

# 15 communities to receive rural development grants

Fifteen Alaska communities will be awarded a total of nearly \$1 million in rural economic development grants.

The grants, part of the Department of Community and Regional Affairs' Rural Economic Development Initiative program, are funded by the federal Community Development Block Grant Program.

"In these times of statewide economic difficulty, it is especially important to have programs like REDI which target specific development opportunities and promote community self-sufficiency," said David Hoffman, commissioner for DCRA.

Economic Development Grants were awarded to projects which offer the greatest potential for creating the most jobs in addition to supporting overall program goals. They included:

- The city of Palmer, \$100,000 for assistance in the purchase of a musk ox farm.

- The city of Fairbanks and the Fairbanks Native Association, \$55,000 for improvements to the Alaskaland Native Village.

- St. Paul, \$100,000 to provide local match assistance to aid the construction of a major harbor.

- Port Lions, \$98,007 for a fuel distribution facility.

- Hydaburg, \$100,000 for an ice-making facility to service the local fish processing plant and fishing fleet.

- Community Development Grants are designed to help cities provide essential community services. They included:

- Napaskiak, \$44,587 for purchase of fire safety equipment.

- Diomedes, \$100,000 for the relocation and upgrade of bulk fuel storage tanks.

- Emmonak, \$55,000 to rehabilitate the city's public shower/washeteria facility.

- Cordova, \$50,000 for renovation

of the community's child care center.

- Nome, \$93,000 to purchase a mammography unit to serve the region.

Technical Assistance and Planning Grants were awarded to proposals which demonstrated the greatest potential for positive long-term results. They included:

- Cold Bay, \$35,600 to conduct a community economic feasibility plan.

- Hooper Bay, \$39,875 for an overall economic development plan.

- Allakaket, \$10,500 for an engineering study for the renovation of a community water line.

- Kaktovik, \$20,445 for a study on the potential social and cultural impacts of ANWR development.

- Tanana, \$37,325 for development of a plan to provide a long-term economical gravel source.