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behind on meeting families' needs, overburdening fewer staff to meet the myriad HUD requirements with landlords. Landlords unhappy with inspection schedules and agency services are more inclined to disallow Section 8 renters altogether.

There is also the expected shift in caseloads to other social services as people fall through the cracks into homelessness. It is especially difficult in the rural communities of Northwest Oregon, where people rely on seasonal, self-employment and low-income service jobs to get by, Johnston says.

"The safety net just isn't here," Johnston says of his region. "If this goes on for the long term, the effects are just going to be compounded. If this becomes a trend, or a long-term proposition, people are going to have to start looking at other options."

Those options are bleak — including people living out of cars or outside, Johnston said.

In the Clackamas County Housing Authority, interim director Dan Potter says they will have to cut back in staff, but they hope to absorb most of the loss in voucher payments with financial reserves. In addition to public housing, the county serves more than 1,600 recipients on vouchers for the elderly, disabled and families with children.

While the state-directed funding is distributed to various smaller municipalities and agencies across Oregon, the Portland Housing Bureau receives its own pool of HUD funds. This year, PHB is anticipating a 10 percent reduction to its programs due to HUD's sequestration, including a projected loss of \$770,178 in Community Development Block Grants and \$292,039 in HOME funds, respectively. The PHB also projects a \$78,216 reduction to its Emergency Solutions Grant, which is used for homelessness-relief programs. Additionally, the PHB projects a \$109,072 reduction to Housing Opportunities for People with HIV/AIDS.

As a result of these cuts, the PHB anticipates that 65 households will not receive short-term rent assistance, 14 households with HIV/AIDS will not receive rent assistance and 130 households from communities of color will not receive homeownership education and counseling.

"Short-term rental assistance and affordable rental housing, both of which utilize federal funds, are two effective tools in keeping people off the streets and in homes," said Portland Housing Bureau Director Traci Manning in a statement to Street Roots. "We're still operating on the assumption of our budget forecast, which would mean a \$1,249,505 reduction in federal funds, because we have not received allocations or new information from HUD."

Multnomah County's, safety net services,

Oregon's social service sequester from HUD

Total: \$13 million

Section 8: \$11 million

Tenant-based rental assistance for qualifying low- or no-income rental assistance. Voucher holders often pay a portion of their income, about 30 percent, toward rent.

HOME funds: \$641,000

The nation's largest block grant designed exclusively to create affordable housing for low-income households.

Homeless assistance: \$1.2 million

Emergency shelter, case management services and related assistance to end homelessness.

Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA): \$73,000

Rental assistance, foreclosure prevention, health care, mental health services, dependency treatment and other services

including aging and disability programs, domestic violence services, and mental health and addiction treatment, are anticipating a \$4.3 million hit. This includes funding for direct services for homeless families, the disabled and the elderly through a variety of organizations. (Multnomah County's HUD funds are received through federal, state and local streams.)

For Mary Li, the director of the Community Services division of the Department of Multnomah County Human Services, the cuts leave her sad and frustrated with lawmakers in Washington D.C.

"In many ways, it's a very cynical calculation that in no way takes into account the real harm that is going to befall communities as a result of this gamesmanship," Li said. "I expect better."

"I have great faith and belief that we in the county can figure how to best help ourselves," Li says. "We can't do that without the resources, and the federal government must come to the table. ... The citizens of Multnomah County will save the citizens of Multnomah County before the government does, but the federal government needs to send the resources to us."

Oregon Opportunity Network represents nonprofit and low-income housing developers that house more than 72,000 families across the state. The financial blow from the HUD cuts are among many they have been dealt from local, state and federal sources.

"Our members are working hard on the front lines to help struggling Oregonians, and these cuts are on top of previous cuts and

continued disinvestment at the federal level," says Ruth Adkins, policy director for Oregon ON. "They're working in an extremely complex and challenging regulatory environment, as well as facing an overwhelming human need."

Adkins says it's still too soon to see how this will play out among families, but that the wholesale nature of the sequester leaves few services untouched.

"We're all interconnected," Adkins said, referring to not only housing cuts but also cuts to education, infrastructure and other programs that help vulnerable and middle-class populations. "It's really discouraging. To succeed you need a place to call home."

