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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Lopez **ORIGINAL DATE** 1/26/22
LAST UPDATED _____ **HB** _____
SHORT TITLE Resiliency through Youth Programming **SB** 70
ANALYST Chilton

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY22	FY23		
	\$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 70, Resiliency through Youth Programming, appropriates \$250 thousand from the general fund to the Department of Health for the purpose of contracting with a program to foster youth resiliency that would develop leaders among the youth, produce tested media interventions, civic engagement, and would foster early childhood development.

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 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 FY23 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DOH summarizes the data regarding New Mexico's need for, and the importance of supporting resiliency training as follows:

New Mexico youth have significant risk factors, at higher rates than most other states. The Annie E. Casey Foundation ranks states annually on overall child well-being using four domains to capture what children most need to thrive:

- Economic Well-Being (49th)
- Education (50th)
- Health (48th)
- Family and Community (49th)

According to the “Kids Count” project, in 2018, New Mexico ranked among the worst three states for each domain, and New Mexico ranked 50th (last) for overall child well-being. This ranking is based on data that include the following:

- Children living in poverty (30 percent in New Mexico; 19 percent nationwide)
- High school students not graduating on time (29 percent in New Mexico; 16 percent nationwide)
- Children in single-parent families (42 percent in New Mexico; 35 percent nationwide)
- Children living in high-poverty areas (22 percent in New Mexico; 13 percent nationwide)
- Teen births per 1,000 (30 in New Mexico; 20 nationwide)

<https://www.aecf.org/m/resourcedoc/aecf-2018kidscountdatabook-2018.pdf>

Recent data (2019) from New Mexico’s Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey demonstrate a pressing need for programs that positively impact youth resiliency. The percent of students with feelings of sadness or hopelessness increased from 29.7 percent to 40.4 percent. Use of electronic media for 3+ hours daily increased by 105 percent, from 21 percent to 43.1 percent. Skipping school due to safety concerns increased by 93 percent, from 7.2 percent to 13.9 percent. Current e-cigarette use increased by 42 percent, from 24.0 percent in 2015 to 34.0 percent in 2019. ([2020 YRRS Connections Factsheet Key Trends – July – New Mexico Youth Risk & Resiliency Survey](#))

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>).

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.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

There are a number of institutions in New Mexico engaged in work fitting the description used in the language of the bill. DOH indicates that “Positive Youth Development, with its roots in prevention, has focused on the development of mental health through its focus on the role of resiliency, the protective factors in a youth’s environment, and the role they play in a youth’s ability to deal with adversity. Much like mental health promotion, the positive youth development approach promotes enhancing youth strengths and positive outcomes through fostering healthy relationships and providing opportunities.”

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