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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/23/2020
SPONSOR Stansbury **LAST UPDATED** _____ **HB** 75

SHORT TITLE Hunger Task Force Funding **SB** _____

ANALYST Esquibel

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY20	FY21		
	\$200.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY20	FY21	FY22	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		\$35.8			Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

House Bill 75 Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Human Services Department (HSD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 75 would appropriate \$200 thousand in FY21 from the general fund to the Human Services Department to convene a task force to conduct a study and an assessment of hunger, malnutrition, and food production and distribution in New Mexico, and to contract for services necessary to the work of the task force.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

House Bill 75 includes a nonrecurring appropriation of \$200 thousand from the general fund in FY21. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY21 would revert to the general fund.

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The Human Services Department (HSD) indicates the department would require one employee to dedicate half their time to the task force and to manage the contract provided for in the bill for a total administrative cost of \$35.8 thousand.

The Legislative Finance Committee and Executive recommendations for FY21 for the Human Services Department both include recurring expansion funding of \$1.49 million for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Heat and Eat initiative, an energy and food assistance benefit for some households with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps). The additional general fund revenue can generate up to \$18 million in federal funds.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Hunger Free America issued a report citing that 25 percent of children (121,719) in New Mexico from 2016 through 2018 lived in households that couldn't always afford sufficient food. The report also found that 13.8 percent of working adults (120,677), and nearly 12 percent of seniors (57,482), were hungry during 2016 through 2018. According to the report, the total number of food insecure individuals in New Mexico from 2016 through 2018 was 374,105, 18.3 percent of the state population, making it the most food insecure state in the country. The report recommends raising wages and ensuring the federal nutrition assistance safety net is adequately funded, easy accessible, and includes benefits such as SNAP, meals on wheels and senior center meals for older Americans, WIC for pregnant women and infants, and school breakfasts, lunches, and summer meals for children.

RAE/al