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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/24/07

SPONSOR Papen LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Dona Ana County Homeless Services SB 171

ANALYST Geisler

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

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

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 171, for the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee, proposes to appropriate \$300,000 from the general fund to the Department of Health in Fiscal Year 2008 to fund the five agencies currently operating in Dona Ana County that address the needs of the homeless community. Each of the five agencies would receive \$60,000. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY 2008 shall revert to the general fund.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The Department would need to establish a Request for Proposals (RFP) process, in order to distribute these funds to non-public agencies.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Approximately 13,000 people in New Mexico, including veterans, families with children and persons with disabilities, are homeless at any time. Approximately 2,000 of these persons may reside in Dona Ana County. A task force to address chronic homelessness and access to mainstream services was established by the Department of Health (DOH) after the 46th

legislative session as a result of SJM 52 and HJM 82.

The final report to the Health & Human Services Legislative Committee identified risk factors that impact a person's risk for homelessness. These included lack of access to affordable housing, lack of access to affordable health care, lack of community supports, caregiver burn-out, lack of coordination of housing, health and social services for homeless persons or persons at risk of becoming homeless and lack of sufficient funding for programs, services and supports. (SJM52 & HJM82 Task Force on Homelessness, NM Department of Health, 2003).

SB 171 would fund the five agencies in Dona Ana County that address many of these risk factors for homelessness in the county. The five agencies provide case management and outreach services, medical services, hot noonday meals, an emergency food bank, and homeless child care. A 2006 survey by the City of Las Cruces demonstrated 2,063 duplicated services provided by the five agencies in one week.

The five agencies that are to receive this funding are reported to be 501(c)3 organizations. They are Community of Hope, Jardin de los Ninos, El Caldito Soup Kitchen, St. Luke's Health Care Clinic, and Casa de Peregrinos

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

DOH notes that staff time would be required to develop the RFP, evaluate the submitted proposals, write the contracts, and monitor and evaluate service delivery. This can be done with existing resources.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

PED notes that providing funding to Dona Ana County for services to the homeless may positively impact homeless children and youth in meeting the state's academic standards and closing the achievement gap. PED provided the following information on homeless families and children:

- The 2005-06 PED's data collection reported to the federal government included 4,966 reported homeless children and youth that were served by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program.
- Barriers to the education of New Mexico homeless children and youth include: school selection, transportation, school records, immunization/medical records and lack of affordable housing.
- Homeless children get sick four times as often as children in middle class families. Homeless children have more mental health problems than other children, but less than one-third receive treatment (Kids' Corner: facts about homelessness, www.nationalhomeless.org).
- Homeless children go hungry twice as often as other children (Kids' Corner: facts about homelessness, www.nationalhomeless.org)