

1. Study:
 - a. and monitor the mechanisms for distributing state, federal and private funding for school programs aimed at reducing child hunger;
 - b. mechanisms for prioritizing prospective uses for the money;
 - c. programs in place to provide hunger assistance through the public schools; and
 - d. procedures and strategies for ensuring appropriate and effective use funding to provide the most services to children in New Mexico.
2. Pursue legislation making the task force permanent.
3. Report findings to the appropriate interim legislative committee and governor no later than December 1, 2011.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The PED estimate additional staff costs of \$26,500 dollars for 400 hours of two staff members to fulfill PED's obligations to the task force. The DOH reports no fiscal impact for the DOH. The PED estimate is used in the table above.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The task force established by SJM 7 would include 11 members as follows:

- two PED members, appointed by the secretary, one of which must be from the Student Nutrition Bureau;
- one representative from the Department of Health (DOH), appointed by the secretary of DOH;
- two representatives from the Human Services Department (HSD), appointed by the secretary of HSD;
- two representatives from the Children Youth and Families Department (CYFD), appointed by the secretary of CYFD;
- one representative from the New Mexico School Superintendents Association;
- one representative from the New Mexico School Boards Association;
- one representative from Farm to Table; and
- one representative from Appleseed.

The DOH notes that the Student Nutrition Task Force was established in 2009. SJM7 is requesting that the task force work continue, to study children's hunger and access to nutrition in New Mexico Schools. The task force brings stakeholders together to make policy changes to more effectively and appropriately use scarce resources.

The PED states:

PED oversees the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) administered on the federal level by the Food and Nutrition Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The program is administered by the PED's Student Nutrition Bureau. The local school districts then use this allocated funding to purchase foods that produce meals that meet federal nutrient standards. In accordance with 210.19(a)(4), the state administering agency is responsible for ensuring that school food authorities comply with federal requirements through audits, administrative reviews, technical assistance, training, guidance materials, or other means.

According to the USDA Economic Research Service brief on Food Security, in 2009, 85 percent of U.S. households were food secure throughout the entire year, and 14.7 percent of households were food insecure at least some time during that year.

According to data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, about 14.7 percent of New Mexico families had difficulty providing food for themselves in 2009 versus 16.1 percent in 2008. The USDA ranks New Mexico 32nd nationwide for families with very low food security

SJM 7 requests the task force to study and monitor the mechanisms for distributing state, federal, and private funding for school programs aimed at reducing child hunger. Although some of the agency members of the task force may have authority for monitoring some federal and state funds, the task force as a whole would not have this authority nor would the task force, or any of its members, have access to data or the authority to monitor private schools.

GH/mew:bym