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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR <u>Stefanics/Lopez/Ortiz y Pino/McKenna</u> SHORT TITLE <u>Senior Farmers' Market Nutritional Program</u>	LAST UPDATED _____ ORIGINAL DATE <u>2/22/23</u> BILL NUMBER <u>Senate Bill 354</u> ANALYST <u>Klundt</u>
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APPROPRIATION* (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY23	FY24		
	\$1,000.0	Recurring	General Fund

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.
 *Amounts reflect most recent version of this legislation.

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT* (dollars in thousands)

	FY23	FY24	FY25	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		\$190.8	\$190.8	\$381.6	Recurring	General Fund

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.
 *Amounts reflect most recent version of this legislation.

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Responses Received From
 Department of Health (DOH)
 Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Senate Bill 354

Senate Bill 354 (SB354) appropriates \$1 million dollars from the general fund to the Department of Health to match with federal funds for an expansion of the senior farmers' market nutrition program to provide vouchers for purchasing New Mexico-grown fruit and vegetables to additional eligible, low-income seniors; provided that the appropriation is not used for associated program administration.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$1 million contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund.

Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY24 shall revert to the general fund. Although SB354 does not specify future appropriations, establishing a new grant program could create an expectation the program will continue in future fiscal years; therefore, this cost is assumed to be recurring.

DOH also reported Staff support has been included within the executive recommendation for three Full Time Employees.

Description of Cost	Cost
Senior & WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program FTEs- Recurring Funds	190,800.00
Total Cost	\$190,800.00

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DOH reported the New Mexico WIC and Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition programs (FMNP and SFMNP) was the first in the nation to introduce a Proof of Concept-A Modern Technology for mobile and shopper card payments in 2021. In July 2022 the program was able to kick off a statewide implementation of the new technology with 83 Farmers Markets, Farm Stands and Road-Side Stands, while serving 14 thousand eligible WIC and Senior Participants. This project has gained national attention within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Services community and other state WIC and Farmers’ Market programs. This project initiative is being closely monitored by the White House.

The New Mexico Farmers’ Marketing Association, Farm to Table, and other agencies and organizations have collaborated to call for and support this bill that could improve the nutritional status of at-risk senior citizens in New Mexico.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

DOH reported:

In 2016, New Mexico ranked 14th among all states for percentage of the population aged 65 or over, and this statistic is expected to increase (New Mexico Department of Health, 2018) <https://www.nmhealth.org/publication/view/plan/2229/>

According to the City of Albuquerque, New Mexico seniors are 2nd in the nation in food insecurity. In addition, New Mexico has the 2nd worst rates of poverty in the country. In New Mexico, 13% of people who seek food assistance are senior citizens. [About Senior Hunger — City of Albuquerque \(cabq.gov\)](#)

In addition to currently serving 14 thousand participants for FFY 2023, this bill will provide additional access to healthy foods for an approximately 20 thousand additional participants (customers) in FY24, which could boost profits for small farmers and local economies (stakeholders) as the additional vouchers are spent at farmers’ markets across the state.