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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/18/08

SPONSOR Picraux LAST UPDATED _____ HB 153

SHORT TITLE At-Home Infant Care Programs SB _____

ANALYST Lucero

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$50.0	Recurring	General Fund
	\$35.0	Non-recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: CYFD has \$90 thousand in the base budget request for the existing program.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 153 appropriates eighty-five thousand from the general fund to Children, Youth and Families for the expansion of at-home infant care programs. The bill specifies fifty thousand of the appropriation is for expenditure in fiscal year 2009 to expand at-home infant care programs and thirty-five thousand is for expenditure in fiscal year 2009 and subsequent fiscal years to continue a pilot at-home infant care program in Sandoval county.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of eighty-five thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. The bill specifies fifty thousand of the appropriation is for expenditure in fiscal year 2009 and any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of 2009 shall revert to the general fund. The bill also specifies that thirty-five thousand is for expenditure in fiscal year 2009 and subsequent fiscal years and any unexpended or unencumbered balance

remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall NOT revert to the general fund.

The base Children Youth and Families Department budget contains ninety thousand dollars for at-home infant care.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The At-Home Infant Child Care Program began in September 2004 in Dona Ana County. The Program has been expanded to Sandoval County, where families are currently being enrolled.

Part of the requirements for families participating in the At Home Infant Child Care pilot program is to attend and complete a parenting class sponsored by New Mexico State University (NMSU) Families Strengthening Partnership. Initially this course was delivered by NMSU free of charge due to a federal grant that NMSU had attained. More recently the federal funds available to NMSU have expired, requiring NMSU to now charge for this course. Expenditures for this course must be applied to the At Home Infant Child Care budget, which means additional administrative dollars and less program service delivery dollars. Additionally, families participating in the At-Home Infant Child Care program also have the option of taking the CYFD-sponsored 45-Hour course in early childhood development. If and when families choose to take advantage of this educational opportunity CYFD will be required to cover the cost of this course, further limiting funds available for service delivery. Because this course is not available in many geographic areas of New Mexico, it may be difficult to expand the program to all areas of the state.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

CYFD's mission focuses on services which promote and build individual strengths, including early identification and intervention services which address problems as they emerge. At-Home Infant Child Care programs, teaching parenting skills and promoting healthy family communication and infant-caregiver bonding, are consistent with that mission.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

If enacted, there are minor administrative costs to CYFD that are not considered in this appropriation.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Relates to an appropriation in the General Appropriation Act. The base FY09 Children Youth and Families Department budget contains ninety thousand dollars for at-home infant care.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None identified.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None identified.

ALTERNATIVES

None identified.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

CYFD will be unable to continue the pilot program in Sandoval County.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

None at this time.

DL/nt