

Half million for rural justice

JUNEAU—The National Institute of Mental Health has awarded Alaska a \$597,697 grant for a three year program to develop social justice teams in rural areas of the state.

Gov. Jay Hammond said the program "will enable us to cross-train a number of employees, which will be particularly beneficial to rural areas where there may not be ongoing State Trooper presence or where a mental health or public assistance specialist is only able to make periodic visits.

The project will be coordinated by the Alaska Criminal Justice Center.