

YAA Seeks Funding For Probation Aides

The Regional Probation Parole Office of the State Youth and Adult Authority Division has made an application for funds to finance a Probation-Parole Aide Program to train three native men from Bethel, Fort Yukon and Barrow.

"In the past," the application said in part, "little or no service has been extended by the field staff of the Youth and Adult Authority to small communities in the 2nd and 4th Judicial Districts in the State of Alaska.

"What service has been

extended has been on an emergency nature and usually meant that the juvenile or adult had to be transported to Fairbanks or Nome, Alaska for detention and further legal proceedings."

The application says that in certain areas, such as Barrow, Fort Yukon and Bethel, there is not a sufficient caseload to warrant full time qualified Probation-Parole officer in each community.

"However," the paper

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says, "the need for a Probation-Parole Officer in these communities for a percentage of the time is and can be justified.

"If this need is not met with trained part time Probation Aides it is feasible that more and more, persons who violate the law shall be sent in from the villages and existing crime problems will increase and no prevention will take place."

The application states that the communities of Bethel, Barrow and Fort Yukon have requested time after time for assistance in controlling present probationers and parolees within their villages.

To have also asked help in developing techniques to present crime and juvenile delinquency.

The paper said that one village became so desperate and concerned with crime and delinquency control problems that the local citizens formed vigilante committee and took the law into their own hands in an effort to resolve the problems.

The application states that this incident might have been partially instigated by lack of attention to the community by authorized state officials.

The Fairbanks Probation and Parole Office has now, however, requested the position of an Itinerant Probation and Parole Officer to service the communities in the 2nd and 4th Judicial Districts effective next Monday, July 1.

Since the officer cannot be in three places all at the same time, the Fairbanks division of the YAA has requested that it recruit, train and supervise persons who already live in the villages mentioned.

Once trained, the village

Probation Aides would also receive further training from the Itinerant Officer who will be traveling from community to community and who would assist and counsel.

If the program goes through, the tentative plan is that a staff member from the Fairbanks Probation and Parole office would accompany a member of the funding agency into the villages of Fort Yukon, Barrow and Bethel to screen applicants.

Applicants should have sufficient skills in understanding, reading and writing the English language; should have no recent wearious law violations; must have the respect of the residents of the village.

The Probation Aides would earn \$524 per month and ten per cent fringe benefits.

After four years of experience, the aides would become eligible for promotion if they wished.

The evaluation of the program is now being drawn up by University of Alaska as it will be programmed through a year.

"We will need this evaluation if the program is successful to justify adding the cost of the program to the state budget in the following years," said Walt Jones, director of Fairbanks regional YAA office.

Since the proposal is new and, of course, not funded by the state, the applicants for the Probation-Parole Aide program have written to foundations.

The rough draft was drawn up with the thought of funding from the Office of Economic Opportunity but the applicants are willing to receive funds from other sources if possible.

The cost of one year's operation of the program would cost \$65,673.50.