

AFN Manpower Program Will Now Use Impact Funds

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ANCHORAGE—The Alaska

Federation of Natives Manpower
Program will now use state impact
funds as loans for potential

pipeline workers in the hope that those persons will pay the money back after they go to work.

This represents a change from the traditional direct grant use of Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) money, of which \$40,000 has been released from the state for use in Fairbanks and Anchorage employment assistance programs. The Fairbanks Native Association will use half of the money and AFN's Manpower Program will use the rest in Anchorage.

"We feel it's healthier to provide a loan for a person who is destined to move into a higher income," Lestenkof explained. "This should allow us to serve more people."

By allowing personal loans to be made for union fees and tools, the program may be expected to serve those who want to work while supplementing another assistance effort presently run by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Under terms of the grant, the money must provide assistance for at least 100 persons. Those persons would not necessarily have to pay the money back but Lestenkof expressed confidence that persons who received assistance wouldn't forget who gave it to them.

"After we expend the initial money, and if we're paid back, then it will mean more persons can use it to start work," he said. "We hope they will appreciate the philosophy of this—if a guy pays us back, we'll help his brother."

The BIA program which will be supplemented by the CETA money is the Adult Vocational Training Program established under Public Law 959. That program assists eligible adult Indians, Aleuts and Eskimos by providing travel, subsistence, tools and union dues.

Lestenkof expressed hope that by assisting with tools and union dues, more Alaska Natives could take advantage of both programs.