

\$1.6 million in grants received

Four Native regional corporations and six village corporations would receive a total of \$1.6 million in grants under budget additions the Office of Management and Budget has requested to the Fiscal Year 1976 supplemental appropriations bill, the last chance for the authorized grants to be funded.

The regional corporations of Juneau, Sitka, Kenai and Kodiak would each receive \$250,000, and grants of \$100,000 each would go to the village corporation of Arctic Village, Elim, Gambell, Savoonga, Tetlin and Venetie.

These funds were authorized for FY 1976 under an omnibus Native claims bill which was signed into law in January, but a FY 1976 appropriation is also necessary.

The FY 1976 supplemental appropriations bill, which the Appropriations Committee will begin working on at the end of the month, was the last opportunity to get the necessary funding for the grants.

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Grant . . .

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U.S. Sen. Ted Stevens, who proposed the omnibus Native claims bill and introduced the amendments authorizing the grants, had been pushing OMB for months to include the \$1.6 million in their budget requests for supplemental appropriations.

"We had to get these requests down here from OMB this month before we started marking up the supplemental appropriations bill. If OMB hadn't put the grants in their budget, we would have had to add an amendment to the bill, which would have been more difficult. This way, the funds will already be in the bill, and I see no problem in keeping them in," said Stevens, a member of the Appropriations Committee.

"These corporations need these funds this year, and I'm glad we don't have to face a budget fight to get them," he said.

In addition, the OMB has requested a budget amendment to the FY 1977 Interior appropriations bill for the Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission.

The commission was originally due to expire Dec. 31, 1976, but its life was extended until June 30, 1979, under another of Stevens' amendments to the omnibus bill.

As the FY 1977 budget reflected the original 1976 expiration date, additions were needed for it to continue beyond then. The state must match the funds for the Land Use Planning Commission.