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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Allison/Thomson **ORIGINAL DATE** 1/22/19
LAST UPDATED 2/28/19 **HB** 67

SHORT TITLE County and Tribal Health Council Funding **SB** _____

ANALYST Chenier

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY19	FY20		
	\$1,000.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Related to an appropriation in the General Appropriations Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
 Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 67 appropriates \$1 million from the general fund to DOH for expenditure in FY20 to fund community health plans and other functions performed by county and tribal health councils.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$1 million contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY20 shall revert to the general fund.

DOH provided the following analysis for similar legislation from the 2018 session:

In FY18, county and tribal health councils received a total of \$184,490 in support from the general fund. An article published in 2015 about New Mexico’s health councils reported that health councils leveraged \$1.10 for every dollar invested by the state. In addition, the 23 health councils included in the study were found to have identified public health priorities, strengthened partnerships, created strategies and influenced policies.

Another significant finding was that when funding was decreased, the actions of health councils also decreased.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DOH provided the following:

New Mexico’s 39 county and tribal health councils consist of private citizens, as well as elected officials, government agencies, non-profit organizations, community coalitions, schools, hospitals, health care providers, business leaders, advocacy organizations, faith communities and others. Using proven strategies, health councils identify emerging needs and mobilize communities to meet those needs.

Senate Memorial 44, passed during the 2018 Legislative Session, requested the New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils to convene a New Mexico Health Council System Task Force to analyze the work of the county and tribal health councils in relation to the Maternal and Child Health Plan Act. The memorial also asked the alliance to recommend steps to strengthen the structure, effectiveness, and sustainability of county and tribal health councils in identifying and addressing the health needs of New Mexico communities (2018 Senate Memorial 44, <https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/18%20Regular/final/SM044.pdf>).

In the Task Force Report and Recommendations, the task force reported that the state appropriated as much as \$2.8 million in Fiscal Year 2009, but funding was suspended in Fiscal year 2010 and not restored. (<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/LHHS%20100918%20Item%2011%20SM44%20Report%20and%20Recomendations.pdf>).

Furthermore, the Task Force Report and Recommendations states that “the health council system needs sufficient resources to carry out its legislative and executive branch mandates, to maintain statewide standards of best practice, and to accomplish desired outcomes in improving the health of New Mexicans.”