

RurAL-CAP Asks Villages to Prepare for Head Start



THE GROWTH OF A SEED into a complicated plant with roots, stem and leaves is fascinating. Seeing this growth process through a magnifying glass adds even more fun for the Head Start youngsters in rural Alaska.

Villages Must Agree to Provide Classrooms Free of Charge

If your village wants a Head Start program for next fall the time to act is now. Rural Alaska Community Action Program's Head Start is seeking the cooperation and support of the State Legislature, the Governor's Office and the Congressional delegation to provide a Head Start pre-school program in every village in Rural Alaska.

RurAL CAP Head Start currently operates 42 local village Head Start programs with OEO/HEW funds. State Operated Schools and BIA are both making long range plans to bring the advantages of pre-school programs to additional communities next year.

Under a plan now before the state legislature, the entire pre-

school program for rural Alaska would be coordinated between the three agencies, with Head Start initiating the new schools the first year hiring and training local village staffs and then phasing out the entire system as State Operated Schools and BIA have facilities available and the local teachers acquire additional training.

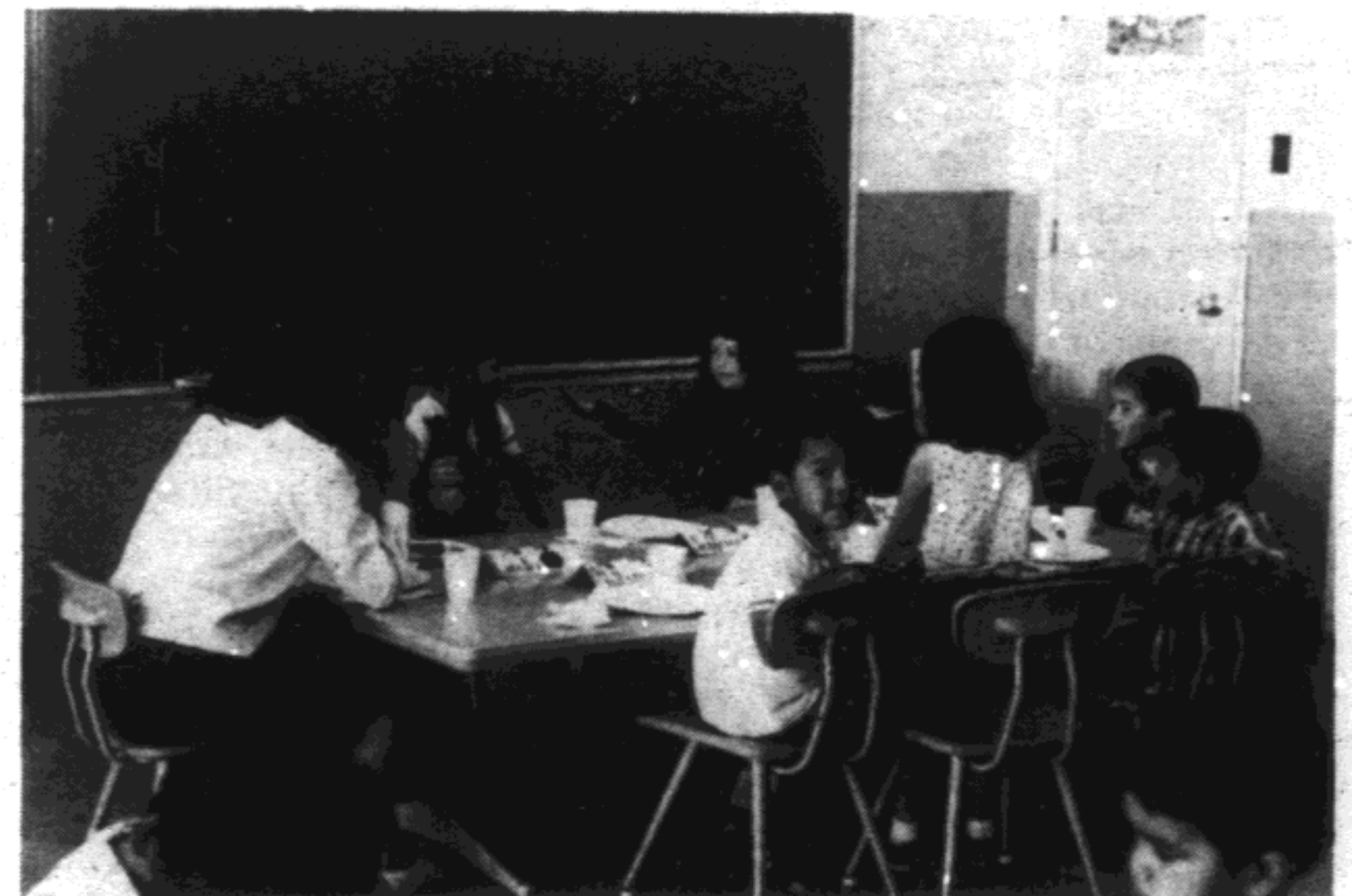
Villages which now have Head Start programs have already received budget requests. Villages without current Head Start programs may apply through their village councils using the form printed in this paper.

In order to obtain a Head Start grant a village must agree to provide a classroom at no expense for the school.

It must have two fire exits, be warm, have a low partition area for a chemical toilet and an area for a kitchen. The village must also support the school by contributing fresh food—caribou, whales, walrus, fish and birds to supplement the lunch program.

Upon approval Head Start provides the equipment (tables, chairs, movie projector, toys and teaching materials and most of the food.) The village council selects local people for the jobs of teacher, teacher aide, cook and janitor. The teacher is paid to attend an 8 week training program during the summer with other new teachers at the University of Alaska or Alaska Methodist University. Head Start pays the salaries and expenses for all employees.

Village councils who are interested in obtaining more information about this program should fill out the printed form and send it to Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Ind., Head Start, Drawer 412 ECB, Anchorage, Alaska 99501.



HEAD START children in rural Alaska take part in a nutrition program which includes two snacks and a hot lunch every day. Mealtime is fun time when the children are encouraged to regard eating and talking as a social event.