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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Hochman-Vigil **ORIGINAL DATE** 1/25/20
LAST UPDATED _____ **HB** 19
SHORT TITLE UNM to Study Homelessness **SB** _____
ANALYST Gelay

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY20	FY21		
	\$372.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files
 The 2019 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress

Responses Received From
 UNM School of Architecture and Planning (UNM)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 19 appropriates \$372 thousand from the general fund to the Board of Regents of UNM for the purpose of conducting a study of homelessness.

There is no effective date of this bill. It is assumed that the effective date is 90 days following adjournment of the Legislature.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY21 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

A recently released report from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) showed that homelessness in New Mexico rose by 27 percent, the largest percentage increase in homelessness in the nation. In New Mexico, this increase represents 690 more New Mexicans, who do not have housing. Homelessness families experienced even higher rates, rising by 29.1 percent, representing 175 people. More than half of all military veterans experiencing homelessness in New Mexico were unsheltered last year. Additionally, the report states that 52

percent of individuals experiencing homelessness have chronic patterns of homelessness; last year this number climbed by 469 individuals. The previous year the number of chronically unhoused individuals rose by 572 individuals.

The UNM Study of Homelessness appropriation will initiate the Shelter and Dignity project within UNM's School of Architecture and Planning's Design and Planning Assistance Center to study homelessness in cooperation with non-profits, municipalities, and other organizations. The Shelter and Dignity Project will:

- Propose housing projects, types and systems to reduce homelessness;
- Illuminate how current systems for producing and regulating the built environment such as municipal ordinances and planning approaches contribute to homelessness; and
- Propose improvements to public spaces to better support those without housing.

Homelessness is a substantial social determinant of public health, a factor in economic development, a factor in crime and the perception of safety, and a moral issue. Urban design and planning are key factors in the supply, cost, health, safety and quality of housing and facilities that support homeless and at-risk populations.

The risk of homelessness is a statewide concern. The City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County, and other municipalities including Las Cruces, Gallup, and Santa Fe are directing significant efforts towards these issues. Housing is essential for financial, social, emotional, and mental stability, and greatly facilitates access to services. Research, planning and design work developed for one community can be shared with other communities in the state (and nationally) to inform policies and projects in multiple municipalities.

The Shelter and Dignity Project will be administered by the Design and Planning Assistance Center (DPAC) in the School of Architecture and Planning. Over the last fifty plus years, the DPAC has worked with non-profits and communities throughout the State on projects of importance to the communities. DPAC is well positioned to conduct research on housing and homelessness because it has an record of working with communities across the state, and the scholars hired to conduct this work can contribute knowledge of and connections to the national and international body of research and researchers.

JGG/rl