

# Funding cut for domestic violence services

■ Many Lane County agencies dedicated to ending domestic violence feel effect of expired grant

By Sara Lieberth  
Oregon Daily Emerald

In an ironic twist of fate, Lane County was denied additional funding for domestic violence advocacy work Sept. 29, just two days before local kick-off events were scheduled to recognize October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Three years ago, the county received a \$2.3 million grant from the Centers for Disease Control under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to fund a collaborative county-wide program addressing domestic violence. The grant, which has provided more than \$600,000 per year in operating funds since 1996, expired at the end of last month.

Before the grant expired, Lane County attempted to find additional grant money through an open national competition held

by the CDC, but was unsuccessful.

"It's a big loss," said Lori Nelson, director of the Crime Victim and Survivor Services program, formerly Victim's Services. "We're scrambling to make ends meet."

Nelson said her office fielded 2,010 protective order requests in the last fiscal year alone, which are issued as either restraining or anti-stalking orders. Two full-time positions in the program must be eliminated in absence of the grant.

"We've made a commitment to keep things as they are until the end of the calendar year," she said. "After that, we just don't know."

The consortium formed from the original grant was termed the Coordinated Community Response to Prevent Intimate Partner Violence and brought together a range of agencies and service providers, including Womenspace, Sacred Heart Medical Center, Lane County Corrections, Options Counseling and the Domestic Violence Council

among others.

Phyllis Barkhurst, executive director of Sexual Assault Support Services, said the news was not only a huge loss, but was unexpected as well.

"There wasn't really a plan B in place," she said.

Barkhurst indicated that the agency will likewise have to eliminate at least two full-time positions from its staff, and that the scope of their work was only beginning to see its impact.

"We were just really getting somewhere," she said. "That's the hardest part."

While programs such as SASS and Womenspace were able to expand existing services with the grant, other agencies that created wholly new programs will now suffer significant losses and, in some cases, cease operations altogether.

The Domestic Violence Unit at Sacred Heart Medical Center, which performed education, assessment and intervention on domestic violence will have to close because of the loss of its two full-time grant-funded employees, ac-

ording to Nelson.

Another new program facing possible termination is the batterer intervention group at Options Counseling, which dealt head-on with sources of domestic violence.

CCR project administrator for Womenspace Jana Rygas said the county's primary shelter will try to keep funded projects going until additional grant applications can be written, but admits the situation looks bleak.

"It's like triage right now," she said. "Womenspace will have to be on a bare-bones budget for the next year because of this."

The substantial success of the programs over the past three years makes losing the money all the more frustrating, Rygas said. Community awareness had heightened and was allowing for more women, especially in rural areas, to be reached.

"As people are becoming more aware, it means more of a demand for services," she said. "More women were coming forward. It's terrible that we're not able to help them."

Lane County was one of six municipalities to have received the original CDC grant three years ago and was chosen in part for having the Domestic Violence Council in place at the time.

"We looked at where women face barriers and how we could remove them," Rygas said. "It sure is going to be hard to do that now."

## Facts on Domestic Violence

Every nine seconds in the U.S. a woman is battered by her husband, boyfriend or live-in partner

At least 4 million incidents of domestic violence are reported each year.

Battered women account for up to 35 percent of women seeking care in hospital emergency rooms.

One in four young women are battered before completing high school, one in three before they're out of college.

SOURCE: Womenspace Domestic Violence Services.

## Protest

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versity Senate discussed the issue at last Wednesday's meeting. At the meeting, University President Dave Frohnmayer requested the formation of an advisory committee consisting of six faculty, staff and alumni members, as well as six students to be appointed by ASUO leadership.

McDonald said he acknowledges the importance of addressing the issue.

"It deserves a tremendous amount of study. It will take us time to define the problem, research and then agree to a set of solutions," he said.

McDonald added that he hopes to discuss the subject with students at the advisory committee that has been formed to address the issue.

"I believe the advisory commit-

tee will be helpful in moving us in a positive direction."

But this pace isn't fast enough for some students.

"This is definitely something that needs to be done. The University should act accordingly and face up to the issue at hand," said Erik Morris, senior political science major.

But McDonald said the University is doing all it can to address the issue.

