

LFC Requester:

Kelly Klundt

AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2025 REGULAR SESSION

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO

[AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/analysis) and email to billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov*(Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF)***SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION***{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}*Date Prepared: 02/04/25

Check all that apply:

Bill Number: SB 273Original Correction Amendment Substitute Sponsor: Elizabeth Stefanics / Debra
Sariñana / William Sharer / Jay
BlockAgency Name
and Code
Number:Department of Veterans' Services /
67000Short Title: Veteran Transitional HousingPerson Writing: Danelle LuceroPhone: 505-372-9035 Email: Danelle.lucero@dvs.nm.gov**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT****APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
N/A	500.0	recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () indicate expenditure decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		
N/A	N/A	N/A		

(Parenthesis () indicate revenue decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:
Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SECTION III: NARRATIVE An Act making an appropriation to the Veterans' Services Department to contract for services to support transitional housing for Veterans and their families.

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: This bill proposes an appropriation of \$500,000 from the general fund to the Veterans' Services Department for the fiscal year 2026. The funds are designated for contracting services to support transitional housing for veterans and their families.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS –The bill specifies the use of funds for contracting services to support transitional housing. This includes identifying and selecting contractors, reviewing proposals, and ensuring compliance with all relevant procurement laws and regulations. The agency would absorb the workload into current contracting processes and staff duties. The agency does not foresee any additional fiscal implications for this bill.

Note: major assumptions underlying fiscal impact should be documented.

Note: if additional operating budget impact is estimated, assumptions and calculations should be reported in this section.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is dedicated to ending homelessness among veterans, recognizing it as the nation's duty to ensure all veterans and their families have stable housing. While progress has been made, there is still work to do, particularly in New Mexico. The state's rural nature and lack of affordable housing contribute to housing instability for veterans, especially those with families. Traditional communal living options do not provide the necessary stability for veterans. In New Mexico, veterans also require wrap-around services, such as healthcare, education, employment, and childcare. The homeless population in New Mexico increased by 50% from 2023 to 2024, with 6.7% of the homeless population being veterans. Additionally, 26.8% of the homeless are families with children, and 44.1% are chronically homeless individuals. There are 3,400 veterans in the state who are either homeless or at risk of homelessness.

New Mexico faces a shortage of resources and services for homeless or at-risk veterans in rural or remote areas, with limited data available outside metropolitan regions. However, several programs exist to provide transitional housing, such as a tiny home village in Socorro, off-grid housing in Carson (Taos), and the VA-funded Supportive Services for Veterans and Families (SSVF) program. SSVF offers case management, housing assistance, employment support, and suicide prevention for veterans statewide. Additionally, the VA's HUD-VASH program provides housing vouchers for eligible homeless veterans and families. While these services are available, the funding is insufficient to meet the needs of veterans seeking transitional housing. There is vast collaboration and sharing of resources among service providers to help veterans in need of housing options, stability and services.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS N/A

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS N/A

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP N/A

TECHNICAL ISSUES N/A

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES Contracted services to assist veterans and their families with transitional housing must be applied in a statewide approach to ensure effective support to all areas and support small community-based programs that rely on funding and resources.

ALTERNATIVES N/A

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL status quo

AMENDMENTS N/A