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Adolescent Transitional Living Substance Abuse Facility

Bernalillo County requests \$300,000 in additional capital outlay funds to support the purchase, renovations and repairs of a facility to operate an adolescent transitional living substance abuse program.

In the 2013 legislative session, Bernalillo County partnered with the Heroin Awareness Committee to receive \$757,715 to purchase a property to support this cause. Since then, we have been working together to find a property in Bernalillo County that would meet the programming needs for residential extended care for adolescents who have been battling drug or alcohol addictions. Although we have located potential properties, the properties are either more than the original capital allocated, or the repairs/renovations required for the properties are more than the initial capital allocation. The additional capital requests would allow the County to find an appropriate property to meet the substance abuse needs for adolescents around the state.

In 2013, at the direction and support of Governor Martinez, the Department of Health's Turquoise Lodge Hospital opened New Mexico's first adolescent medical detoxification and intensive rehabilitation program. This thirty-day addiction treatment program is a key component in the initial success for the treatment of adolescents. However, to date, New Mexico has not developed a continuum of inpatient treatment services for youth.

Many adolescents afflicted with addictions are sent to Turquoise Lodge from the judicial system and/or homes where drug and alcohol abuse exists among generations. Adolescent transitional living would be the first of its kind in New Mexico, and is designed to provide extended treatment and stabilization for up to six months in a residential setting. The goal is to equip teens, ages fourteen to eighteen, with daily life skills, work toward successful education and vocational training, build and strengthen healthy relationships, and slowly reintegrate them back into the community. This transition is a critical component in maintaining sobriety and breaking the cycle of addiction for New Mexico's youth.

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