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government for two programs: Medicaid and public education.

Getting matching funds for Medicaid is nothing new. Providing health care services to people living at low incomes and people with disabilities through the Oregon Health Plan, Medicaid is jointly funded by Oregon and the federal government. For every dollar that is spent on Medicaid in Oregon, the federal government provides 63 cents.

According to the state Department of Human Services, Oregon provides health care services to 486,500 Oregonians, which includes 272,500 children and 116,500 seniors and people with disabilities.

The federal stimulus package passed in February increased the federal match rate to about 70 cents per dollar.

If Measures 66 and 67 are voted down, the general fund will lack the money to fund Medicaid at its current budget. The amount of money the Department of Human Services estimates it will lose in general fund money is \$182.5 million. That is the equivalent of providing health care and related services to 50,000 people.

The Department of Human Services also estimates that it could lose a minimum of \$225 million in federal matching funds.

"Anytime we cut state funding out of Medicaid, we lose federal money," Ames says.

Public education funding—including K-12 education, public universities and community colleges — could be affected like Medicaid depending upon whether Measures 66 or 67 pass or fail.

The federal stimulus package passed by the Obama administration included a fund called the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund. That fund provides money for basic human services and education to states facing large budget deficits.

Oregon received \$466.5 million from the Stabilization Fund, \$341 million of which already has been spent on the 2009-10 and 2010-11 school years.

To qualify for the funding, Oregon made an agreement with the federal government — called a "maintenance of effort" requirement — that Oregon would fund education at the same level it was funded during 2006, which was \$5.6 billion. The current budget for public education is \$200 million above that, at \$5.8 billion. Ames says it also is expected that education will get an additional \$200 million from reserve funds this summer.

Saying that the public education budget is fairly well "propped up," Ames says that, depending on how the Legislature decides to balance the budget if Measures 66 and 67 fail, the education budget could fall below 2006 funding levels.

"If you cut K-12 too much ... you would have the risk of losing all the federal money, even though some of that has been spent," Ames says.

If Oregon lost the federal stimulus money for education, Ames says there is the possibility that Oregon could apply for a waiver allowing the state to keep the money.

"We don't know if that would be allowed or not," Ames says. "The waiver is an unknown."

Whether Oregon will lose federal matching money, and how much, depends on the actions of the Legislature. In February, the Legislature will meet in a previously scheduled special session. If it has to re-balance the budget because Measures 66 and 67 fail, many people predict that it will be making tough choices.

For example, does the Legislature maintain Medicaid's budget and cut other programs, or cut Medicaid and lose federal money?

"Preserving the federal match (for Medicaid) would result in substantial harm to the budgets of education and public safety," says Janet Bauer, a policy analyst for the Oregon Center for Public Policy. "It is technically possible that the Legislature could, for instance, make the entire hit to education and preserve public safety or the reverse."

"They could cut really deeply in some other programs and avoid cutting Medicaid," Ames says.

Pat McCormick, the media spokesperson for Oregonians Against Job-Killing Taxes, calls the argument that Oregon would lose federal matching funds "ridiculous."

"(The Legislature) has the full range of choices so they have don't have to cut," McCormick says, suggesting the Legislature could look to increase revenues elsewhere, such as a surcharge, or an increase in state income taxes for all incomes.

"He knows perfectly well that there's not a magic pot of money lying around," Novick says. "He just doesn't care."

Novick says "there's no easy answer" to how the Legislature will be able to preserve funding for health care and public education if the ballot measures fail. "These are terrible choices," he says, saying that the state would turn into the "kind of sad state that we were" in 2003, when Oregon experienced a recession, rejected an income tax increase, and had to make cuts in the Oregon Health Plan and public education.

"It is very likely that some of the (\$733 million) will have to come out of some of the things we get federal matching funds from," says Oregon Rep. Phil Barnhart, chairman of the House Revenue Committee. "It will affect every area of the budget."

Barnhart says that to make up for the money that would be lost if Measures 66 and 67 do not pass, education and Medicaid would be two programs likely to see deep cuts, simply because the budgets are large enough to cut enough to balance the budget.

