

# *Assistance provided*

The Alaskan Economic Development Office during the first three months of the year provided assistance to 75 minority individuals and businesses in the state. Applications for \$295,000 of BIA business development grants were submitted along with over \$1 million dollars of loan requests from lending agencies. Most of the loan requests are tied to the BIA grant program and, although a number of the loans have been tentatively approved, none will be finalized until BIA grants are approved, which may be by the end of June.

AEDO's construction specialist, Todd Baldwin, was instrumental in obtaining construction contracts from state, federal and private sources which

totaled over \$930,000 during the month of March. A good share of these went to a newly-formed joint venture which Todd had helped put together. As the construction season begins to get under way, we expect more contracts will be let to minority businesses in the state.

The OMBE office in San Francisco is expected to soon approve AEDO's request for an extension of the grant to Sept. 30 and permission to assist minority businesses in all areas of the state. OMBE has until now only given specific approval for AEDO to assist businesses in Unalaska, Copper Center and Cantwell, and staff members have made visits to those towns in the past two months.