

Vet Widows Get Education Aid

An estimated 59 Alaska widows of veterans who died as the result of military service will be eligible for up to 36 months of educational assistance from the Veterans Administration beginning December 1, M. W. McDonaugh, Manager of the Juneau VA Regional Office, said today.

He pointed out that starting Dec. 1, the wives of Alaska's 44 totally and permanently disabled veterans will also be entitled to VA educational assistance payments of \$130 a month—up to a maximum of 36 months—for full-time institutional training.

The allowance for three-quarters time training is \$95 a month, with \$60 being paid for half-time training under the new law granting these widows and wives VA educational help for the first time in the history of veterans' benefits in the United States, McDonaugh said.

Widows and wives now eligible for this benefit will have

until December 1, 1976, to complete their training under this training under this new program, McDonaugh explained.

He said the women who become eligible in the future for VA educational assistance due to the service-connected death or permanent and total disability of their husbands will have eight years to complete their training.

Eligibility of widows and wives does not depend on when their husbands served in the Armed Forces. However, McDonaugh added, if a widow remarries or a wife divorces her disabled husband, she loses her entitlement.

McDonaugh emphasized that it will not be necessary for eligible widows and wives to contact the VA for detailed information on this new program.

In the near future the Veterans Administration will mail explanatory material with widows' dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) checks and with the compensation checks for totally and permanently disabled veterans.