FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

	LAST UPDATED
SPONSOR Lopez	**ORIGINAL DATE** 2/10/23
	BILL
SHORT TITLE UNM Project Echo	**NUMBER** Senate Bill 228
	ANALYST Jorgensen

APPROPRIATION*
(dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY23	**FY24**		
	$6,000.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

Parentheses ( ) indicate expenditure decreases.
*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Higher Education Department (HED)
University of New Mexico (UNM)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Senate Bill 228

Senate Bill 228 appropriates $6 million from the general fund to the University of New Mexico for the purpose of supporting project ECHO programs that improve education and health in underserved areas.

This bill does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect June 16, 2023, (90 days after the Legislature adjourns) if signed into law.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of $6 million contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY25 shall revert to the fund. Although this bill does not specify future appropriations, multiyear appropriations, particularly if used to fund services, create an expectation the program will continue in future fiscal years; therefore, this cost could become recurring after the funding period.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

UNM reports the goal of this funding is to expand and grow a network of educational support programs from early childhood education-12th grade and beyond, providing support for teachers in areas of social emotional learning, teacher and student resiliency, literacy, STEM education.

The budget of project echo grew from $2.5 million in FY22 to over $6 million in FY23. UNM did not request additional funding for project ECHO in the FY24 budget.

Project ECHO is a hub-and-spoke knowledge-sharing network, led by expert teams who use multi-point videoconferencing to conduct virtual clinics with community providers. Project ECHO's focus areas are health, education, and civics.

CJ/al/ne