

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 1/23/09
 LAST UPDATED 1/26/09 HB 102

SPONSOR O'Neil

SHORT TITLE Rio Grande Corridor At-Risk Youth Project SB _____

ANALYST Peery-Galon

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$50.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Sentencing Commission (NMSC)
 Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

No Response Received From

Administrative Office of the Courts

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 102 appropriates \$50.0 from the general fund to the Children, Youth and Families Department for expenditure in fiscal year 2010 to contract for a team mentoring project for high-risk youth in the Rio Grande Corridor who paroled from the Children, Youth and Families Department.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$50.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2010 shall revert to the general fund.

According to the December 2008 revenue estimate, FY10 recurring revenue will only support a base expenditure level that is \$293 million, or 2.6 percent, less than the FY09 appropriation. All appropriations outside of the general appropriation act will be viewed in this declining revenue context.

CYFD reported the mentoring project is not part of the department’s request and it is not part of the Executive recommendation.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

NMSC stated as adults, high-risk or at-risk youth have a disproportionately high incident of chronic unemployment, psychiatric problems, substance abuse issues, need for public assistance programs and further criminal activity. The toll of these problems is not only costly to the individual but to society in terms of healthcare, welfare and criminal justice costs. NMSC noted mentoring may provide appropriate role modeling and social support to help improve youth functioning.

There are approximately 40 to 50 paroled youth in New Mexico at any time. CYFD noted that the proposed legislation does not identify what is meant by the Rio Grande Corridor making it difficult to estimate how many paroled youth would have access to the program. The proposed legislation also does not identify what qualifies as a “team mentoring” project, define what “high-risk” should be used to determine eligibility, or identify any age limits for the youth targeted.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

CYFD stated it has the following performance measures that relate to the proposed legislation: percent of clients recommitted to a CYFD facility within two years of discharge from facilities, and number of juvenile justice division clients age 18 and older who enter adult corrections within two years after discharge from a juvenile justice facility.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

CYFD reported it will absorb the contract administration required in the proposed legislation with existing resources.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

NMSC noted that a majority of youth currently in secure facilities operated by CYFD are 18 years of age or older. The availability of mentoring services for this population may help paroled youth to make a successful transition back to their families and communities.

RPG/svb