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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Ruiloba ORIGINAL DATE 2/07/2020
LAST UPDATED _____ HB 331
SHORT TITLE Bernalillo Youth Adobe Program SB _____
ANALYST Chilton

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY20	FY21		
	\$997.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center (UNM/HSC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 331, Bernalillo Youth Adobe Program appropriates \$997 thousand from the general fund to the regents of the University of New Mexico for the purpose of funding the expansion of the ADOBE program, which serves youth and a small number of young adults. The program, located in Bernalillo County, largely serves youth being discharged from the Bernalillo County Youth Services Center, a youth detention facility, but also serves youth from Valencia and Sandoval County and to a lesser extent from other counties in New Mexico.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$997 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of each fiscal year shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The ADOBE program serves youth being discharged from the Bernalillo County Youth Detention Center after their incarceration. Providing wraparound services, the program aims at providing what medical, legal, educational, and social work help that might prevent recidivism and move these youth to a more stable and productive future.

One definition of wraparound services, which comes from the National Wraparound Initiative (<https://nwi.pdx.edu/wraparound-basics/>), is “Wraparound differs from many service delivery strategies, in that it provides a comprehensive, holistic, youth and family-driven way of responding when children or youth experience serious mental health or behavioral challenges. Wraparound puts the child or youth and family at the center. With support from a team of professionals and natural supports, the family’s ideas and perspectives about what they need and what will be helpful drive all of the work in Wraparound.”

Project ADOBE provides wraparound services at two centers in Albuquerque, one not far from the Bernalillo County youth services center, and the other located in a community known for its poverty and high crime rate. The services, detailed on the attached sheet, include whatever medical care the youth need, including treatment for possible substance abuse, help with problems with the educational system (the youth’s progress through public school almost surely will have been interrupted during his/her incarceration), and dealing with family problems such as unstable housing or food availability through the services of lawyers or social workers. The services provided are extensive; the needs are extensive, but the costs are low relative to the cost of incarceration. UNM HSC estimates the cost of each day one of the 141 youth served in fiscal year 2019 was enrolled in the ADOBE program was \$29.35, which compares favorably with the per-day cost at the detention facility, estimated to be \$637.00.

UNM HSC notes not only this return on investment, but also a time to access appointments at the ADOBE program of 7-14 days, and a non-recidivism rate of 92 percent for those participating the program.

The program has largely been funded by Bernalillo County and by the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center, but has been unable to serve all who would benefit from the program. The proposed appropriation, which would fund 13.55 additional staff, would enable the ADOBE program to serve an additional 150 young people, including several in the 18-24 age range included in Bernalillo County’s Young Adult Court, and also including many from other counties in New Mexico.

UNM HSC notes the high prevalence of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) among those in its program: 75 percent of males and 87 percent of females had experienced five or more ACEs. ACEs are defined as serious traumatic conditions in a family (such as parental absence or incarceration or substance abuse, child abuse, exposure to parental interpersonal violence, housing instability, etc.). ACEs are increasingly recognized as childhood precursors of not only mental health and substance use disorders, but also susceptibility to physical health problems. In addition to having to attempt to ameliorate their clients’ ACEs, the ADOBE program must also work to deal with universal major psychiatric problems and a 96 percent substance use disorder rate.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

UNM HSC notes the possibility that, without the requested appropriation, the ADOBE program might cease to exist, due to the expiration of Bernalillo County’s sustaining Health Tax Fund.