"I always appreciate it when a group shines the light of day on an important issue such as this, although it does disturb me that a group would try to pass it off as if we were trying to ignore the issue," he said. "We are, in fact, being very pro-active and highly collaborative. Our advisory committee will be looking into several large groups that can help us find the most effective way to deal with the situation."

## Diversity

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gram will be more expensive than the summer program but said the administration is committed to its success.

"Cost is always an issue. We made our decision based on what is needed to carry out the summer interns' recommendations," he said. He added that the coordinating position will become more important if other campus departments and groups hire diversity interns.

Troy Franklin, assistant dean of student life, said the University needs time to decide what the next step in the diversity issue is going to be.

"Summer was just the tip of the iceberg and it always takes more than a year to institutionalize a movement," he said.

Both Franklin and Hubin agree

that a coordinator will help create continuity in diversity for campus groups, and Franklin said he feels it is the key to making the program work.

"This summer was just the first of many phases. The next phase is putting the interns' work into practice across campus," Franklin said.

One of the remaining interns from the summer is Jason Mak, recruitment and retention staff member for the ASUO. He worries that he and other remaining interns won't have enough time for the program now that they are busy with other activities.

"All summer, the interns were saying what they want to happen, and the administration kept telling us to wait and see. Now we have jobs elsewhere and maybe not enough time for this," he said.

Franklin said students need to be patient and take time to digest

the information from the summer interns' report, which was only recently released.

Over the summer, both Hubin and Franklin were part of the Diversity Steering Committee and served in a coordinating role. Franklin said the committee will meet soon to decide how it will function this year with the new coordinator in place.

Chen added that it is time to implement the suggestions from the summer report. He and Mak will start working on a proposal detailing exactly what the coordinator's job will entail.

"Nobody is pushing for what the role of the coordinator will be," Chen said. "We need to start saying what we want and how we want it."

Students interested in the Summer Diversity Internship Program can find more information online at [gladstone.uoregon.edu/~asuomca/](http://gladstone.uoregon.edu/~asuomca/).

# Gov. Kitzhaber might drop double majority provision from school plan

By Brad Cain  
The Associated Press

SALEM — Gov. John Kitzhaber says the school finance plan he hopes to put on next year's ballot would make a big difference for education, even without a key element he is leaning toward scrapping.

Kitzhaber said Tuesday he might not include a provision to abolish the state's "double-majority" requirement that invalidates property tax increases for schools when voter turnout is less than 50 percent.

Kitzhaber opposes that requirement on grounds that it's an unfair hurdle, but said he might not seek its repeal as part of his school package be-

cause it would have to be handled as a separate ballot measure.

He said that would run into extra campaign expenses and detract attention from his other proposals to create a rainy day fund and to encourage lawmakers to give schools enough money to meet higher standards.

"The important elements really have to do with trying to change the nature of the K-12 debate in the Legislature and forcing that debate to center on education goals we've established," the governor said.

Kitzhaber's apparent willingness to jettison the double majority issue came as a sur-

prise to Bill Sizemore, the anti-tax hike activist whose 1996 property tax limit imposed the double majority requirement.

"The strategy of increasing taxes in small special elections, when no one shows up, is the tax-and-spender's secret weapon," Sizemore said. "For John Kitzhaber to drop that issue is quite a surprise."

It wasn't the first refinement in the school tax plan that Kitzhaber hopes to place on the November 2000 ballot.

The Democratic governor earlier had indicated he would propose a tax plan that could raise hundreds of millions of dollars for schools, as well as

provide stability for school finances.

But he opted instead for several proposals that revise Oregon's school finance system without tax hikes.

One of his proposals would set a higher constitutional standard for the Legislature to meet in funding schools by requiring lawmakers to give schools enough money so they can meet state academic achievement standards or explain why funding fell short of that level.

Another proposal would establish a rainy-day fund financed by the state tobacco settlement, Common School Fund and money now returned

to voters through the "kicker" income tax rebate. The rainy-day fund would help schools through economic downturns that dry up state income-tax revenues.

Political analyst Jim Moore said he thinks Kitzhaber is being pragmatic in fine-tuning the school tax package he hopes to take to voters.

"The governor's plans for funding schools and tax reform seem to get smaller every time he talks about them. But that's part of the political process. The key is finding what you can actually get done," said Moore, who teaches political science at the University of Portland.

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