

'Operation Hitch-Hike'

The U.S. Department of Labor announced additional Federal funding of \$127,234 in the Alaska "Operation Hitch-hike" manpower project to assist the poor in remote areas of the north.

The project is sponsored by the Alaska Employment Security Division, and is aimed at improving manpower and supportive services in remote areas of Alaska through the development of a manpower assistance agreement with the State Department of Military Affairs which has a Scout Battalion — an organization with operational structure in villages within the target areas located in Census

Districts known as the Nome, Kobuk and Wade Hampton districts.

In Seattle, Jess C. Ramaker, the Labor Department's Northwest Regional Manpower Administrator, pointed out "There is urgent need to improve manpower services in rural areas, especially in rural communities which are a considerable distance from the nearest office of the State Employment Service".

He also noted that some 40 per cent of the poverty in the United States is found in rural areas.

The Labor Department's funding action extends the contract date for the program to June 30, 1974.