

# JOM Committee Releases Funds To State ..

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department plans to remain an applicant for JOM funds to operate the Boarding Home Program for students who do not have access to a secondary program in their community of residence. Without the JOM Funds the students will be left in their home communities and seek alternative forms of education for them. Correspondence courses would have been the alternative. "It will be necessary however, to obtain the approval of the Governor and the legislative Budget and Audit Committee for a revised program." He invited the native regions to contract with the state to run the programs in their own areas. Approximately 3.7 of the 4.6 million dollars was approved

by the Committee and the remainder, proposals other than the Boarding Home Program, are to be reviewed and approved before the first of September. Those who may apply for the funds can be native organizations, village schools (not BIA), independent and borough school districts, SOS and others. Types of projects to be funded can be supplemental programs for special needs of native students tutoring, counseling, enrichment classes in culture and language and many others.

Plans are in the process to obtain AFN as the sole contractor administering JOM Funds with guidance of the JOM review committee.

Rural education needs is not a new problem. This could have been solved during territorial days — high standard of education for all Alaskans whether rural or urban. If this state can provide a "crunch" education program for the "oil youth" then we must see that the state meets its far overdue obligation in educating its own peoples.

All efforts should be made in getting the needs of education on top priority in the coming state budget. All parents, students and interested people are encouraged to demand of our elected representatives (who have served on some powerful committees), State Board of

Education members, State Operated School Boards, local school boards and education committees to 'gear up' on the true needs of education for the Alaskan youths. It is up to everyone to put the pressure on the present administration to get the type of education that we want in our areas.

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