

Despite Costs Head Start May Do OK

Although an extraordinary price increase in travel and in fuel costs has hit the rural areas, the Head Start Program for the coming school year 1974-1975 should serve the same amount of children that have been served the past year, reported Mr. Elmer Armstrong, Chairman of the RurAL CAP Board of Directors.

The RurAL CAP staff reported that at their annual planning meeting for the next year, several important decisions were made that will provide direction to the staff for next year's operation of the Head Start Program which serves 30 village centers and four urban centers.

St. Paul Island and Nondalton (an Athabascan community in the Bristol Bay Region) will run programs next year for the first time.

Roger Mooney, Director for RurAL CAP's Early Childhood Program, further commented that probably the most exciting thing that happened for the Early Childhood and the state now, is the training being furnished to several very worthy candidates for the confidencery based child development associates degree.

Alaska Methodist University is sponsoring the training for 10 candidates that not only have the varied experience but also have taken accredited courses from other universities over the past six and seven years.

"I think these Head Start Personnel have proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that regardless of formal education and accreditation that given the adequate training and experience, these people can do just as good a job if not better than a highly credentialed outsider that does not have a feel for the village situation," reported Mike Harper, Executive Director of RurAL CAP.