

Alaska Food Stamp Program error rate down 50 per cent

According to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Alaska's error rate in the Food Stamp program declined by 50% to a level lower than all but five states during the period Jan. through June 1975.

Alaska's Division of Public Assistance, which administers the program statewide, has recently been intensifying quality control measures to stimulate better cost effectiveness.

Rod Betit, manager of the program, said that resultant savings are all in federal dollars since no state general fund monies go into the food stamp program.

Betit said that errors occur most frequently in the eligibility

determination process, and that his unit is working not only to eliminate ineligible recipients, but to insure that the people legitimately eligible for food stamps receive them with minimal administrative delay.

National statistics indicate that 19% of the families receiving food stamps were declared ineligible after case review, while in Alaska alone, 8% proved to be ineligible.

About half of Alaska's ineligibles did not meet the program's financial standards, and half failed to meet administrative standards such as failure to submit a work registration form, which can disqualify an entire family from benefits.