

Aid to needy to start next month

Alaska will receive \$100,000 to provide supplemental funds for emergency food and shelter for needy Alaskans this winter, under a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) program, Senator Stevens said today.

Distribution of the funds will begin before Jan. 30 under a new law that requires FEMA to continue the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program, which began last year under the Jobs Stimulus Bill.

Areas where Alaskans are in critical need of additional funding for emergency food and shelter will be determined through a state board made up of representatives of non-profit private agencies which provide assistance to the needy across the state.

The Fairbanks area will receive approximately \$20,000; the Matanuska-Susitna Bor-

ough about \$9,000; and the Kenai-Cook Inlet area about \$11,000.

An additional \$60,000 will go to other areas in the state which the board determines to require supplemental emergency funding for food and shelter.

"This emergency money is especially critical in Alaska, where the needy and homeless face a long, severe winter," Stevens said. The Senator commended the state volunteer agencies and the volunteers who work to administer the program.

Last year volunteer agencies in Alaska administered funds under the Emergency Food and Shelter Program which provided nearly 1,000 beds and more than 1,700 meals in communities across the state, according to Mary Jane Landstrom, who chairs the local board in Southcentral.