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# ***RurAl CAP aids in development of state energy plan***

The nationwide energy crisis of the mid-'70's has resulted in the formation of new programs on the state and federal level to address ways of cutting down on the national fuel consumption while improving living conditions. In Alaska with its severe winters, high fuel costs, lack of bulk storage facilities, and high cost of building materials and transportation, what has always been a concern is now reality. The Community Services Administration was the first Federal agency to recognize the need and consequently established the Weatherization Program in 1975.

In order to more closely assess needs in each state, the Director of the Community Services Administration called upon each State Equal Opportunity Office to develop a statewide energy plan for FY-'77. This was accomplished by the Alaska State Equal Opportunity Office

(Div. of Community & Rural Development) in conjunction with the RurAl CAP Energy Department, Division of Energy

& Power Development, and the Older Persons Action Group.

The plan addresses itself to the energy needs of Alaska, specifically weatherization activity, and calls for vitalization of new programs in consumer education/conservation, crisis intervention, establishment of a statewide board appointed solely to address rural and urban energy needs and to ascertain and make recommendations to those agencies involved in energy issues, i.e., utility rate structures, alternate energy resources, electrification, fuel shortages, etc. Effective legislation is another priority of the plan to lessen the economic crunch of rising costs on the poor and to establish a State-funded energy needs revolving loan fund.

Since 1975, the RurAl CAP Energy Office has been involved in the weatherization of 513 low-income homes in rural Alaska, and is currently conducting weatherization activity in the Doyon and Calista regions.