

Indian Health Program Gets Approval

The Office of Management and Budget has approved an inter-departmental plan to re-program \$10 million for Indian Health programs Senator Ted Stevens announced.

"This marks a significant step forward for President Nixon's proposal to make more funds available for Indian Health," Stevens said.

"Alaska's Native health programs will gain substantially from the President's commitment to the reprogramming of funds," said Stevens.

"Specifically, it is now estimated that we will receive about \$275,000 for manpower programs to train more Native health programs.

Stevens explained, "An additional \$200,000 will be spent for maternal and child care programs and \$85,000 for training more mental health workers."

The Alaska Senator said, "An important project to improve the Alcoholic Rehabilitation program at the Alaska Native Medical Center is also a part of the plan for \$75,000."

"I hope Alaska will participate vigorously in the competitive project submittals for community health and alcoholism grants which will be made with these funds," Stevens urged.

"Working in concert with the otitis media program which I obtained for Alaska, these programs constitute a timely attack on the severe health problems of Alaska's Native population."

Final implementation of the President's plan must await review by the Congress of the reprogramming request and Congressional action on appropriations which is expected within weeks.