

N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act:

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

House Bill 347 (HB347) establishes financial aid and paid practicums for students in degree-granting programs in the behavioral health fields. HB347 makes an appropriation of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) from the General Fund (GF) to the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) for expenditure in FY26 and FY27 to provide scholarships, other student financial aid, and paid practicums for students in bachelor's and master's degree programs in behavioral health fields, including substance addiction counseling, at state universities and tribal colleges in New Mexico in order to expand enrollment and the number of graduates able to work in behavioral health fields in New Mexico.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HB347 appropriates ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) from the GF to NMHED for expenditure in FY26 and FY27. Any unexpended or unencumbered balances remaining at the end of FY27 shall revert to the GF.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Through this appropriation NMHED shall distribute funding based on the number of New Mexico residents enrolled in a behavioral health program, including substance addiction

counseling programs. Before making an award, NMHED shall require a participant to meet the following qualifications:

Are a New Mexico resident, and

Enrolled in a state university or tribal college in New Mexico that offers a bachelor's or master's degree program in behavioral health fields, in which that state university or tribal college will certify that the funding will be used to supplement, not supplant, current funding and expenditures in those programs.

HB347 does not specify the amount of the award to be provided to each student who meets these qualifications. In addition, it is unclear whether students should use these funds for tuition and fees charged at a higher educational institution, or whether these funds can be used for the overall total cost of attendance. Additionally, HB347 does not specifically define "state university or tribal college." NMHED defines a "public post-secondary educational institution" as a four-year state educational institution or a community college; "state educational institution" means an institution of higher education enumerated in Article 12, Section 11 of the Constitution of New Mexico; and "tribal college" means a tribally, federally or congressionally chartered post-secondary educational institution located in New Mexico that is accredited by the higher learning commission.

NMHED reported under Curriculum Instruction Programs (CIP) a total of 293 bachelor programs and 607 master-level programs in behavioral health within New Mexico's higher educational institutions.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

NMHED will administer the funds in FY26 and FY27.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

N/A

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

N/A

TECHNICAL ISSUES

HB347 instructs NMHED to distribute funding to programs in FY24, which is a technical error.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

N/A

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) will not be appropriated from the GF to NMHED for expenditure in FY26 and F27 to provide financial aid and paid practicums for students in degree-granting programs in the behavioral health fields in New Mexico.

AMENDMENTS

N/A