

# *Social Services program provides four types of aid*

AVCP Social Services provides social services and financial assistance under terms of a contract with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

AVCP Social Services is in charge of administering the financial assistance and social services program as contracted from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Included in this program are four components: general assistance, child welfare assistance, miscellaneous assistance, and family and community services.

General Assistance is financial assistance provided to Alaskan Natives and certified Indians of 1/4 or more degree who are in need and whose resources do not exceed state assistance standards and who are not eligible for or actually receiving assistance from another public program such as the various State Welfares, retirements, unemployment, etc. All applicants who are determined eligible or potentially eligible for assistance from other programs are required to apply for that assistance and our G.A. shall be approved

only in the amount necessary to cover the applicant's needs until the other assistance is received.

If the applicant does not apply for that assistance within 30 days, G.A. will be terminated. In addition to meeting all other eligibility requirements applicants for or recipients of general assistance are required to accept available employment which they are able and qualified to perform. On the other hand, if an applicant quit a job for no good reason, a 30 day waiting period would automatically be invoked before they would be eligible to apply for G.A.

Miscellaneous assistance is burial assistance for those Alaskan Natives meeting the same eligibility requirements as stated above, with one exception. In the absence of other resources burial assistance can be provided to recipients of public assistance. Historically, we have and will continue to use standards established

by public agencies serving in our locale. These standards are reasonably equitable for everyone regardless of the agency providing the assistance.

Child Welfare Assistance has the same eligibility requirements as general assistance except it is based upon eligibility of parents who have legal responsibility for the child. The State of Alaska assumes responsibility for children whether under court custody or by parental consent. Therefore, we cannot provide services unless for some reason State services are not available.

In situations where other agencies have responsibility but do not provide needed services, we should assume an advocacy role and help the client with appeal procedures if necessary. We can provide financial assistance for a child whose

special needs require placement in a foster home or specialized non-medical care facility, or when a child has special needs or requires special services not available under general assistance in accordance with standards of payments established by the State.

Family and community services are non-financial social services and protective services to children, adults or communities. Protective services are actually a misnomer as the State has sole responsibility for protective services. Rather, ours is supposed to be casual non-threatening intervention to assist a family before the situation or relationship has deteriorated to the point of needing State intervention. It is our duty to make appropriate agencies aware of needs that fall under their jurisdiction. In closing I would like to say we have more flexibility than the State does in all areas of our program.