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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/1/09

SPONSOR Martinez LAST UPDATED HB

SHORT TITLE Chimayo Drug Abuse Prevention Program SB 241

ANALYST Peery-Galon

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$200.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)
 Department of Health (DOH)
 Youth Conservation Corps (YCC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 241 appropriates \$200.0 from the general fund to the Children, Youth and Families Department for a youth conservation corps to provide drug abuse prevention and harm reduction program services to youth 12 to 21 years of age in the Chimayo area in Rio Arriba and Santa Fe Counties.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$200.0 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 it currently has \$106,000 included as part of the base budget request for drug harm reduction in Rio Arriba County. This amount has been identified to cut as part of the solvency plan for FY09 by the department, and is in both the LFC and executive solvency plans for FY09.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

CYFD noted the proposed legislation is not specific as to what constitutes a youth conservation corps, or a drug abuse prevention and harm reduction program.

DOH reported drug use among youth is a public health issue in New Mexico and is associated with suicide, early unwanted pregnancy, school failure, delinquency, and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. In 2003, marijuana use in the past 30 days by high school students was more prevalent in New Mexico (29 percent) than in the rest of the United States (22 percent). Cocaine use in the past 30 days was 8.9 percent in New Mexico, more than twice the national rate of 4.1 percent for grades 9 through 12. Lifetime methamphetamine use for high school student in New Mexico is 7.7 percent. New Mexico has the highest drug-related death rates in the nation, 20.8 per 100,000 compared to 11.2 per 100,000 nationally. Rio Arriba County has the highest rate of drug-related deaths in New Mexico at 44.3 per 100,000. The reported rate for drug-related deaths in New Mexico for youth birth to 24 years of age was 2.8 per 100,000. These rates were almost double for African American and Hispanic males.

DOH stated successful prevention programs promote youth development, reduce risk-taking behaviors, build assets and resilience, and prevent problem behaviors across the individual's life span. The proposed legislation does not identify what type of drug abuse prevention program or harm reduction program will be used, or the training required by staff who will implement the program. To increase effectiveness, it is recommended that prevention programs use best practices and evidence-based practices as defined by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention and the National Registry for Evidence-Based Programs and Practices.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

CYFD reported it would absorb contract administration responsibilities associated with the proposed legislation with existing resources.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

YCC reported the drug abuse prevention and harm reduction program funded in the proposed legislation would not be the type of project funded by the Youth Conservation Corps Commission. The Youth Conservation Corps Commission's purpose is to fund public projects that conserve the state's natural resources. YCC noted that the proposed legislation appears to be intended to fund a non-profit youth conservation corps organization. New Mexico has several existing non-profit youth conservation corps.