

# Alcoholism programs transferred from NIAAA to IHS

All Indian alcoholism programs would be transferred from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) to the Indian Health Service (IHS), under the proposed Interior Department Fiscal Year 1977 budget.

Sen. Ted Stevens has asked that the transfer of the programs be carried out in a phased manner through Fiscal Year 1982 so that all alcoholism programs would be assured of full support throughout the transfer period.

"This would provide for a more rational transfer, allow us to provide the total amount of money needed to support the projects and permit us to assess the ability of the IHS to deal with this new responsibility," Stevens said in a letter to Interior Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Robert

Byrd and Labor-HEW Subcommittee Chairman Warren Magnuson.

The NIAAA has funded about 200 mini-grant alcoholism programs in Alaskan villages in the last few years and is providing the money for a state-wide alcoholism education program conducted by the NIAAA-Alaska Region and the Alaska Native Commission on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (ANCADA).

The reason for the proposed transfer of programs from the NIAAA to the IHS is that the NIAAA can support individual programs for only six years. If NIAAA programs are to continue after the six years, they must get state, local or third-party funds. With the programs transferred to the IHS there would be no such limit on continued funding.

Stevens suggested that the alcoholism programs be phased into the IHS after they have had six years of NIAAA support. As no alcoholism grants and contracts have yet received six years of NIAAA support, all

programs would continue to be funded through the Institute in fiscal year 1977.

After that, the NIAAA would fund the programs until they

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were taken over by the IHS according to the following timetable: 34 programs costing \$3.4 million in FY 1978; 53 programs for \$4.7 million in FY 1979; three programs at \$200,000 in FY 1980; 59 programs totalling \$6.7 million in FY 1981; and a final transfer of four programs for \$600,000 in FY 1982.

"The NIAAA has been most responsive and flexible in dealing with the specific needs of Alaskan alcoholism programs. It's too bad the Institute doesn't have the authority to fund

programs beyond six years, but I'm confident we can maintain the strong support for our programs through the IHS.