

LFC Requester: _____

AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2026 REGULAR SESSION

**WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov and email to billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov
(Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF)**

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Date Prepared: _____ *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: SB301 Original _____ Correction _____
 Amendment X Substitute _____

Sponsor: LM Lopez, S Pinto **Agency Name and Code** CYFD - 690
Short Title: FOSTER PARENT CARING FOR INDIAN CHILD SUPPORT **Number:** _____
Person Writing Kathleen Hardy **Phone:** 505-660-8508 **Email** Kathleen.hardy@cyfd.nm.gov

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
	4,000.0	Recurring	General

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		

(Parenthesis () indicate revenue decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total						

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:
 Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: This bill appropriates \$4,000.0 from the state general fund to the Children Youth and Families Department for expenditure in FY2027 for the Foster Engagement Adaptability Diversity Initiative Program (READI NM) to support culturally competent training services for foster parents caring for an Indian child pursuant to the state Indian Family Protection and federal Indian Child Welfare Acts.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This bill appropriates \$4,000.0 from the state general fund to the Children Youth and Families Department for expenditure in FY2027 with any remaining amount reverting.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

This bill appropriates monies to CYFD for the READI NM training, a centralized training program available statewide providing foundational knowledge for resource foster parent applicants to learn their role and be “READI” to work with families in the foster care system. While the bill provides funding for READI NM trainings, it does not specify how the appropriated funds will be used to support or sustain existing curriculum components related to culturally responsive training for foster parents caring for Indian children. Although READI NM currently includes modules addressing ICWA, IFPA, historical trauma, and cultural humility, the bill doesn’t specify as to whether funding will be directed toward maintaining these modules, supporting continued tribal consultation, or ensuring consistent implementation statewide.

The READI NM curriculum currently requires prospective foster parents to complete 15 core training modules prior to certification. The curriculum may be delivered either through shorter sessions over approximately one month or as an intensive, three-day training, with participation from applicants statewide, including through virtual platforms. CYFD has historically faced challenges related to training compliance and timely completion of required modules.

The READI NM curriculum already includes substantive content intended to support compliance with existing state and federal law governing placements of Indian children. Specifically, the curriculum contains a module designed to help foster parents understand the historical and generational trauma experienced by Native American families, as well as the legal and practical importance of adhering to the federal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and the state Indian Family Protection Act (IFPA). This module was developed by the Office of Tribal Affairs in partnership with tribes, nations, and pueblos in New Mexico.

In addition, the READI NM curriculum includes a Cultural Humility module that encourages participants to examine how culture, identity, and power influence the experiences of children, youth, and families involved in the foster care system. Curriculum developers also participated in meetings of the New Mexico Tribal Indian Child Welfare Consortium and consulted with tribal leaders regarding how pre-service resource parent training can better support children and families across New Mexico’s 23 sovereign tribal nations.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

This bill would require contracts administration from within CYFD's existing resources related to the coordination, monitoring, and oversight of services funded by the appropriation.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

None identified.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None identified.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None identified.

ALTERNATIVES

An alternative option: the funding could be used to create additional full-time equivalent (FTE) positions dedicated to training delivery and foster parent support, as well as to support the development and implementation of in-service training programming. This would allow CYFD to increase the frequency of trainings, offer additional delivery modalities, and provide targeted, ongoing education for foster parents caring for an Indian child beyond initial certification.

In-service programming would enable CYFD to build on existing READI NM curriculum components related to cultural humility, historical trauma, and compliance with the Indian Family Protection Act and the federal Indian Child Welfare Act, while also addressing other high-need areas identified through practice and stakeholder input. Currently, READI NM does not have dedicated FTEs or resources for in-service training, and training staff are focused primarily on pre-service requirements for foster parent applicants.

READI NM trainings are currently delivered in English and Spanish by a small statewide team of trainers, soon to total six, serving foster parent applicants across New Mexico. Expanding both staffing and program development capacity would allow CYFD to provide more responsive and sustained support to foster parents caring for Indian children, while strengthening placement stability and foster parent retention.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Status quo.

AMENDMENTS

None proposed.