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## Local non-profit organizations hurry to cover withdrawal of CETA monies

By RICHARD WAGONER  
Of the Emerald

A state and local ruling that Eugene can no longer provide Comprehensive Employment and Training Act funds to private, non-profit organizations has sent several local agencies scrambling to cover possible program cuts.

At least a half-dozen Eugene agencies, including counseling services, childcare facilities and veterans' organizations, will lose city-sponsored CETA workers April 15.

The state attorney general's office ruled last February that allowing private, non-profit groups to receive city CETA funds for payroll was a form of lending credit — illegal in Oregon.

Eugene's city attorney recommended that the city council terminate those CETA positions this month.

And that's when the scrambling began.

Some of the organizations have transferred their services

to the city where public sector CETA funding is still intact. Others have cut programs relying on those city funds.

But the net result, according to one member of the city CETA advisory council, will be a gradual phasing out of several programs.

"I don't think the effect on the community will be felt on April 15," says Jay Stutz, advisory council member and president of the Lane Interagency Network. "But in the summer they will be hurting."

Stutz says many of these agencies also receive county-sponsored CETA funds, which will allow them to keep programs at least until September when Lane County also phases out its funding for private, non-profit groups.

Until then, Stutz says the organizations will be "gearing down" to prepare for further funding cuts.

Some 20 to 25 city CETA positions will be eliminated, and most of those workers will be transferred to public sector

jobs, city officials say.

But Stutz says the transfer will be of little help because those public sector positions will also be eliminated May 30 when additional CETA cuts are made.

Representatives at Looking Glass Youth and Family Services, Inc., say the April 15 cuts will hobble the program but not destroy it.

Looking Glass has been operating two programs for the City of Eugene to help train and employ young people. Both of those programs will be taken over by the city and eliminated from Looking Glass' control, says Executive Director Jim Forbes.

The loss of the two programs will mean a reduction in the agency's administration budget, Forbes says. And that will strain some of Looking Glass' other projects and programs.

"The net result in our case is a \$10,000 deficit by June 30 — and that makes long-range planning impossible," he says.

But Forbes says the agency will continue.

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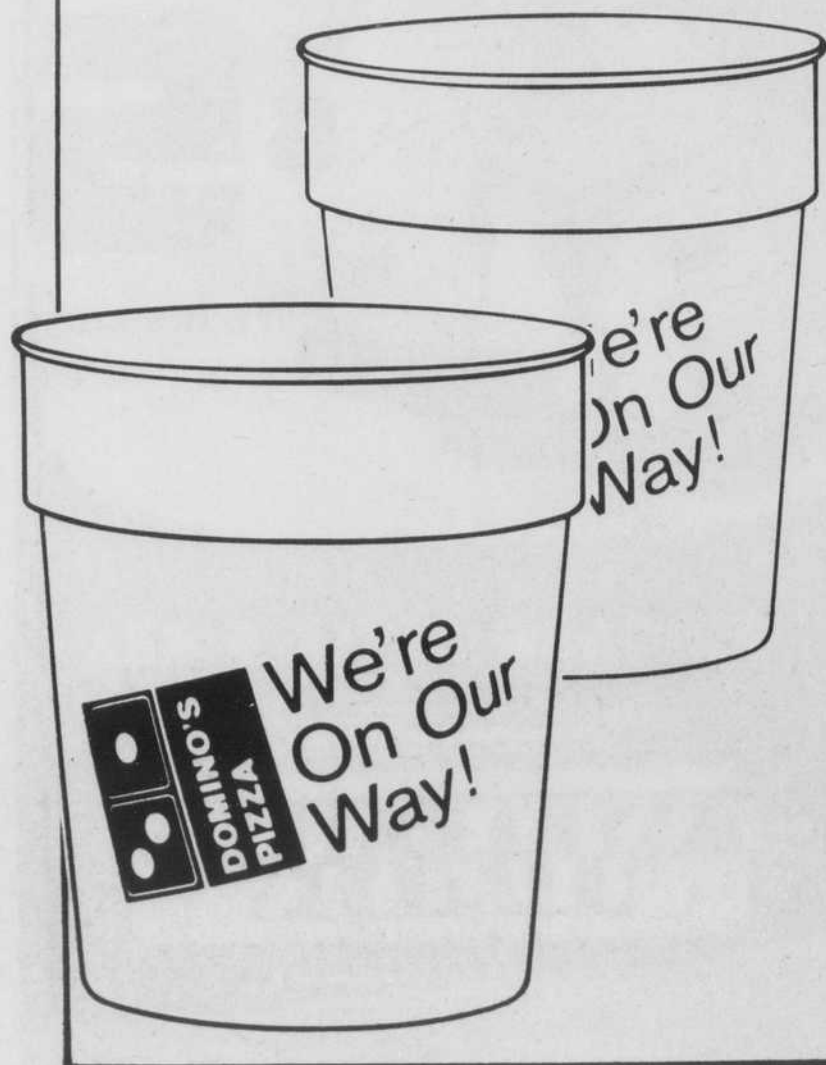
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