"There really is nowhere else to get money," Barnhart says.

Mirror Mirror

By Cedera Rios

Mirror mirror
on my wall
Tell me tell me
What you will
What do you see
Make it known
My mind, my mind is
overthrown.

Junkie then and junkie now
If you will miss please allow
me to say that although you've changed, you're still the same
Girl goddamnit fucking change yer game
I'm sick as fuck of listenin' u whine
'ever ours, ever mine, ever thine'
Whine and pine for your fucking self
Cause no one else gives a hell
Eyes pinned head droopy, having a hard time getting ready
'nope no no dope just my medi's!'
Get over yourself your a fucking joke
Say it loud say it proud THIS IS HOW I COPE,
MY FUCKING WORLD NEVER TAUGHT ME HOW,
Then ask yourself what the fuck to do now,
cause they're right you are a spoiled bitch,
it don't make a difference
that you ain't fuckin' rich
You're a bitch
You're a slob
Go ahead an' fuckin' sob
Sorry someone needs to tell you
Someone you trust and listen to.
Now go show the world you can hold a job,
and you'll do it make them look lazy stupid crazy,
or do what you want and shut them out
make yourself someone they can't talk shit about!

Mirror you're a stupid dick
How fucking dare you
Say that shit!
I mean I know it's true
But what the fuck?
Can't a girl
Catch some luck,
find someone who DOES give a fuck?
No?
Whatever I got shit to do
So you know what, if I may,
Fuck fuck fuck fuck fuck YOU

The People Behind the Paper: A special Street Roots photography exhibit

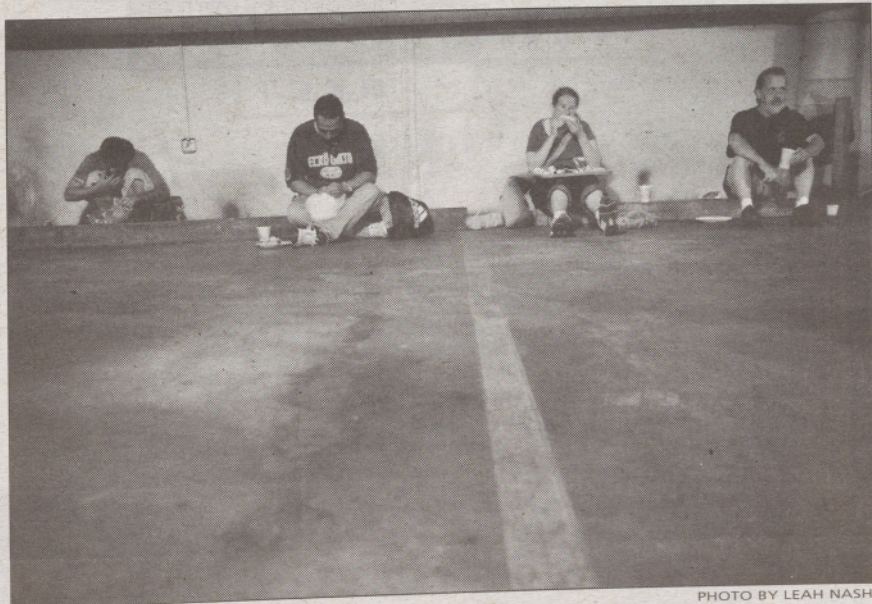


PHOTO BY LEAH NASH

Street Roots, Albina Community Bank in the Pearl and some of Portland's best photographers are teaming up to present Street Roots vendors for a monthlong photography exhibit.

You are invited to the opening on **First Thursday, Nov. 5 at 6 p.m. at Albina Community Bank at 430 NW 10th Ave.** in the Pearl. (You are also invited to stop by during normal business hours anytime during November to see the show.)

The exhibit features the work of photographers Leah Nash, Ken Hawkins, John Ryan Brubaker, Elizabeth Schwartz and Mary Edmeades, shot exclusively for Street Roots.



PHOTO BY JOHN RYAN BRUBAKER