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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/24/09

SPONSOR Pinto LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Tohatchi Youth Development Programs SB 192

ANALYST Burns

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	230.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Indian Affairs Department (609)

No Response Received From
Children Youth and Families Department (690)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 192 appropriates \$230 thousand from the general fund to the Indian Affairs Department for the purpose of funding youth development programs, including the youth leadership project, at the Tohatchi chapter of the Navajo Nation.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$230 thousand 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.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

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.

The youth development programs are a form of early intervention that focus on strengthening the capacity of young people to successfully navigate adolescence.¹ The Navajo Nation is utilizing youth development programs to combat high rates of alcoholism drugs, teen pregnancy, depression and suicide among Navajo youth.² According to NM Department of Health 2005 Youth Risk and Resiliency survey, Native American youth have higher rates of marijuana and heroin use than non-hispanic whites³ and native youth also attempt suicide at higher rates than their peers from all other races.⁴

ALTERNATIVES

There are multiple youth development programs in and near Tohatchi to support Navajo youth in the area. These programs include Tohatchi Chapter of the Office of Youth Development, the Boys and Girls Club of Dine Nation, and the National Indian Youth Leadership Project (NIYLP). Notably, the NIYLP is a non-profit organization who has been recognized by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention at the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices as the first Native American best-practice model program.⁵ These programs are already working within the chapter to inspire and enable all youth, particularly those from disadvantaged circumstances, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens.⁶

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Not enacting SB 192 may reduce the opportunities for youths to participate in youth development programs in the Tohatchi Chapter.

KJB/mt

¹ National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center. “ Youth Development as a Violence Intervention Model Fact Sheet.” Retrieved Jan. 23, 2009, <http://www.safeyouth.org/scripts/facts/dev.asp>.

² Statement of Natalie Benally, Navajo Nation youth representative, New Mexico Interagency Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative Public Meeting (March 2, 2006), <http://www.bhc.state.nm.us/pdf/030206BHCminutes.pdf>.

³ New Mexico Department of Health, *New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey, 2005 Survey Results*, 2005, 31. Retrieved Jan. 23, 2009, <http://www.health.state.nm.us/pdf/2005YRRSSStatewideReport.pdf>.

⁴ New Mexico Department of Health. *New Mexico American Indian Health Status Report*, 2005, 55. Retrieved Jan. 23, 2009, http://www.health.state.nm.us/pdf/health_status_report_final.pdf.

⁵ The National Indian Youth Leadership Project, *About Us*. Website. Retrieved Jan. 23, 2009, <http://www.niylp.org/about-us.htm>.

⁶ Id.