

CETA funds cut

By LAURY ROBERTS

Half of the Tlingits and Haidas now working in CETA positions will be without jobs this winter. While those bumped from the Federal payroll can apply for unemployment compensation, "the only other alternative, I'm sorry to say, is welfare," according to Chip Parr, of the Manpower Division of the Tlingit-Haida Central Council (THCC).

Congress has reduced Comprehensive Employment Training Act funds nationally for fiscal year 1980, which begins October 1 for the Federal Government. Native Americans receive two percent of the allotted monies. But now that two percent is fewer total dollars.

In 1978 THCC received approximately \$6 million to
(See CETA, Page Sixteen)

• CETA funds cut

(Continued from Page One)

conduct the CETA program for Natives in Southeast. This year that figure was cut in half, and it will be cut in half again in 1980, to under \$2 million.

Jobs available in the winter months of peak unemployment will drop from 380 to 150, Parr says.

"One of Congress' big concerns over the past few years is that organizations were taking CETA money and paying regular staff instead of creating supplemental employment for the long-term unemployed," Parr explained. Also, not all cities awarded CETA funds had used up all the money so lawmakers shrunk the program.

About 80 Southeast CETA jobs are in Juneau. Workers, through the THCC Manpower division, are placed in the community and State Libraries, the borough parks and recreation department, the fire station and the community schools program (in which the public uses schools for outside activities.)

These slots will soon be cut in half. One of the organizations likely to be hardest hit is the Tlingit-Haida Community Council. Almost all of its staff is CETA workers.

But Juneau won't be the only place suffering. Nearly the entire municipal government of the Admiralty Island village of Angoon is comprised of CETA funded employees.

Not only will less money be available, but it must be used differently. According to new regulations, anyone on the CETA payroll for at least 18 months in the last five years is no longer eligible. Also, CETA employees will be paid up to \$18,000 in 1980, compared with a maximum of \$10,000 presently. Thus, CETA dollars can't be stretched as far next year. Parr is seeking a waiver to that stipulation.

Parr could not outline what jobs would be eliminated. Those hard decisions will be left to Native Community organizations, such as the Alaska Native Brotherhood and Sisterhood, the Johnson-O'Malley parent group, and the TH Community Council.

The entire state will be adversely affected by the reduced funding and change in regulations, says Dottie Kaufman, who oversees CETA matters in the Department of Community and Regional Affairs.

The Secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor does have the power to a-

ward additional money to communities which will suffer real hardship because of the truncated CETA project. Parr will meet with federal officials this week in Anchorage to find out where Southeast Natives stand. TH requested the additional funds a year ago and still has seen no action