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## Status of Investments to Expand Social Work Programs

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### Social Work Shortage

- Prior to the pandemic, there were 610 job postings in social work fields per month in 2018-2019, that number grew to over 1,100 for the last 12 months, an 87 percent increase.
  - The job postings reflect current market demand, but do not reflect additional needs, particularly in many public sector employers such as school districts.
- CYFD’s Secretary reported to the LFC sub-committee in June that roughly 7 percent of the agency’s Protective Services workforce has a social work license. CYFD would need to hire about 200 more social workers if the department wanted half of the workforce to be licensed in social work. The agency has also experienced a decrease in the drawdown of federal Title IV-E training funds, which can be used to train a child welfare workforce and provide stipends to students pursuing social work degrees.
- The Regulation and Licensing Department reports there are 5,482 active social worker licenses in the state, of which 5,117 are master’s degree holders. However, it is unknown how many of these licensees are working in clinical practice or whether they are full- or part-time.

### State Investments

- Total program budgets for social work grew from \$5 million in FY21 to \$7.1 million in FY25, an increase of 43 percent.

**Social Work Program Budgets**

	2021	2022	2023	2024 Act.	2025 Proj.
ENMU	419,877	434,011	486,000	723,348	952,000
NMHU	1,291,888	1,451,632	1,946,440	3,200,940	2,350,000
NMSU	1,273,387	1,252,745	1,287,146	1,452,066	1,487,608
WNMU	2,004,311	2,154,741	2,364,742	2,357,922	2,357,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,989,463</b>	<b>5,293,129</b>	<b>6,084,328</b>	<b>7,734,276</b>	<b>7,146,608</b>

Source: LFC Files

- The Legislature recognized the acute need for additional mental health practitioners and provided \$80 million in endowment revenue since FY23. The appropriation language

allows the endowment revenue to be used to hire faculty and support paid practicums, supervision, and financial aid for students.

- Of the \$80 million appropriated, \$65 million has been distributed to individual higher education institutions. HED has yet to distribute the \$10 million appropriated during the 2024 legislative session and \$5 million of the 2023 appropriation was held back to provide an endowment for supervision.

**Impact of Endowment Revenue on Social Work Program Budgets**

	<b>2022 Award Amount</b>	<b>2023 Award Amount</b>	<b>Projected Addtn'l Revenue</b>
ENMU	9,000,000	2,038,462	525,573
NMHU	8,000,000	5,076,923	320,000
NMSU	16,500,000	1,807,692	379,019
WNMU	6,000,000	6,076,923	635,024
UNM	10,500,000	0	475,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>50,000,000</b>	<b>15,000,000</b>	<b>2,334,616</b>

Source: LFC Files

- The additional funding led to the establishment of a new master’s of social work program at ENMU which accepted its first cohort of 36 students in fall, 2024.

- UNM is working with NMHU to establish a social work program to add another 8-12 students beginning in January, 2025.

- In 2024, the Legislature appropriated \$1.7 million through the GRO for a three-year pilot to

incentivize attainment of masters-level social work licensure to develop and retain caseworkers in Protective Services.

- In 2024, the Legislature reauthorized a \$3 million special appropriation for the department’s workforce plan. The appropriation language targeted funding for the recruitment and retention of licensed social workers. However, governor vetoes struck the words “social worker,” changing the legislative intent.

**Enrollment and Graduation Trends**

- Enrollment in master’s programs is unchanged over the past 5 years at 1.3 thousand students while bachelor’s degree enrollments have fallen by 20 percent to 627 students.

**Total Social Work Program Enrollment**

	<b>2018-2019</b>	<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>2020-2021</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>2023-2024</b>
Master's	1,131	1,110	1,135	1,268	1,190	1,131
Bachelor's	787	733	749	671	623	627
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,918</b>	<b>1,843</b>	<b>1,884</b>	<b>1,939</b>	<b>1,813</b>	<b>1,758</b>

Source: LFC Files

- In academic year 2023-2024, 60 percent of master’s degree students were in-state students, though the proportion of in-state students varies considerably by institution.
  - Social work programs can be delivered online enabling higher out-of-state enrollment. However, the proportion of online and in-person instruction varies by institution.

### Master's Degree Enrollment

(2023-2024 School Year)

	Total	In-State	In-State %
NMHU	412	377	92%
NMSU	169	105	62%
WNMU	550	190	35%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,131</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>59%</b>

Source: LFC Files

- Approximately 200 under graduate social work students graduate per year and over 80 percent of those are in-state graduates making it likely they will continue their careers in New Mexico.
- Over 370 master's level students graduate per year and around 60 percent are in-state students so that, in academic year 2023-2024, around 250 of the 413 graduates are New Mexico residents.

### Social Work Program Graduates, by Year

Institution	Program	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
NMHU	Master's	165	162	139	163	152	149
WNMU	Master's	129	120	160	170	173	195
NMSU	Master's	48	53	66	47	83	69
	<b>Total</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>413</b>

Institution	Program	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
NMHU	Bachelor's	112	84	81	69	56	52
ENMU	Bachelor's	47	37	53	53	53	56
WNMU	Bachelor's	34	28	27	29	41	64
NMSU	Bachelor's	46	42	40	58	36	43
	<b>Total</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>215</b>

Source: LFC Files