

Toll-free drug abuse numbers available to Alaskans

Two toll-free drug abuse information numbers — previously inaccessible in Alaska — will now be available to Alaska residents, according to Alaska Sen. Frank Murkowski.

At Murkowski's request, the National Institute on Drug Abuse has

made available to Alaska its hotline, which provides technical assistance to individuals and groups wishing to start drug prevention programs. The number is 800-638-2045.

In addition, the agency's confidential information and referral line,

800-662-HELP, which directs callers to cocaine abuse treatment centers in local communities, is also now available to Alaskans.

"Toll-free numbers that provide this type of important information should be available to all states, not just those

in the Lower 48," Murkowski said.

In addition, the senator is working with the National Federation of Parents for a Drug-Free Youth to gain access to its hotline, which provides a national information and referral service.