Tony Bernal, development director at Transition Projects, said that at this point it's unclear how the cuts will play out. Transition Projects gets part of its funding from multiple federal sources, some of which pass through local governments, making it difficult to anticipate exactly how his organization will be impacted.

"HUD is a particularly complicated story," he says.

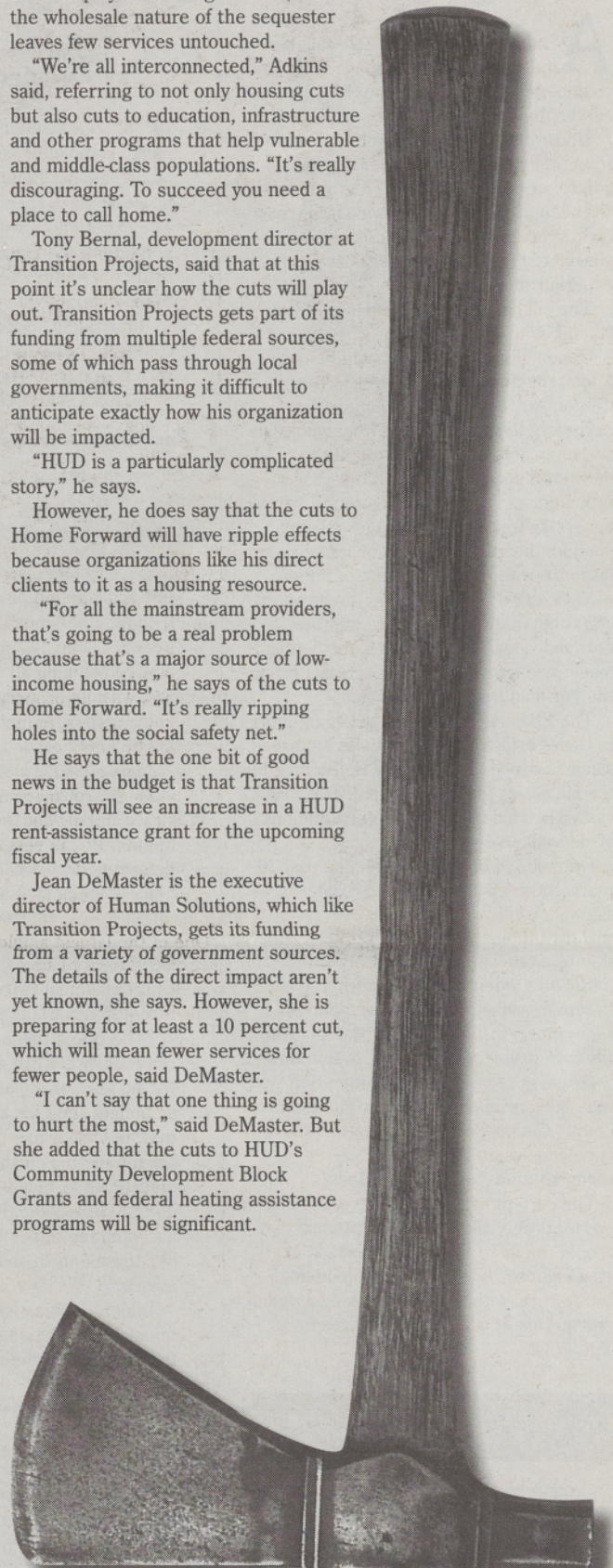
However, he does say that the cuts to Home Forward will have ripple effects because organizations like his direct clients to it as a housing resource.

"For all the mainstream providers, that's going to be a real problem because that's a major source of low-income housing," he says of the cuts to Home Forward. "It's really ripping holes into the social safety net."

He says that the one bit of good news in the budget is that Transition Projects will see an increase in a HUD rent-assistance grant for the upcoming fiscal year.

Jean DeMaster is the executive director of Human Solutions, which like Transition Projects, gets its funding from a variety of government sources. The details of the direct impact aren't yet known, she says. However, she is preparing for at least a 10 percent cut, which will mean fewer services for fewer people, said DeMaster.

"I can't say that one thing is going to hurt the most," said DeMaster. But she added that the cuts to HUD's Community Development Block Grants and federal heating assistance programs will be significant.



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