

# ALASKA BUSINESS DIRECTORY

## HEW Funds Bilingual Educ. Projects

Thirty-four projects designed to provide bilingual education for approximately 17,000 of the Nation's non-English speaking children have been funded by HEW's Office of Education.

The grants, which total approximately \$2.7 million, range between \$35,000 and \$175,000 per project and have been awarded to local school systems in 15 States, the Virgin Islands, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific.

Authorized under Title VII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the Bilingual Education Program is designed to meet the special educational needs of children from low-income families who have limited English speaking ability and who come from environments where the dominant language is one other than English.

Children participating in this program are expected to develop greater competence in English, become more proficient in their dominant language, and profit from the increased educational opportunity.

The program emphasizes the primary importance of English, but it also recognizes that the use of the child's mother tongue and an appreciation of his culture can have a beneficial effect upon his education.

Projects funded under the Bilingual Education Program are concerned with 19 languages in addition to English. These include Spanish, French, Portuguese, Chinese, Russian, Chamorro, and 13 American Indian languages.

The new projects scheduled to begin this fall will be aimed at children who speak Spanish, French, and various Indian dialects.

They bring to 214 the total number of bilingual projects funded in Fiscal Year 1972 that will benefit approximately 100,000 children at a cost of \$35 million.

## 'Operation Hitchhike' Will Train Natives

Federal funding for a project to extend manpower training to Alaskan Natives was announced today by Senator Ted Stevens.

"Operation Hitchhike" will emphasize job counseling, training and placement," Stevens said.

Target areas will be Nome, Kobuk and Wade-Hampton census districts, and delivery of the manpower and supportive services will be accomplished through local village manpower aids who will be selected, assigned and supervised by the Alaska Department of Military Affairs in a manpower assistance agreement with the employment security agency.

"The Scout Battalion of the Military Affairs Department provides an organization and operational structure in the Native populated villages of the vast domain where many depend upon subsistence existence," Stevens said.

Health care, educational assistance, housing and other items are to be provided in the supportive services, in coordination with existing agencies.

Approval of "Operation Hitchhike" for rural Alaska follows earlier success in the program in the "Lower 48" where the agricultural extension service has been utilized to reach rural residents in farm areas where it has been impractical to establish local employment service offices.

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