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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/29/15

SPONSOR Madalena LAST UPDATED _____ HB 223

SHORT TITLE At-Risk Family Supportive Housing Project SB _____

ANALYST Kludt

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY15	FY16		
	\$900.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

SUMMARY

House bill 223 appropriates \$900 thousand from the general fund to the Children, Youth and Families Department to fund a pilot supportive housing project to provide permanent supportive housing and supportive services to at-risk families and children.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$900 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY16 shall revert to the general fund.

The FY15 operating budget for CYFD includes \$200 thousand of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding for the supportive housing pilot project known as “Keeping Families Together”. The FY16 LFC recommendation continues the \$200 thousand TANF and adds an additional \$700 thousand TANF for a total of \$900 thousand for this pilot project. The FY16 Executive recommendation continues the \$200 thousand TANF and adds an additional \$700 thousand from general fund for a total of \$900 thousand of funding for this pilot project. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY16 shall revert to the general fund. The CYFD states that it is uncertain whether this bill is intended to augment the existing recommendations.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The permanent supportive housing model is based on a philosophy that supports individual choice and empowerment, rights and responsibilities of tenancy, and appropriate, flexible, accessible, and available supports that meet each consumer's changing needs. This approach to housing parallels with the recovery and resiliency movements already underway in New Mexico.

Permanent supportive housing is decent, safe, integrated rental housing in the community. It is housing that is affordable to individuals with low or no incomes. In permanent supportive housing, the individual has all the rights and obligations of tenancy. The individual may remain in the unit for as long as they want to and as long as they meet their obligations as tenants. Ideally, permanent supportive housing is affordable, meaning tenants pay no more than 30 percent of their income toward housing costs.

Permanent supportive housing recognizes that for many individuals experiencing substance use or mental health concerns, access to quality, community-based supportive services can ensure successful tenancy in the housing. As such, the housing is linked with voluntary and flexible supportive services to support tenancy and address other needs. Supportive and permanent housing in conjunction with supportive services ensures a seamless link between the housing component and the services component. Ideally, services are provided separate from the housing itself.

This bill identifies at-risk families as those that:

1. Have children who have been identified as victims of child abuse or neglect;
2. Lack adequate housing; and
3. Struggle with substance abuse or mental health issues.

This bill does not identify the families' income level as an eligibility criteria nor does it include exclusionary criteria (such as history of convicted sexual offenses or history of convicted methamphetamine production) which exist in other supportive housing programs in New Mexico.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

CYFD currently has a four-year, \$682 thousand state general fund contract from November 1, 2014 through June 30, 2018 with the Supportive Housing Coalition of New Mexico to provide supportive housing services to approximately 24 youth through the Transitions Supportive Housing program. This program serves Juvenile Justice Services and Protective Services youth transitioning from CYFD services and involved with behavioral health services.

With stable housing, transition-age youth involved with Transitions have the opportunity to achieve other important life goals, including improved physical and behavioral health, education, job training and employment and thus increasing their self-sufficiency and allowing them to become part of their community. For these youth, access to quality supportive services can increase the likelihood of successful tenancy. Therefore, housing is paired with oversight from CYFD transition staff and appropriate community-based supportive services to address the issues and needs that face these youth.

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CYFD states this bill has the potential to improve safety outcomes as it allows the agency to provide resources to families when there are no safety concerns; and to improve timely reunification since this provides families with additional and necessary resources for timely reunification.

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