

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 (www.nmlegis.gov). 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 02/19/13

SPONSOR Rodella LAST UPDATED _____ HB 601

SHORT TITLE Peer-To-Peer Substance Abuse Services SB _____

ANALYST Geisler

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY13	FY14		
	\$100.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HJM 12

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Human Services Department (HSD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 601 (HB 601) would make an appropriation from the general fund of \$100,000 to the Human Services Department (HSD) to provide peer-to-peer substance abuse prevention services in Albuquerque, Espanola and Santa Fe. Any unexpended funds would revert to the General Fund at the end of FY 2014.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The HSD notes that a request for this program was not included in the agency's FY14 budget request.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The high rates of alcohol-related or drug overdose deaths in New Mexico as well as first use of alcohol or other drugs by adolescents point to needs not only for substance abuse prevention services, but also to a need for early intervention services, including peer-to-peer supports as funded by HB 601.

According to the Department of Health’s epidemiologists, during the most recent three-year period for which alcohol-related mortality data are available (2005-2007), New Mexico had the fifth highest alcohol-related injury death rate among 15-24 year-olds in the United States (NMDOH,2013). During the most recent five-year period for which drug overdose mortality data are available (2006-2010), New Mexico had the highest drug overdose death rate among 10-19 year olds in the United States (CDC Wonder, 2013).

One goal of prevention is to delay the first use of alcohol or other drugs. Research indicates that adolescents who begin drinking before age 14 are significantly more likely to experience alcohol dependence at some point in their lives compared to individuals who begin drinking after 21 years of age. In addition, youth who abuse alcohol or other drugs are more likely to experience a number of negative consequences, such as physical or sexual assault, unintentional injuries, memory problems, legal problems, and impaired school performance. Prevention works best when attention is given to both community norms and multiple risk and protective factors.

HB 601 refers to peer-to-peer approaches to substance abuse prevention. The HSD notes that until recently, reviews of prevention strategies have not included peer-to-peer approaches. For example, The Community Guide found insufficient evidence that peer organizations such as Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD) have a significant effect on drunk driving or riding with drunk drivers (“Effectiveness of School-Based Programs for Reducing Drinking and Driving and Riding with Drinking Drivers: A Systematic Review”, Elder et al, AJPM, 2005, 28(5S). Research has not found peer-to-peer approaches to be effective in substance abuse prevention.

However, there are peer-to-peer approaches that have been reviewed for use as early intervention strategies. And a recent grant announcement from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) of a funding opportunity for such strategies is under consideration by New Mexico’s single state authority for substance abuse, HSD.

RELATIONSHIP

HJM 12 further requests the departments to use several approaches, including: shifting funds between existing programs to increase the use of peer-to-peer approaches; changing existing program models to incorporate peer-to-peer components; or modifying future grant requirements to include peer-to-peer strategies.

GG/svb