FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

	ORIGINAL DATE 2/12/19		
SPONSOR Ortiz y Pino	**LAST UPDATED**	**HB**	
SHORT TITLE Community College Home Health Aide Programs		**SB**	479
		ANALYST	Chilton

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY20	**FY21**		
$300.0		Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION
LFC Files

Responses Received From
Higher Education Department (HED)
New Mexico Independent Community Colleges
University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center (UNM HSC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 479, Community College Home Health Aide Programs, appropriates $300,000 from the General Fund to the Higher Education Department for the purpose of funding home health aide training programs at community colleges.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of $300,000 contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of Fiscal Year 2021 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

UNMHSC notes the importance of a well-trained home health aide workforce, especially in view of the state's growing population of senior citizens. "New Mexico's population is aging at one of the most rapid rates in the country. Given the vulnerable nature of their patients, it's critical that home health aides be appropriately trained. Training them in their local communities allows

them to stay close to family, continue working, and increases chances that they remain in the communities where they needed. This could be an important part of caring for an aging population. It would be important, however, that the funding be recurring and part of a comprehensive plan that addresses aging in place. The community colleges starting this program should be closely tied to the geriatrics program at UNM Health Sciences Center to ensure the training they are receiving is aligned with best practices."

NMICC comments on the ubiquity of home health aide training programs and their need: "Most community colleges in NM offer home health aide training programs. This is one of the fastest growing entry level health care professions in the state. Some students, particularly those who are undocumented but on a path to legal resident status, do not qualify for resident tuition rates or for many financial aid programs. This creates a barrier for these students in pursuing degrees and careers in the home health care industry. This funding could provide needed subsidies to home health aide programs in a way that provides for tuition and fee structures that allow equitable access to the training program for all students interested in home health care careers."

HED "will assess which community colleges have already implemented a Home Health Aide Training Program and decide if supplementary funding is needed for those existing curricula. For community colleges that have not implemented such a program, NMHED will generate a competitive application and release funds based on the following criteria:

- effect of proposed activities on educating and training home health workers;
- demonstrated need for program activities based on workforce needs within the geographic area; and
- matching funds, in-kind contributions, and other institutional support."

TECHNICAL ISSUES
HSC suggests "This allocation is made to HED to fund programs at community colleges. It should be used for programs at both the branch and independent community colleges to reach the maximum number of communities."

ALTERNATIVES
In addition, or as an alternative, resident undocumented persons could be granted in-state tuition at community colleges and at the state universities, particularly inasmuch as they are providing many vital services to others of the state's residents, including being home health aides. Community colleges provide many useful services to their students that could benefit more undocumented residents of New Mexico, such as ESL classes, early education preparation, etc.

New Mexico statute (Section 21-1-4 NMSA 1978) states the following regarding determination of residency for purposes of determining tuition rates:

G.   The higher education department shall define resident and nonresident students for the purpose of administering tuition charges in accordance with the constitution and statutes of the state and after consultation with the appropriate officials of the institutions concerned. Each institution shall use the uniform definitions so established in assessing and collecting tuition charges from students.

In the annotations attached to this statute, legal opinions state the following:

- Who may define "resident". — Within the scope of the language of the statutes, constitutional provisions and case law, the state board of educational finance (now the commission on higher education) may define "resident" for use by the state universities and colleges in determining which adult individuals are in fact "resident" persons for college tuition purposes. 1964 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 64-26.
- Requisites for residence. — The requisites for establishing a valid residence for college tuition purposes for an adult person are: (1) actual physical presence in the state, and (2) a bona fide intention to establish and maintain such residency in the state permanently or indefinitely. 1964 Op. Att'y Gen. No. 64-26.

LAC/gb