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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/1/08

SPONSOR Nava LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Gadsden School Meals for Senior Citizens SB 521

ANALYST Nava

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$30.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD)

Public Education Department (PED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 521 appropriates \$30.0 thousand to the Aging and Long-term Services Department to serve meals to low-income senior citizens at schools in the Gadsden school district. Any unexpended or encumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2009 shall revert to the general fund.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The funds contained in SB 521 are not included in the FY09 budget request of the Aging and Long-Term Services Department.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

ALTSD notes that their staff, particularly the Department's nutritionist, would work with the Gadsden school district to implement this project. The Department's nutrition staff is currently participating in the Doña Ana County Healthy Kids project. This project, funded by the National Governors' Association, is designed to create a safe, accessible, and adequate infrastructure that

expands opportunities to increase physical activity and pro-mote healthy eating for children, youth, and families, including elders. Senior volunteers are being recruited to help organize intergenerational community events; an intergenerational meal site in the Gadsden school district would be a perfect compliment to this initiative. The ALTSD nutrition staff would provide training and technical assistance. Intergenerational interaction has been shown to increase wellbeing for both children and elders. Additionally, seniors in Gadsden with limited incomes would receive a daily meal to enhance their nutritional status and, as such, this initiative is consistent with a statewide initiative to end hunger for all New Mexicans.

PED notes that currently, senior volunteers assigned by the schools' principals to monitor or tutor school children during the lunch-serving period are categorized as "Program Adults" by the food service program. A lunch is given to a "senior citizen volunteer" free of charge, which is permissible under USDA guidance. Senior volunteers not assigned by the schools or who are visitors to the school must pay for a meal if they eat in the school cafeteria. The average charge of an adult meal ranges from \$2.25 to \$3.00 in New Mexico. Seniors in the schools include foster grandparents, who devote their volunteer time to give one-to-one daily attention to children with special needs, tutor children in reading, mentor teenagers and young mothers and give emotional support to abused and neglected children. This assistance from senior volunteers is an ongoing need. They serve as mentors in communities and are an asset in intergenerational activities.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

ALTSD has the ability to contract and monitor these funds using existing staff and resources.

GG/nt