

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the Legislature. LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 147

SHORT TITLE: Juvenile Community Corrections Changes

SPONSOR: Maestas

LAST ORIGINAL
UPDATE: _____ **DATE:** 2/17/2026 **ANALYST:** Caballes/Malone

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT* (dollars in thousands)

Agency/Program	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
CYFD Juvenile Justice Services	No fiscal impact	\$600-\$2,000	\$600-\$2,000	\$1,200-\$4,000	Recurring	Juvenile Community Corrections Grant Fund/General fund

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

Conflicts with House Bill 5 and Senate Bill 165

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency or Agencies Providing Analysis
Public Defender’s Office
New Mexico Sentencing Commission
Children, Youth, and Families Department
Department of Public Safety
Administration of Courts

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Senate Bill 147

Senate Bill (SB147) amends the Juvenile Community Corrections (JCC) Act, Section 33-9A-1 et seq. NMSA 1978, to expand the eligible uses of the juvenile community corrections grant fund. Currently, the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) may only distribute funds to organizations in the form of grants, and youth adjudicated delinquents are the only intended recipients of services provided using the grants.

SB147 expands the intended recipients to include children or youth referred by CYFD, regardless of whether they have been adjudicated as delinquent. It proposes to repeal Section 33-

9A-5 (2009), which provides that CYFD selection panels shall screen youth who have been adjudicated as delinquent for participation in the program. The bill would instead give priority to adjudicated delinquents but would expand eligible recipients to any youth or children referred by CYFD who may require prevention, intervention, or diversion services. The bill also allows for the distribution of funds directly to applicant organizations' programming and proposes to increase the percentage of funds dedicated to administrative functions from 10 percent to 12 percent of overall funding.

The bill also adds definitions of "child," defined as a person who is under 18-years-old, and "youth," defined as a person who is 18-21 years old.

This bill does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns, which is May 20, 2026.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Although SB147 does not contain an appropriation, expanding eligibility for juvenile community corrections programs is likely to increase costs for such programming. In FY25, the JCC program served 438 youth at an average cost of \$4,262 per participant. CYFD estimates that SB147 will expand the eligible service population by 7500 youth and that it would cost roughly \$34 million to serve all eligible youth. It will take time to scale up programming and serve additional eligible youth. If the agency increased the service population by 300-500 youth a year at a cost of between \$2 thousand and \$4 thousand, the annual cost would be between \$600 thousand and \$2 million.

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) anticipates minimal administrative cost for statewide update, distribution, and documentation of statutory changes and notes that new laws, amendments, and new hearings have the potential to increase caseloads in the courts. AOC also notes that because the courts participate in performance-based budgeting, this bill may have an impact on cases disposed of as a percent of cases filed and percent change in case filings by type.

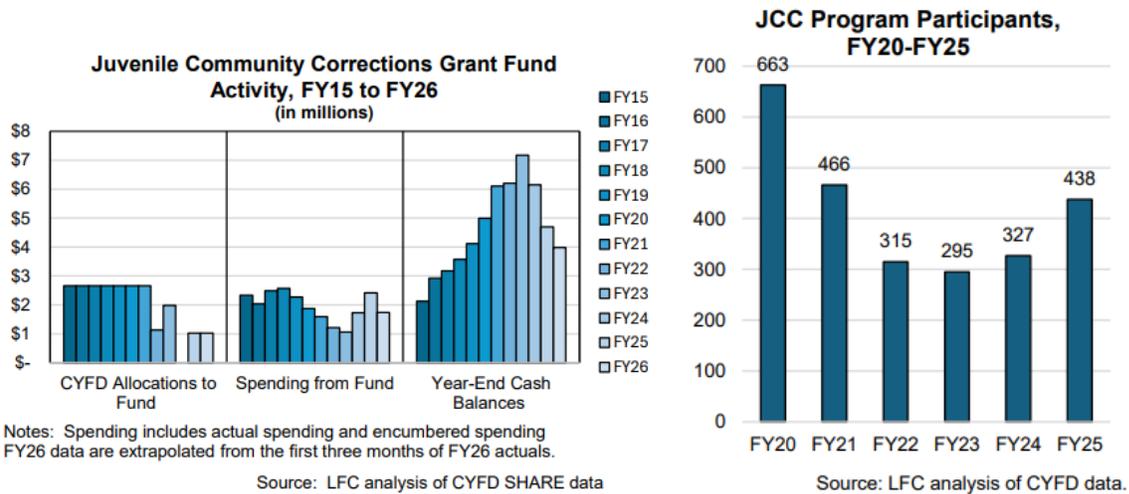
The Law Office of the Public Defender (LOPD) notes that, ideally, AB147 will reduce the number of juveniles charged with crimes and/or adjudicated as delinquent and that "if the bill works as intended, it could potentially reduce the workload of the LOPD attorneys and staff who work on juvenile justice", but could have the effect of increasing LOPD caseload if strict conditions subject youth to a pipeline toward the criminal justice system.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Under the JCC Act, CYFD is responsible for administering a statutory juvenile community corrections grant fund and allocating grants from the fund to local entities "to provide community corrections programs and services for the diversion of adjudicated delinquents to community-based services." (Section 33-9A-3 NMSA 1978). Based on an application process, CYFD can award grants to local governments or other nonprofit or for-profit organizations to provide services for juveniles who have been adjudicated in court and sentenced to probation or on supervised release from a CYFD secure facility.

A 2025 LFC juvenile justice spotlight found that data on program impacts are limited because

few juveniles receiving JCC services complete the expected life skills assessment surveys at the initiation and completion of JCC programming. In FY24, only 27 percent of juveniles receiving JCC services completed both the initial and final skills assessments but those who did reported improvement in life skills. CYFD data indicate that program participation decreased by 34 percent over the past five years from 663 JCC program participants in FY20 to 438 JCC program participants in FY25 (most recent data available). In FY25, CYFD awarded \$2.4 million in JCC grant funds to 14 service providers serving 21 communities but only \$1.9 million was spent by communities.



The amendments in SB147 expand eligibility for juvenile community corrections programs beyond just adjudicated youth, meaning it removes the prerequisite that a child be adjudicated or have pending charges before they receive services. Although cash balances in the grant fund grew up until FY23, peaking at about \$7 million, balances have decreased over the last two years. The fund is supported by general fund appropriations, and increasing the population of eligible youth will require the fund to be further supported by general fund appropriations in the future.

Agency analysis provided by LOPD notes that the bill may have the effect of placing children and youth who have not been accused of a crime or delinquent act into situations where they are likely to violate conditions of strict programming and it may ultimately act as a pipeline into the criminal justice system.

The New Mexico Sentencing Commission notes it supports SB147.

CYFD states that it measures the recidivism rates of at-risk youth and that these rates will be positively affected by the bill.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Amendments in SB165 conflict with amendments made in SB147 to the definitions section of the Juvenile Community Corrections Act at NMSA 1978, Section 33-9A-2 and the Juvenile Community Corrections Grant Fund at NMSA 1978, Section 33-9A-3.

This bill also conflicts with amendments made in HB5, which amends sections 33-9A-3

(Juvenile Community Corrections/Connections Grant Fund), 33-9A-4 (applications/criteria), 33-9A-5 (Selection Panels), and 41-13-2 (Governmental Immunity Act definitions).

DC/CEM/ct/dw