Local Government Assistance

Local governments must be responsive and accountable if they are to effectively provide vital community services. However, most local governments in Alaska, are located in small, remote, communities and many of these do not have the adequately trained and knowledgeable staff necessary to effectively administer and manage municipal programs and ser-

vices. Recognizing this problem, the writers of the Alaska State Constitution mandated the existence of a local government affairs agency in state government whose primary purpose would be to assist and advise local governments. DCRA stands ready to respond to requests from cities, boroughs, and unincorporated communities for a broad array of technical assistance.

Circuit Rider Program

The Circuit Rider Program provides regular municipal management training and technical assistance for selected municipalities. This program is designed to address specific public administration needs and goals which are formally identified in an agreement between the city and the Department.

Financial Technical Assistance

The most critical management aspect in running any public organization is the accountable collection, management, and expenditure of public funds. MRAD, in cooperation with the Department's Division of Administrative Services, has established a program to assist and advise local governments in all aspects of fiscal management and control. This assistance includes advice on budgeting, establishing and maintaining a sound accounting system, reducing expenses to balance them with available revenues, and working with auditors.

Borough Feasibility Studies

MRAD offers technical assistance to regions interested in borough formation. Division staff prepare borough feasibility studies (assess the costs and benefits) for regions, provide information on funding sources for borough feasibility studies, assist a region in preparing a petition for borough formation, and conduct public information workshops on borough formation.