

# ***JOP to provide job opportunities and training***

At the beginning of the year, RurAL CAP entered into a contract with the State Department of Community and Regional Affairs to administer the Job Opportunities Program (Title X) on a statewide basis. This was part of a proposal submitted to the U.S. Department of Commerce on behalf of Alaska CSA grantees.

The purpose of the JOP, in general, is to provide emergency employment and training opportunities for unskilled and for the most part, low-income, rural Alaskans. The employees under the program are now working in conjunction with current RurAL CAP projects operating in Alaska.

The JOP Winterization component (\$200,642) involves the hiring of labor to conduct home winterization evaluations and to assist in the installation of insulation in individual residences; approximately 27 positions were created and are now being filled.

The JOP Community Development program (\$83,243) created five positions in four different regions with emphasis on facilitating community and economic development projects. Those individuals who are working with their respective community councils and/or regional non-profit associations are:

- Ron Bernstein, Old Harbor (Kodiak Island)
- Lena Farkas, Yakutat, (Southeast)
- Joe Kalmakoff, Ivanoff Bay (Bristol Bay)
- Arlene Demit, Tok (Upper Tanana)
- Robert Young, Kasaan (Southeast)

The JOP Head Start project (\$243,345) resulted in the hiring of approximately 30 Alaskans as teacher aides and field trainers to work with the early childhood, special education and handicap components of the statewide Head Start programs. Career Development training is also offered under this program.

Besides the RurAL CAP JOP program, two other organizations' proposals for funding were approved—Kawerak, Inc. of Nome and Alaska Village Electric Co-op of Anchorage.