

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/12/07

SPONSOR Madalena LAST UPDATED _____ HB 621

SHORT TITLE Early Intervention & Children's Programs SB _____

ANALYST Geisler

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$4,300.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08	FY09		
	\$1,211.7	\$1,211.7	Recurring	Federal Medicaid

(Parenthesis () Indicate Revenue Decreases)

Duplicates: SB 549
 Relates to: SB 92, HB 585
 Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
 Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 621, for the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee, would appropriate \$4.3 million to the Family Infant Toddler (FIT) Program for Fiscal Year 2008. The funds would be for quality services, inclusion of additional eligible children, and reimbursement of providers for services rendered without compensation. Any unexpended or unencumbered funds remaining at the end of FY08 shall revert to the general fund.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The \$4.3 million proposed in this bill would be in addition to current base funding of approximately \$15.1 million in FY08. The executive budget recommendation for DOH proposes a \$1.25 million increase for the FIT program in FY08; the Legislative Finance Committee budget recommendation proposes an increase of \$1 million for FY08.

DOH estimates that approximately 942 more children will request services in FY08 at a total general fund cost of \$1,555,818. Approximately 565 of the 942 children would be eligible for Medicaid at a total cost of \$1,659,970 (\$448,192 general fund share and \$1,211,778 medicaid share). The cost for the other 377 children would be \$1,107,626 (100% general fund).

The balance of the appropriation (\$2,744,182) would then be available for "quality services" and "reimbursement of providers for services rendered without compensation" and any additional children requesting services above this projection as directed by the bill.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The FIT Program is the lead agency under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C for the administration of a statewide system of early intervention services for infants and toddlers (birth to age 3), who have or are at risk for developmental delays or disabilities. The FIT Program is an entitlement program for children and families who are eligible in accordance with the Education of the Handicapped Act (28-18 NMSA 1978) and the Requirements for Family Infant Toddler Early Intervention Services Act (7.30.8 NMAC).

The FIT Program utilizes State General Funds to fund early intervention services on a fee-for-service basis through a statewide network of private and public provider agencies. The FIT Program also pays the state match for early intervention services provided to children who are Medicaid eligible. Additionally, the FIT Program utilizes the annual Federal IDEA Part C grant and payments made through private insurance under the Senate Bill 589 passed in the 2005 Legislative session.

The FIT Program served 9,602 total infants and toddlers (birth to 3) and their families in Fiscal Year 2006 and has experienced a growth of 9% in the children served through an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) compared to the previous year. This growth is a result of ongoing child find and public awareness efforts made to medical, childcare, home-visiting and social service providers. Additionally, the FIT Program continues to experience significant growth in referrals as a result of changes in the Child Abuse Protection and Treatment Act (CAPTA) that now mandates the referral of children under age 3 from CYFD when abuse or neglect are substantiated.

DUPLICATION AND RELATIONSHIP

HB 621 is duplicated by SB 549. HB 621 relates to Senate Public Affairs Committee Substitute for SB 92, which appropriates \$1.8 million to DOH for the FIT program in FY07 and subsequent years. HB 621 also relates to HB 585, which appropriates \$1.8 million to DOH for the FIT program in FY08 and subsequent years.