

HOUSE BILL 347

**57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

INTRODUCED BY

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AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR FINANCIAL AID AND PAID PRACTICUMS  
FOR STUDENTS IN DEGREE-GRANTING PROGRAMS IN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
FIELDS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

**SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION.--**

A. Ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) is  
appropriated from the general fund to the higher education  
department for expenditure in fiscal years 2026 and 2027 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 as a means to expand enrollment and the number of  
graduates able to work in behavioral health fields in New

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1 Mexico. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at  
2 the end of fiscal year 2027 shall revert to the general fund.

3 B. The higher education department shall distribute  
4 funding based on the number of New Mexico residents enrolled in  
5 behavioral health programs, including substance addiction  
6 counseling programs, in fiscal year 2024. Before making an  
7 award, the higher education department shall require a  
8 participating state university or tribal college in New Mexico  
9 that offers bachelor's or master's degree programs in  
10 behavioral health fields to certify that the funding will be  
11 used to supplement, not supplant, current funding and  
12 expenditures in those degree programs.