
Villages Protest Cut-Off

Petitions from villages have been sent to Governor Egan and the Congressional delegation supporting RurAL CAP's anti-poverty program and asking continuance of the agency's advocacy for poor and disadvantaged people.

The action was taken by the people after memos had been received from the Office of Economic Opportunity stating that funds would not be available after June 30 for community action programs.

In asking for the assistance, Harold Napoleon, executive director for Yupigtak Bista, said that in past years, their region, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta area, had been greatly helped by the existence of RurAL CAP and it is important that RurAL CAP continue its work because the problems that the agency is working on still exist and the need for RurAL CAP is vital.

The letter stated, "The people of this region are desirous that the RurAL CAP organization continue to receive funding and to this end, a number of the villages have sent us petitions. We are enclosing a copy for your information. Anything you can do to assist us in this situation will be greatly appreciated."

Mike Harper, executive director of RurAL CAP, commented that 1,835 signatures were on petitions received from that area, which is the largest of the agency's regional corporations.

The Association of Village Council Presidents Community Action Program, known as AVCP CAP, recently merged with the Southwest Alaska Native Association (SWANA), to become Yupigtak Bista, as both non-profit corporations served the same area, had common goals and were competing to obtain the same programs.