

<b>LFC Requester:</b>	Rachel Mercer-Garcia
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060681

**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2025 REGULAR SESSION**

**WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO**

**[AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov](http://AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov) and email to [billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov](mailto: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:** 2/24/2025 *Check all that apply:*  
**Bill Number:** SB 509 Original  Correction  
 Amendment  Substitute

**Sponsor:** Senator George Muñoz **Agency Name and Code** Office of Family Representation & Advocacy 6800  
**Short Title:** Pathway Act for Foster Children **Number:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
	4,000	Recurring	Early childhood education

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate expenditure decreases)

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		

(Parenthesis ( ) indicate revenue decreases)

**ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)**

	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>						

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

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

### **SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

#### **BILL SUMMARY**

##### Synopsis:

**Section 1:** Creating a new act called the “Pathway Act.”

**Section 2:** Defining key terms for the Act.

**Section 3:** To be eligible for the program, a person must have been in foster care for at least 18 cumulative months, be at least 18 years of age, and have completed a financial literacy course. The Department of Finance Administration (DFA) shall transfer \$2,000 to eligible people upon request only once to be used only for housing, education, or workforce training.

**Section 4:** Creates the “Pathway Program Fund” to be administered by DFA.

**Section 5:** Provides that the Act does not create a property interest or guarantee to anyone.

**Section 6:** Exempts money from the Fund from state income taxation for individuals in New Mexico.

**Section 7:** Appropriates \$4 million from the early childhood education fund to the program, which does not revert and is recurring annually.

**Section 8:** Act to begin in January 2026.

#### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

This bill will not have a fiscal impact on the Office of Family Representation and Advocacy (OFRA). It will require some resources from DFA and the Children Youth and Families Department (CYFD).

Potentially, this program could exceed the appropriation if it includes all children who were in foster care at any time throughout their life for an 18-month period.

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**

Supporting children who have aged out of foster care is extremely important. The

program would need to be easily accessible and navigable.

The bill is vague regarding implementation of the program and how CYFD and DFA should collaborate.

It is unclear why the payment would need to only be a one-time occurrence, as different expenses could come up at different times.

## **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

## **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

## **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

## **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

## **ALTERNATIVES**

## **WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

Status Quo.

## **AMENDMENTS**