

VILLAGE NYC APPROVED

In Business Again, NYC Gets \$767,000 From Dept. of Labor

The Neighborhood Youth Corps program for rural Alaska is once again in business after a lapse of several weeks due to an exhaustion of funds under the first program.

Word was received this week from Washington, D.C. through the office of Senator Ernest Gruening, D-Alaska, that an out-of-school NYC program for the villages had been approved by the U.S. Department of Labor.

The program will be the State Rural Development

Agency's second program, and will be designed to employ 300 school drop-outs between 16 and 22 years of age in approximately 100 rural Alaska villages.

The first NYC program came to an abrupt halt March 1st when the funds for paying the enrollees ran out. The new program was not yet approved at that time.

Some deep concern was expressed due to the lapse between the first and second program due to the experience of other programs in getting final approval for follow-up programs. The Fairbanks local in-school NYC program, operated by the Borough, waited almost two months before their follow-up program was approved. Many youths enrolled quit school for financial reasons during this period.

The new program approved by the U.S. Department of Labor is for a total of \$767,000. The State provides 10 percent of these funds and the federal government the remaining 90 percent. Youths enrolling under the program will earn \$1.75 per hour for a 30-hour week. However, they will be eligible to work only six months under the program.

The State Rural Development Agency launched its first

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NYC program last July 1st. That program was designed for 600 youths and was technically a drop-out program. However, the State was permitted as a temporary measure to enroll some vacation students and in-school part-time workers under that program, according to information given the Tundra Times several weeks ago.

The new program will be only a drop-out program according to NYC officials. A second program to employ the returning vacation students from Boarding School will have to be applied for in order for them to work under NYC.

According to information previously given the Tundra Times most youths enrolled under the last NYC program will not be eligible under the new program. Enrollees who have completed most of their six allotted months would not be eligible.

Some criticism of the six months rule of service was levied at the Tanana Chiefs Conference meeting here this week. Alfred Grant, delegate from Tanana, questioned the scope and value of the program in the village situation if the youths are limited to

six months.

Others also questioned whether six months provided sufficient work experience for the youth in the village situation. The Chiefs also expressed a great deal of interest in the possibility of a summer program for returning students.

The State Rural Development Agency administers the Youth Corps program on a statewide basis, with offices located in Juneau, Fairbanks, Bethel, Anchorage and Nome.