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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Lopez ORIGINAL DATE 2/25/2019
 LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Resiliency Through Programming for Youth SB 497

ANALYST Chenier

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY19	FY20		
	\$250.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 497 appropriates \$250 thousand from the general fund to DOH for expenditure in FY20 to contract with a program that provides youth development to reduce risk factors and promote resiliency through programming for youth who are trained in leadership development, media production, narrative strategy, civic engagement, and early childhood development.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$250 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY20 shall revert to the general fund.

DOH said they could administer the funding proposed in the bill with existing staffing resources. State agencies must adhere to the State Procurement Code. Therefore, with this appropriation, a request for proposals (RFP) process would need to be completed to distribute these funds.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DOH provided the following:

Recent data (2017) from New Mexico's Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey demonstrate a pressing need for programs that positively impact youth resiliency. For example, New Mexico youth experience higher rates of persistent sadness or hopelessness, suicidality, early onset drug and alcohol use, unprotected sexual activity, physically fighting, carrying weapons, and dating violence than youth nationwide (<http://www.youthrisk.org/tables/#/2017>).

Resiliency can be defined as having the skills needed to achieve positive outcomes despite challenging circumstances, which may be biological or environmental. These skills may be nurtured through youth development programs and are enhanced in the presence of protective factors, which counter various risk factors that may be present at the individual, family, or community levels.

In the last several decades, several models of resilience have been described by researchers, including the compensatory model, the challenge model, the protective factor model, the protective-stabilizing model, the protective-reactive model, and the protective-protective model. Intervention programs or prevention initiatives typically embrace one or more of these models in promoting resilience (Zolkoski, S.M., & Bullock, L.M. [2012]. Resilience in children and youth: A review. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 34 [2012], 2295-2303).

Positive youth development (PYD) programs engage young people in intentional, productive, and constructive ways while recognizing and enhancing their strengths. These programs promote positive outcomes by providing opportunities, fostering positive relationships, and giving the support that is needed to develop young people's assets and prevent risky behaviors (<https://youth.gov/youth-topics/positive-youth-development/key-principles-positive-youth-development>).

Research indicates that young people who are surrounded by a variety of opportunities for positive encounters engage in less risky behavior and ultimately show evidence of higher rates of successful transitions into adulthood. PYD programs are one way to ensure that young people have access to adequate positive opportunities. The available evidence suggests that PYD programs can prevent a variety of risk behaviors among young people and improve social and emotional outcomes (<https://youth.gov/youth-topics/positive-youth-development/key-principles-positive-youth-development>).

DISPARITIES ISSUES

DOH stated that:

Certain populations in New Mexico have more risk factors for poor outcomes and may especially benefit from programming that promotes resilience. These populations include LGBTQ youth; homeless youth; youth with chronic illness or disability; youth with mental health issues; youth who have experienced adverse childhood experiences such as abuse, neglect, parental incarceration, or exposure to domestic violence; and youth from economically depressed areas or communities.

It is recommended that contracted programs be implemented strategically to address these disparities and have the greatest impact on our highest-risk youth. For example, one study identified a promising intervention to build resilience in LGBTQ youth using a gay-straight alliance-based mental health promotion program (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4564052/>).

EC/gb