

Health-Social Services Soliciting Public Comment

Commissioner Francis Williamson has announced that the Department of Health and Social Services is now soliciting public comment and suggestions regarding the new requirements for social services to be provided to all Alaskans under Title XX of the Social Security Act.

Unlike past years where the federal government mandated specific social services and determined which individuals were to be eligible, Title XX allows for each state to individually determine the needs of all its residents and make an independent decision as to which social services are to be made available and to whom.

The new state social services programs will be directed to assist

individuals achieve a capability for self-support and self-sufficiency, to prevent or remedy the neglect and abuse of children and dependent adults, to provide alternatives within the home and community to institutional care, to meet the needs of those who must for maximum care be placed in institutions, and to help preserve or rehabilitate families.

Williamson stated that the federal allotment to Alaska is \$4 million and the estimated state expenditure is \$3,466,100.

The completed proposed plan is available to the general public without charge and can be obtained from any local Family and Children Services District Office, or by calling the long

distance operator and asking for Zenith 3300 at no charge to the caller.

Comments from the general public will be received through Aug. 15. Public hearings will be held from July 1 through Aug. 15 at a time and place to be announced at a later date.