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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

**SPONSOR** Varela                      **DATE TYPED** 2/17/05                      **HB** 773

**SHORT TITLE** Santa Fe and Bernalillo Youth and Computer Clubs                      **SB** \_\_\_\_\_

**ANALYST** Hadwiger

### APPROPRIATION (in \$000s)

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	\$500.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates SB698.

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)  
Public Education Department (PED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 773 appropriates \$500,000 from the general fund to the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) in FY06 for the purpose of providing staffing and operational expenses in Bernalillo and Santa Fe counties for computer clubhouses that give youth (ages 6-18) access to computer technology and mentors.

#### Significant Issues

DFA provided the following background. There is one computer clubhouse in each Bernalillo and Santa Fe County. The clubhouses have been in operation for approximately four years with operating funds granted by Intel Corporation. Unfortunately, at the end of February 2005, funding from Intel will cease. The computer clubhouses are open year-round and open to all children free of charge. The clubhouses provide a safe, alternative place for children. Bernalillo County indicates, according to DFA, this program has been a great success there, providing children an opportunity to utilize computer technology for their enhancement.

PED provided the following information with respect to the benefit of programs such as these.

According to *Education News* (April 24, 2002), approximately 30% of young people in the lowest household-income category use computers at home, compared with more than 90% of those in the highest-income category. If enacted, this legislation would provide students with access where they may not have it at home.

According to several studies and research, mentoring programs offer substantial benefits to school-age children:

- Improved academic performance
- Increased attendance rates
- Higher college enrollment rates and higher educational aspirations
- Better attitudes about school
- Enhanced self-esteem and self-confidence
- Improved behavior, both at home and at school, including fewer disciplinary referrals and less violent and disruptive behavior
- Improved relationships with parents, teachers and peers
- Enhanced social, communication, relationship and decision-making skills
- Heightened career awareness and ability to make vocational and educational choices
- Decreased likelihood of dropping out of school, initiating drug and alcohol use or becoming a teen parent.

## **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The appropriation of \$500,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY06 would revert to the general fund.

DFA anticipates that this appropriation is an equal split of funding between the two counties. DFA indicates the funds will help pay for two coordinators (one in Bernalillo county and one in Santa Fe county), two assistants (one in Bernalillo county and one in Santa Fe county), 2-4 youth facilitators/mentors (two in each location). Funds will also help pay for computer maintenance, office supplies, software programs, materials, hardware and other operational expenses incurred for the programs.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

DFA recommended that the appropriation be re-directed to Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD), because similar programs and funds have been administered by CYFD. That agency has the expertise to identify the needs of youth in Bernalillo and Santa Fe counties with regard to this program.

**DH/lg**