

FUNDS

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The search for funding ideas began last June when the committee surveyed other cities to see how human service funding was handled across the country.

The results of this survey, as well as some specific ideas on how to raise the necessary money, were compiled in two reports released last November.

The next step will be to make presentations to both city councils in Eugene and Springfield in hopes of gaining support for the idea of a stable funding source.

Once both councils agree some sort of funding source is necessary, the committee will meet with members of the business and rural communities to discuss specific ideas.

But before any decisions on the nature or source of human services funding are made, Manela said people need to realize why stable funding is necessary.

"I think people are aware of these problems ... growing homelessness, growing child abuse," Manela said. "There's a broad

base of people out there who understand the need for these services.

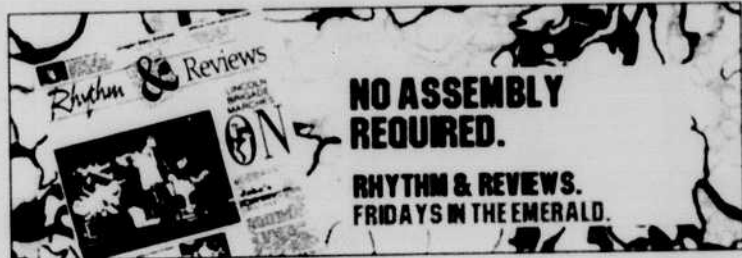
"It's important to educate people that this isn't a billion dollar program. It's \$2.3 million. It's not a big chunk of money," he said, explaining that Lane County's general fund, which covers only the county's operating expenses, is \$118 million.

Because the issue is still a new one, there are few vocal opponents. But after Karen McCowan, a columnist for the *Register-Guard*, mentioned the possibility of these taxes in a column, letters written to the paper criticized the plan.

The letter-writers mainly questioned whether or not the homeless and jobless needed special job training programs, among other services.

Manela disagrees, saying that the problems faced by some people today are not limited to homelessness, but include a sense of hopelessness as well.

Manela said once public hearings began on this issue and more people became aware of the plan, he expected more criticism.



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Robin Morris Collin, Professor, UO School of Law

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7 p.m., Room 129, Law Center
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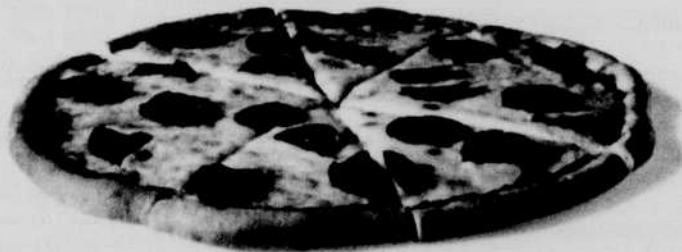
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