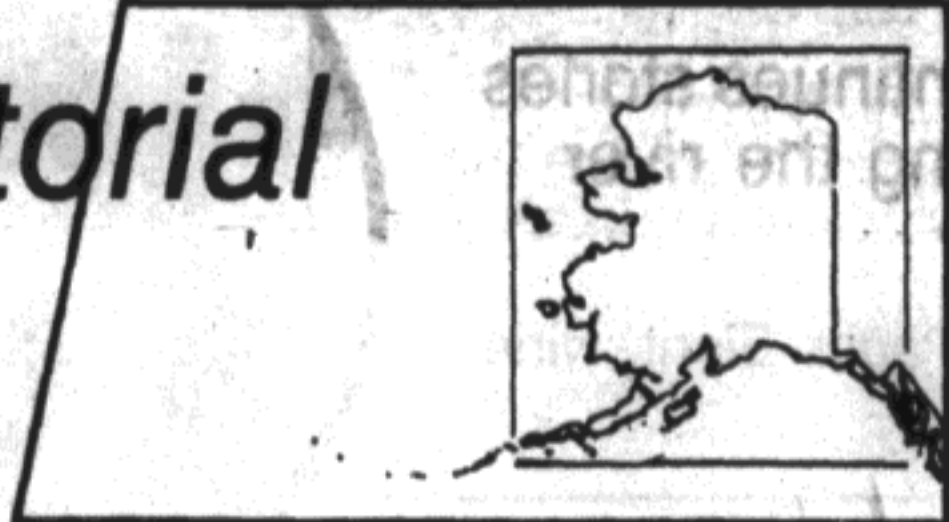


Editorial



ASRAA provides vital service

When Gov. Steve Cowper looks over the Legislature's 1990 budget, the relatively tiny figure of \$75,300 may not seem all that important.

For many rural Alaskans, however, that figure represents a very vital agency. It's the state's entire contribution to the annual budget of the Association for Stranded Rural Alaskans in Anchorage.

ASRAA has sustained massive cuts in recent years. In 1986, the state contribution was \$210,000. Today, cuts in state funding mean that ASRAA is able to retain only two full-time employees, including Executive Director Mary Wolcuff. The salary of a third person, a clerical worker, is paid for with funds generated by cross-cultural workshops.

Despite the size of the staff, ASRAA continues to provide needed services for rural Alaskans. In part, this is possible because of the many volunteers who believe in the important work of the agency. In 1988, these volunteers put in a total of 7,000 hours.

Some of the services ASRAA offers include:

- Providing emergency shelter, as well as airfare back to a home village for a person who finds himself or herself stranded in Anchorage for medical reasons.

- Offering workshops in crime prevention and basic urban safety for rural students who travel to Anchorage.

- Developing a crime prevention curriculum for rural school districts, stressing basic personal safety.

- Counseling rural Alaskans who move to Anchorage to further their education, for medical treatment or to avoid child abuse or domestic violence.

- Presenting cross-cultural workshops for non-Native professionals who deal with Alaska Natives, as well as Alaska Native students who are unused to living in a predominantly non-Native community.

We urge Gov. Cowper to support continued state funding for ASRAA.

Those who wish to volunteer their time to ASRAA may contact:

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