

Partners for Progress
with Alaska's Communities

RurAL-CAP

ACTION REPORTS

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NATIVE ALLOTMENT APPLICATIONS INCREASE

6-man Delegation—
Seek Head Start Fund
Increase in Villages

RurAL CAP central staff is presently organizing a delegation to go to Washington, D.C., to seek increased funds for Head Start programs in rural Alaska.

The six man delegation will consist of Dr. Clifford Hartman, Commissioner of Education or his designee; Elmer Armstrong, Chairman, RurAL CAP Board of Directors; Marlene Johnson, former RurAL CAP Board Chairman; Dolores Padilla, Regional Director of the Kodiak Area Community Development Corporation; Betty Scaman, Director of RurAL CAP Child Development; and John Shively, Deputy Director of RurAL CAP.

The trip is being financed by an appropriation made by the State Legislature. The purpose of the appropriation was to allow RurAL CAP and the State of Alaska to coordinate efforts to increase the number of Head Start programs in the villages of Alaska.

The visit is being coordinated by the offices of Senators Ted Stevens and Mike Gravel.

Senator Stevens' office will be setting up meetings with a number of different government agencies who are presently funding early childhood education

programs in Alaska and might have the potential to fund more programs and also with agencies who might have funds that are presently not being used in Alaska.

Senator Gravel's office will be setting up meetings with appropriate congressional leaders to discuss the need for further funding of Head Start programs.

The delegation will also discuss with both agency people and the congressional leaders the need to continue full funding of Head Start programs on a national level.

Presently there is a possibility of a major reduction in Head Start funding not only for rural

Center Makes
\$11,400 In-kind
Contribution

An \$11,400 in-kind contribution was made to the Rural Alaska Community Action Program by the Alaska Skill Center in Seward.

Ollie Amend, Director of RurAL CAP's Village Equipment Mobilization Program made the announcement and stated that this contribution included time and labor spent on maintenance and service of RurAL CAP equipment for utilization in Alaskan villages.

Alaska but also for the nation as a whole.

The delegation plans to be in Washington for three or four days before returning to Alaska.

Increase Noted Since
Alaska Federation of
Natives Oct. Conference

There has been a significant increase in Native land allotment applications submitted to the Fairbanks and Anchorage BIA realty offices, since the Alaska Federation of Natives' conference October 15-17.

RurAL CAP's nine regional development corporations have increased their efforts by hiring temporary workers to reach more people throughout Alaska. In addition to staff increases, the nine corporations have made the Native land allotment drive their primary focus for the remainder of 1970.

The Fairbanks realty office,

under the direction of Bill Mat-tice, is training three individuals to process and expedite the application of land allotments.

These three trainees will be travelling to villages within the Fairbanks district assisting interested persons eligible for land under the Native Allotment Act of 1906.

The Southeastern Alaska Community Action Program, under the direction of Gordon Jackson, recently conducted an intensive training program on the application process for Native allotments in Hoonah, Alaska. Jackson has researched the Tongass National Forest federal land withdrawals and has discovered that federal withdrawals from that area were made periodically—the last withdrawal having been made in 1925.

In essence, this would mean that any person who is still living who used this land prior to these withdrawals has a case on which to file a Native land allotment.

Jackson is investigating the possibility of families passing use rights from grandfather to father to son. Many families can prove use and occupancy of the land in Southeast Alaska for many generations.

Alaska Legal Services is presently seeking a more liberal interpretation of the Allotment Act to permit Native people to gain title to land they traditionally use and occupy.

Nels Anderson, RurAL CAP Program Development Specialist, stated, "It has been difficult to point out to eligible applicants that they can file on land that has been federally withdrawn or state selected, if they can prove use and occupancy prior to state selection."

Dec. 1-2-3--

Head Start Development
Committee Meet at AMU

The RurAL CAP Head Start Development Committee will be meeting in Anchorage, at the Alaska Methodist University, December 1, 2 and 3.

The main highlights on the agenda include the organizing of a statewide career development committee which would incorporate the Anchorage and Fairbanks Head Start programs; and the evaluation of the on-site courses being administered by Head Start supplementary training at AMU.

