

# AFN Healthright Project to Provide Funds for Health Work

Rural areas in Southwestern Alaska will be the major beneficiaries of a \$1.1 million program for improved health care and facilities funded by the Office of Economic Opportunity.

The Alaska Federation of Natives Healthright Project will provide money for several programs to provide comprehensive health service for over 24,000 residents in the most rural areas of Western Alaska. Receipt of the grant was announced last week by Senator Ted Stevens

of Alaska.

The Healthright project will include provisions to train health aides, develop ambulatory care facilities and provide a wide range of service in communities in Central Alaska and the Nome area.

Under the training programs provided for, 40 village health aides will receive 10 weeks of training in paramedical medicine from the Alaska Native Health Service at Bethel and in Anchorage.

An advanced course of train-

ing, similar to the program for medical corpsmen in the armed forces, will be administered by the staff and physicians of the Public Health Service.

The project provides for the renovation of buildings to be used as ambulatory care units in five villages. Plans for similar care units in six other villages are also being made.

In the Central and Nome areas of Alaska, the OEO money will be used for a wide range of services. These include expansion of existing community sanitation programs, added dental and other services developing an educated group of resident health aides.