

general fund.

HED notes the Land Grant Studies Program has received general fund support for at least 12 years. The program received a legislative appropriation of \$122.1 thousand in FY20, and the House Appropriations and Finance Committee substitute for House Bills 2 and 3, the General Appropriation Act of 2020, contains \$124.9 thousand for the program for FY21. HED says 71 percent of the programs funds goes to salaries.

UNM says the additional funding would allow the program to expand programming for youth from rural and grant-merced communities. (Mercedes are lands granted by the Mexican or Spanish government.)

SB269 assumes UNM will use up to 5 percent of the appropriation for administration.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

UNM says the grant could be used to allow the Land Grant Studies Program to offer a land grant-merced youth conservation program, develop culturally relevant youth leadership curricula, and direct on-site programming in two land grant communities.

HED reports the Merced Youth Leadership Development Program in FY19 held four intergenerational youth leadership workshops in Carnuel, Tome, Cubero, and Abiquiu. Students also performed service projects in Tajique and Carnuel, including cleaning park, community center, and community picnic grounds.

The program conducts research and analysis relating to Spanish and Mexican land grants, offers internships for UNM students, and provides direct service to land grants-mercedes through the Merced Youth Leadership Development Program. HED says, “The program allows students to partake in relevant cultural experiences to not only cultivate a pipeline between statewide land grant associated youth and institutions of higher education, but also to combat substance abuse epidemic plaguing New Mexico communities.”

New Mexico has 31 recognized land grant-mercedes with a total of 3,863,557 acres.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

The House Appropriations and Finance Committee substitute for House Bills 2 and 3, the General Appropriation Act, contains \$124.9 thousand for the program for FY21.

HB111 creates a new land grant-merced assistance fund to provide annual distributions to land grants in the state.

HB121 expands the types of land grants to which Article 1, Chapter 49, of the New Mexico statutes applies.

SB55 appropriates \$1 million to the Department of Finance and Administration to fund two new positions on the Land Grant Council.

HFG/sb