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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/23/07

SPONSOR Madalena LAST UPDATED _____ HB 72

SHORT TITLE Native American Independent Living Center SB _____

ANALYST Weber

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$250.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Indian Affairs Department (IAD)

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 72 appropriates \$250.0 thousand from the general fund to the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation for the purpose for independent living centers in the Pueblo of Laguna and the Pueblo of San Felipe for Native Americans with disabilities. The centers will serve persons living in Pueblos of Acoma, Laguna, Isleta, Sandia, Santa Ana, San Felipe, Santo Domingo, Cochiti, Zia, and Jemez.

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 Fiscal Year 2008 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Indian Affairs Department reports.

The House Bill was endorsed by the Interim Indian Affairs Committee.

Independent living centers are designed to provide disabled citizens with the tools needed to achieve greater independence. These programs are typically non-residential and clients play an integral role in both the development of their own rehabilitation regimens and in facility management. There are few independent living centers/programs that are suited to meet the unique needs of Native Americans in the State of New Mexico.

Data from the 1997 Survey of Income and Program Participation found that 22 percent of the American Indian and Alaska Native population has one or more disabilities. This is the highest rate of disability when compared with all other races in the United States. The data also indicates that Native American people with disabilities, especially those who live on reservations, face unique circumstances and legal environments that require special outreach, consultation, protections, and services.

In addition, Native American people with disabilities, especially those on reservations, face unique circumstances (i.e. unemployment) that require special outreach, consultation, protections, and services. “High unemployment rates on reservations, which range from 33.5 percent to 52 percent, make it challenging for American Indians with disabilities to find employment.”¹

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation adds.

The New Mexico Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) has a long standing partnership with the Native American Community in New Mexico. As one of its premiere efforts, DVR administers a contract designed to promote vocational rehabilitation services in all of the State’s Pueblos and on the Jicarilla and Mescalero reservations. The Division has also established cooperative agreements with the Navajo Nation and the Pueblos of Laguna, Zuni, Jemez (all with vocational rehabilitation programs) to increase and improve the service delivery capacity of vocational rehabilitation services to Native Americans with disabilities. This Bill replicates this effort in providing Independent Living services for Native Americans with disabilities.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

DVR indicates it administers contracts with Centers for Independent Living various communities around the state. It also administers a contract with the Statewide Independent Living Council. The SILC has included priorities related to improving services for Native Americans with disabilities in the current State Plan for Independent Living. Much of this is based on input received at public hearings and focus groups

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