

# SeaCAP to go it alone

By LAURY ROBERTS

After a decade of operating under the auspices of its statewide parent, the Southeast arm of Alaska's Rural Community Action Program (RurALCAP) struck out on its own.

As of Oct. 1, the Southeast Alaska Community Action Program (SEACAP) became a separate entity. SEACAP expects to be able to operate for eight months

on \$45,000 "Seed Money" granted by RurALCAP. By then the Southeast Alaska organization hopes to be recognized as an independent agency in order to receive direct funding from the federal Community Services Administration. Presently, RurALCAP is the only such designated program in the state eligible to receive those specific community service monies.

(See SeaCAP page 12)

## • To go it alone

(SeaCAP from page 1)

Both RurALCAP and its former Southeast branch are charged with providing information, direct help, and advocacy to low income persons.

According to SEACAP's Executive Director, Jim Wilson, the Southeast program has fallen away from RurALCAP in four major areas. He contends that the Statewide Organization has tended to "preserve the central agency and reducing support" for regional programs as a response to budget squeezes.

Wilson feels RurALCAP has "expanded state and national activities, while allowing grassroots involvement" to dwindle. And, he says SEACAP has not had the option to choose particular projects for its region, adding that policy-making is concentrated in the central agency.

The final impetus toward independence occurred last year when SEACAP was able to takeover its own administration, payroll, and accounting needs, allowing it increased structural autonomy from RurALCAP.

The Southeast program must now be endorsed by local governments so that it may seek funding from the C.S.A.