peacemakers, prayer meetings, family group conferencing, and traditional healing ceremonies. For example, the Na'Nizhoozhi Center, Inc. was established in 1992 to address the problem of intoxication in McKinley County and the City of Gallup, NM. The program, at the Na'Nizhoozhi Center, has demonstrated positive outcomes in addressing the substance abuse needs of individuals seeking substance abuse treatment with the integrated use of traditional healing techniques. The federally funded Access to Recovery grant, currently managed by the Behavioral Health Services Division, funds traditional healing through substance abuse recovery support services and has shown positive outcomes with this approach.

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