

1300 Alaska Children in 44 Villages To Take Part in 'Project Head Start'

The Department of Education's "Project Head Start"—approved recently by President Johnson—will provide kindergarten-type training in 44 Alaska villages this summer.

Some 1,300 underprivileged children are expected to benefit from the eight-week program which is expected to be fully under way by June 28.

The total cost of the project will be \$692,797, with the federal government providing \$629,167 and the State the remainder. The State can meet its share by providing services and facilities for the project.

The Alaska project is one of many similar projects throughout the na-

tion being financed through the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964.

The Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs will assist the State in establishing and conducting the summer pre-school program in Alaska. Both State and BIA elementary school buildings will be used as training centers.

There are no kindergartens in any of the 44 villages in which this program will be offered. Pre-school children from four to six years of age will be accepted. Each child will be examined by a doctor, dentist, social worker, and psychologist and given a daily lunch.

Some village residents, both adults and teenagers, including students from Mt. Edgecumbe High School at Sitka who are home for the summer, will be hired to assist in the program.

State and BIA teachers who will participate will be given a week of training at the University of Alaska just prior to the opening of the training centers. The entire program is under the direction of Jeff C. Jeffers of the Department of Education.