

To Help Rural Natives—

BIA Grants FNA

The Fairbanks Native Association is now offering financial assistance and additional counseling services to rural natives moving to Fairbanks as the result of a \$15,376 grant from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The grant, explained Sam Kito, president of FNA, runs for four months from March 1 to June 30 of this year.

About half of the grant, or \$8,000, will be used for general financial assistance to help incoming natives adapt to urban living.

Before, Kito said, the Fairbanks Native Community Center, through which the money will be channeled, had no funds for financial assistance and could only refer individuals to other agencies for such help.

Now, the center itself can give the native enough money directly for food, clothing, and housing to carry him along until

he finds a job.

The remainder of the grant will be used primarily to hire two additional people enabling the community center to operate on a seven-day basis from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Previously the center was open only Monday through Friday.

These employees, along with others at the center, will offer counseling services to the incoming natives in areas of consumer buying, alcoholism, employment, housing, and education.

According to Kito, an average of 20 individuals come to the center each week seeking assistance.

The Fairbanks Native Association can apply for a renewal of the grant when it runs out in four months, Kito said.

The Native Community Center is located at 520 Fourth Avenue. Clara Carroll is director.