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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Lopez ORIGINAL DATE 1/25/16
LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Kinship Caregiver Outreach & Education SB 88

ANALYST Kludt

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY16	FY17		
	\$100.0	Recurring	General

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to: SB 86

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

Human Services Department (HSD)

Responses Not Received From

Taxation and Revenue Department (TRD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 88 directs CYFD to collaborate with TRD and HSD to provide outreach and education for kinship caregivers on the availability of public assistance and tax relief.

By September 1, 2016, the above mentioned departments, in collaboration with grandparents raising grandchildren organization, shall establish a one-year statewide demonstration project of outreach and education on the availability to kinship caregivers of public assistance programs, including the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, medical assistance, child care assistance, and tax relief. CYFD shall report the number of kinship caregivers served and department personnel it has trained and provide findings and recommendations for establishing a permanent kinship caregiver outreach and education program to the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee.

The bill makes an appropriation of \$100.0 thousand from the general fund to CYFD for expenditure in fiscal year 2017 to fund the administration, outreach and education of the statewide demonstration project for kinship caregivers established in this bill. Any unexpended or unencumbered balances remaining at the end of fiscal year 2017 shall revert to the state general fund.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This bill appropriates \$100.0 from the state general fund to CYFD for expenditure in state fiscal year 2017 for the purposes described in the bill. Any unencumbered or unexpended balance at the end of state fiscal year 2017 shall revert. There is no restriction on using these funds for project administration.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, there are 56,690 children in New Mexico who live in homes where grandparents are responsible for them and are the primary caregivers. Of those children, 9,278 have no parents present in the home, meaning that grandparents are the sole caregivers for the children.

CYFD states the agency does not have oversight of all grandchildren raised by grandparents, nor does CYFD administer many of the programs this project is intended to provide training on and collaboration with other agencies will be necessary. The Protective Services program of CYFD also stated the agency does not license relative caregivers, including many grandparents, who are providing foster care to relative children, but the agency believes this population is a small subset of the kinship caregivers in New Mexico, and requires that CYFD have been given custody of the children as the result of an abuse and neglect proceeding before the Children's Court.

CYFD suggests, as the majority of the assistance available to kinship caregivers is provided by HSD, it may be more appropriate for HSD to be the lead agency. The majority of the children who are in kinship care are not in CYFD foster care and, therefore, are more akin to children whose care is provided for through domestic relations district court action. CYFD states, as HSD provides services to these types of families, HSD could provide this outreach and education for families and children.

CYFD also states this bill also omits the Department of Health, which coordinates the Family Infant Toddler program, funds early childhood programs and works with families beginning with pregnancy and throughout life, and the Aging and Long-Term Services Department, which administers funding for the Guardianship Legal Helpline provided by Pegasus Legal Services for Children and Law Access New Mexico. These agencies could also be included to provide outreach for kinship caregiver outreach and education

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