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MEASURE 30

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the total potential amount, about \$182 million will be taken from OHP-related funding, Sellers said.

The health plan's Standard package, which was created for poor adults who do not qualify for federal Medicaid, will be completely eliminated, Sellers said. Statewide, almost 46,000 people are on the Standard plan.

In addition, those on OHP's Plus plan are likely to lose some benefits, such as mental health and chemical dependency treatment coverage, along with vision and dental coverage. About 125,000 low-income adults may lose the dental and vision coverage, according to department statistics.

Sellers said there are about 294,530 people on the Plus plan statewide.

Director for Lane County Health and Human Services Rob Rockstroh said 6,000 to 8,000 people in Lane County would no longer be eligible for the Oregon Health plan should Measure 30 fail.

"If they got sick and went to the emergency room, they'd have no ability to pay," Rockstroh said. He added that hospitals would probably have to absorb the extra costs, and people could die for lack of access.

Child, Adult and Family services would also be affected, taking a cut of about \$17.4 million in various sectors. Gambling treatment programs are also likely to be axed, as well as child-care assistance for students.

Funds to the state's System of Care program, which provides different services to children, may also be reduced, meaning longer stays in foster care. And about 2,000 pregnant women may lose medical assistance and no longer have access to prenatal and other health care services, according to DHS statistics.

Cuts could go into effect as early as May 2004 if the measure fails. Calling

SOCIAL SERVICES CUTS

If Measure 30 fails, Oregon's Human Services Department may cut almost \$210 million worth of services from its budget. Some of the recommended actions include:

- Eliminate all Oregon Health Plan Coverage for clients on the OHP Standard plan
- Eliminate adult dental, vision and therapy coverage for clients on the OHP Plus plan
- Eliminate outpatient mental health and chemical dependency services coverage for clients on the OHP Plus plan
- Eliminate OHP coverage for pregnant women between 133 percent and 185 percent of the federal poverty line
- Eliminate the Emergency Assistance Program
- Eliminate lottery-funded gambling addiction programs
- Eliminate student Day Care Assistance to 325 low-income families

SOURCE: Human Services Department

the budget-balancing process "long and complicated," Rockstroh said exactly how and where the money might be deducted is still being negotiated at state level.

Rockstroh said Lane County, which constitutes about 10 percent of the total state budget, already lost some of its financing in the last round of cuts.

Based on voter polls, the measure will most likely fail, Rockstroh said, but he said he isn't certain how things will work out on Feb. 2.

"I really believe that we will lose an awful lot of services, but I just don't know," he said.

He said some people might argue that private charitable organizations will be able to help in the areas that state has to turn away.

"People have to recognize that the public sector funds these nonprofit charitable sectors," he said. "So you won't see them being able to pick up the slack."

And losses in one sector affect the entire system, officials say.

While most cuts will probably affect the health insurance sector, losing

health coverage can affect struggling families in other ways, said John Radich, DHS' Lane County service delivery manager for Area 5.

For instance, loss of alcohol or drug treatment may compromise the agency's attempts to stabilize a family or allow people to sustain employment. According to department statistics, about 2,000 of the adults on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or welfare who are required to work as part of their eligibility have mental health or chemical dependency problems, which must be addressed before they can become self-sufficient.

"I hope that people will realize the impact on certain groups," Radich said.

Considering the potential extent and impact of reductions, department officials are trying to make the best out of the situation.

"What we're trying to do is prevent the most harm to the most vulnerable," Sellers said.

Contact the news editor at ayishayahya@dailyemerald.com.

ENVIRONMENT

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environmental agreements.

Mitchell said an important aspect of the research is analyzing how effective environmental agreements are in changing the behavior of governments, corporations and individuals. He said the database is needed to protect against pollution because countries tend to do what suits their individual interests.

"There is no world government to tell countries what to do," he said. "It will provide improved evaluated

guidelines for policy makers."

Junior political science and economics major Ryan Slunaker has worked on the project for about two years and said he uses his database coding experiences to learn more about political science research.

"The grant is a great thing," he said. "This research hasn't really even been attempted before and will be very beneficial when it is completed."

Mitchell also has received support for the project from the University's Summer Research Award program and the American Philosophical Society's Sabbatical Fellowship program. He said the grant-enabled research will

have a positive affect on the University's interest in international issues.


"(The project) will say that the UO is doing international research and that the UO is committed to environmental studies and to students," he said. "There are really smart students here doing really good research."

The international environmental agreements database and more information about the project are available online at <http://www.uoregon.edu/~rmitchel/iea/>.

Contact the freelance editor at jensudick@dailyemerald.com.

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