

State disburses \$38.3 million in revenue sharing

The check is in the mail to more than 180 Alaskan communities, village councils and volunteer fire departments.

The Department of Community and Regional Affairs this week has begun distributing about \$38.3 million in State Revenue Sharing Program payments for Fiscal Year 1991. The total budgeted by the Legislature for distribution this year is the same as last year.

Checks are being sent to 181 of 253 eligible entities. The remainder will be distributed as the entities complete the necessary paperwork.

The State Revenue Sharing Program and the separate Municipal Assistance Program are the primary means that the state uses to support local governments in Alaska. Both are administered by the Department of Community and Regional Affairs.

Passed by the Legislature in 1980, the current State Revenue Sharing Program is designed to support local services throughout the state while making allowances for the unequal distribution of taxable property. It consists of two main components.

The tax equalization component is intended to even out differences in taxable wealth by paying relatively more shared revenues to those communities which have little taxable property, those with larger populations and those that contribute more to local services through locally generated revenues.

The second component, miscellaneous services entitlements, pays for specific services such as road maintenance, health facilities and hospitals, volunteer fire departments outside of municipalities and public services in unincorporated communities.