"The purpose of the Career Development Committee," stated Dorothy Kelly, RurAL CAP Career Development Coordinator, "is to improve the care rendered to children. The quality of this care depends on the upgrading of Head Start staff members in education, health and ability to function to better de-

velop Head Start in relation to families and communities.

"The viability of this program calls for the realization of three goals: 1) an expansion of economic opportunities; 2) an expansion of human services; and 3) an accountability of public and private institutions to the people they serve."

Mrs. Kelly further remarked, "For three years we have been working with both universities (University of Alaska and Alaska Methodist University) in Alaska to establish a comprehensive education system which would allow Native students an equal opportunity of learning and progressing at their own level by taking into strong consideration their culture and their environment."

The Career Development Committee was established in

1968 when the Alaska Methodist University was awarded a grant to operate a Head Start supplementary training program, with the aim of providing Head Start employees an opportunity of taking college credit courses in achieving a degree in early childhood education.

The committee was formed to monitor this grant.

The Career Development Committee is comprised of seven regional Head Start representatives and four ex officio members who are the Head Start Regional Training Officer from the University of Alaska, the Supplementary Training Manager from Alaska Methodist University, a representative from the State Parent Advisory Committee and the Child Development Director of RurAL CAP.

Mallott Asks
All Interested
To Send Letters

Byron Mallott, Executive Director of RurAL CAP, has requested that all interested people in the State of Alaska send letters to the congressional delegation in support of increased funding for Head Start programs.

Presently there is a possibility that the RurAL CAP budget will be cut up to \$40,000 because Congress has decreased the amount of funding available to Head Start programs.

In Central Brooks Range—

Classification of 24 Million Acres Announced

A proposed classification of 24 million acres of public land in the Central Brooks Range was announced by Robert Krumm, Fairbanks District Manager for the Bureau of Land Management.

Krumm explained that the proposal will allow concentrated planning for management of the many multiple uses available to the public in the area.

Several years of study has preceded announcement of the proposal which was authorized by the Multiple Use and Classification Act passed by Congress in 1964.

Krumm explained that he and his staff will discuss the proposal and management of the area with as many groups and individuals as possible during the next few months.

Meetings are planned in Fairbanks, Anchorage, Juneau, and various Alaskan villages. Formal public hearings before finalizing the classification will be held next spring.

The area involved extends from the northern edge of the Brooks Range to the divide between the Koyukuk and Yukon Rivers.

The eastern portion of the area includes the headwaters of the Chandalar River and the western portion includes the headwaters of the Kobuk and Noatak Rivers.

The proposed routes for the trans-Alaska oil pipeline and the Arctic Slope Railroad are within the area's boundaries.

Krumm stated that the area contains very important mineral

resources and obviously has outstanding natural values for wilderness and other types of recreation. A dozen, large, clear-water rivers flow from the area and hundreds of jagged peaks and jewel-like lakes, 16 or more large ones, provide outstanding habitat for fish and wildlife.

Uncontrolled or unplanned use and development of the area could have serious detrimental effects on the various public values contained on and within these public lands.

"As the responsible land management agency, it is BLM's intention to involve the public in developing meaningful effective management plans which will allow a broad range of resource uses. The area has national significance and the public de-

serves BLM's concerted effort to see that the coming development occurs properly," Krumm stated.

Under the proposal the Central Brooks Range area is divided into three types of management areas.

The southern area, containing 6 million acres of public land, will remain available to all land disposal laws and resource uses except the Homestead Act of 1862, Trade and Manufacturing Sites, and Headquarter Sites.

The major area, which is about 18,500,000 acres, will remain open to all of the land disposal laws and resource uses except those which allow individuals unrestricted occupancy of the land.

These are the Homestead Act

of 1862, Trade and Manufacturing Sites, Headquarter Sites, Homesteads, Native Allotments, and unplanned Townsites.

The third area, approximately 3,200,000 acres, surrounds the Arrigetch Peaks and the upper Alatna River and smaller areas around 16 large lakes scattered through the Brooks Range.

This area is closed to the unrestricted occupancy laws as well as the Mining Law.

The times and places of informal meetings and formal hearings will be announced later. Maps and descriptive documents showing the proposal are posted in and available from the Fairbanks Land Office, 516 Second Avenue, Fairbanks and the Anchorage Land Office, 555 Cordova Street, Anchorage.