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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/11/07

SPONSOR Ryan LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Services to Homeless Children SB 583

ANALYST Lucero

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$150.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SB 171 and SB 586

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

Public Education Department (PED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 583 appropriates one hundred fifty thousand (\$150,000) from the general fund to Children, Youth and Families Department for expenditure in fiscal year 2008 to provide services to homeless children in Bernalillo county.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of one hundred fifty thousand (\$150,000) 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.

The appropriation in this bill is not part of the Children, Youth and Families Department's request and is not included in the Executive recommendation for Children, Youth and Families Department.

## SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

In 2006, approximately 500 children were in substitute care in CYFD Protective Services in Bernalillo County as a result of abuse or neglect. Three hundred substantiated allegations of physical neglect occurred in Bernalillo County. Services to homeless families, including medical and educational services, could prevent some children coming into the state's foster care system.

The appropriation is intended for services in Bernalillo County only. The bill does not specify what type of services the appropriation is intended to cover.

Children and youths have to be free from segregation, isolation and stigmatization (Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 USC 11431 et seq.)).

Children and youths have to have comparable access to school meals, English language services, vocational and technical education, special education (including gifted) and Title 1 services (Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 USC 11431 et seq.)).

- The 2005-06 PED data collection report to the federal government included 4,966 reported homeless children and youths that were served by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program.
- Barriers to the education of New Mexico's 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 (Kids' Corner: Facts about homelessness, (<http://www.nationalhomeless.org>)).
- Homeless children go hungry twice as often as other children (Kids' Corner: Facts about homelessness, (<http://www.nationalhomeless.org>)).
- Homeless children have more mental health problems than other children, but less than one-third receives treatment (Kids' Corner: Facts about homelessness, (<http://www.nationalhomeless.org>)).
- Most homeless families are made up of a young, single mother and two young children. A worker earning minimum wage would have to work 97 hours a week to pay the rent of an average two-bedroom apartment (Kids' Corner: Facts about homelessness, (<http://www.nationalhomeless.org>)).

The waiting period for public housing averages one to two years. For programs that help to pay for part of the families' rent, the wait is even longer (Kids' Corner: Facts about homelessness, (<http://www.nationalhomeless.org>)).

## PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

Expanding funding for homelessness programs statewide may assist homeless youths in meeting the state's academic standards and potentially close the achievement gap.

## ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

If passed, the bill will have a slight administrative impact on CYFD which the bill does not address.

## CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Relates to SB 171 and SB 586

### TECHNICAL ISSUES

The bill does not address the type of services to be provided to homeless children.

The appropriation is limited to services in Bernalillo County.

### OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

According to a study by the Better Homes Fund, homeless children:

- Have four times the rate of delayed development;
- Are in special education programs at a rate three times higher than other children;
- Are suspended twice as often as non-homeless children;
- Attend an average of two different schools in a single year.
- Four times as many respiratory infections;
- Five times as many stomach and diarrheal infections;
- Twice as many emergency hospitalizations;
- Six times as many speech and stammering problems;
- Four times the rate of asthma as non-homeless children.

Information from the committee on temporary shelter state:

([http://www.cotsonline.org/homeless\\_kids.html](http://www.cotsonline.org/homeless_kids.html))

Every day, homeless children are confronted with stressful, often traumatic events. As these painful experiences continue throughout their young lives, these children are indelibly shaped and sometimes scarred. The stress has profound effects on the cognitive and emotional development of homeless children, as indicated below.

- More than one-fifth of homeless children between 3 and 6 years have serious emotional problems requiring professional care.
- Homeless children aged 6 to 17 years struggle with high rates of mental health problems.
- Less than one-third of homeless children are receiving mental health treatment they need.

The causes of child abuse are complex, but there is substantial evidence that poverty is associated with child maltreatment (Drake and Pandey). Exposure to violence injures children and destroys their sense of self and family. Combining homelessness with violence is even more detrimental, since homeless children have fewer tools to recover from the trauma of such violence. Other troubling facts include the following...

- More than half of homeless school-aged children (57%) were witness to or victims of violence in their households or communities. (Stern & Nunez)
- Domestic violence is alarmingly prevalent among homeless families--affecting 63% of homeless parents. (Stern & Nunez).

- Just over 60% of homeless single mothers grew up in the foster care system.

**ALTERNATIVES**

Provide funding for a statewide program for homeless children.

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

Expansion for homeless programs statewide may not be provided. This program has an indirect link to addressing the student health, wellness and academic achievement of homeless children.

DL/csd