



Rural ALaska Community Action Program, Inc.

MAILING ADDRESS: DRAWER 412 ECB
TELEPHONE 279-2441
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501

NEWSLETTER

OEO ADMINISTRATOR PRAISES RURALCAP

Charles Chong, Alaska-Oregon Supervisor for the Federal Office of Economic Opportunity's Northwest Region was in Anchorage October 28 and 29 for the annual meeting of the Ruralcap State Board of Directors. During the final day of the meeting, Chong spoke to the group and said that Ruralcap is 'quite possibly the best Community Action Program in the Northwest region,' which administers OEO programs in Washington, Oregon Idaho and Alaska.

Chong also said that the Ruralcap program in Alaska is probably one of the best in the nation.

In speaking of the new experimental three-year grant application process, Chong said that Ruralcap was chosen as one of ten CAPs in the Northwest Region to try out the new process.

'The reason for this choice,' Chong said, 'was due to Ruralcap's outstanding and excellent past record of performance.'

He said that he would like to have a video tape of the annual board meeting to show other CAP's in the region as a guide on how to function.

In closing, Chong again praised the Ruralcap Central staff for a job well done and wished them continued success in the future.

During the Anchorage meeting, a new slate of officers was elected, with Elmer Armstrong of Kotzebue replacing Marlene Johnson of Hoonah as President. Mrs. Johnson, President for three years, was not eligible for re-election. Hank Ostorsky of Naknek was elected Vice President and Harry Carter of Kodiak was dubbed the new Secretary-Treasurer.

During the two day session, the Board heard committee and project reports on the various Ruralcap programs throughout the state of Alaska and approved the refunding package for 1971 which totals more than \$1.5 million.

RURALCAP HELPS OUT FIRE VICTIMS

The village of Karluk on Kodiak Island, recently swept by a disastrous fire that destroyed nearly half of that community, has received \$5,000 from the Rural Alaska Community Action Program for emergency development assistance.

During the fire, many local families were left homeless. Byron I. Mallott, Ruralcap Executive Director, said

that the Ruralcap Board of Directors took the action at it's annual meeting in Anchorage.

According to Mallott, the funds will be transferred to the Kodiak Area Community Development Corporation a Ruralcap Regional organization, and will be used to assist in the rehabilitation of the burned out village.

MALLOTT ELECTED NCAI AREA VICE PRESIDENT

Ruralcap Executive Director, Byron I. Mallott, was elected Alaska Area Vice President during the recent National Congress of American Indians Convention held in Anchorage. As Alaska area Vice President, Mallott will serve as a member of the NCAI Executive Committee, which is comprised of the NCAI officers and ten area Vice Presidents.

According to Mallott, the NCAI Executive Committee will meet in Washington, D.C. in mid-December, with Frank Deuschenaux, the new NCAI Executive Director, to discuss the NCAI budget and program for 1971.

The National Congress of American Indians represents some 180 American Indian tribes and maintains a permanent office and staff in Washington, D.C.

LAND ALLOTMENTS

As the push to get Alaska Natives to register for land under the Native Land Allotment Act of 1906 gained momentum in October, it was reported that the Bureau Indian Affairs office in Anchorage had registered so many applicants that they had run out of forms during the NCAI Convention. A new shipment of forms was received shortly thereafter, and the demand for them is growing daily.

Nels A. Anderson, Ruralcap Program Development Specialist, said recently that, 'even though the land freeze is now in effect, the Native people may file for Native Land Allotments. December, 31, 1970 has been called the deadline because the Secretary of the Interior, Walter Hickel, has stated he is considering a partial lifting of the land freeze around the villages.'

If this happens, then oil companies, the State and federal governments can come and select the land that Native people use for hunting, fishing, trapping and berry picking. The way it is now, we can file on land we use and occupy until the Native Allotment Act is revoked. This action is proposed in Senate Bill 1803, for Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement. If the House of Representatives keeps this provision in their

bill during the 1971 session, we will lose our right to Native Allotments.

This is why it is so important to select and fill on land you use and occupy as soon as possible. The land freeze does not hurt us. It helps us so we can keep on filing on our land without having to worry about the oil companies, the State and Federal Governments.

Any Alaska Native over the age of 21 who can prove occupancy or use of the land he is filing on is eligible to receive 160 acres of land under the Act,' Anderson concluded.

Anderson suggested that applicants:

1. Fill out one application form completely.
2. Sign the other three application forms and leave them blank. The BIA will type in the information.
3. If it is too difficult to post your land, you can delay this process until a more suitable time. This process is necessary, however, and will have to be done.

For further information, contact the Alaska Federation of Natives, the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Anchorage or Fairbanks; The Alaska Legal Services office in Anchorage; or the Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Box 412 ECB, Anchorage, Alaska 99501.

REFUNDING PACKAGE APPROVED

The Rural Alaska Community Action Board of Directors, meeting in Anchorage, approved and sent to the Office of Economic Opportunity a refunding request for 1971 totalling some \$1.5 million.

Included in the refunding package are \$469,000 for Alaska Legal Services Program; \$175,000 for Parent Child Centers in Kotzebue and Hoonah; \$6,700 for a youth opportunity program at Mt. Edgcombe High School; \$92,000 for housing assistance in Bethel and Nome; \$58,000 for emergency food and medical services; and \$775,000 for community organization and program administration.

According to Byron I. Mallott, Ruralcap Executive Director, the \$775,000 allotted for community organization and program administration is divided among the nine Ruralcap regional development corporations and the central administration.

Ruralcap also administers 38 Head Start programs which are funded separately, and the Village Surplus Equipment Program.

Ruralcap Controller, Tom Potter, said the \$92,000 allotted for housing assistance will be spent in tenant training programs in Bethel and Nome.

In Bethel, where the Alaska State Housing Authority has built a low-income housing project, the program will consist of training the project residents in the care and upkeep of these type homes as well as other community oriented projects.

In Nome, where a similar ASHA project is in the planning stages, the funds will be used to foster programs that will allow potential project residents more of a say in the construction of the project.

In other money matters, Potter said that Ruralcap has recently embarked on a program which allows for short term investment of idle funds, so that monies which are now lying in checking accounts can be put to work in Alaska.

Potter said that Ruralcap is possibly the only CAP in the Northwest Region that is doing this.

'The plan,' he said, 'provides for the investment of funds on a short term basis in Treasury Notes and in Certificates of Deposit.'

'Interest earned on these monies,' he continued, 'must be returned to the Federal Government, but what the total program amounts to is the responsible stewardship of public funds.'

He explained that funds in checking accounts do not earn interest, whereas, monies invested in treasury notes and certificates of deposit (not to be confused with savings accounts) earn the going rate of interest.

GRAVEL VISITS RURALCAP

Alaska Senator, Mike Gravel, in Anchorage during a statewide campaign tour, took time out November 2 for a tour of the Ruralcap central offices.

During his visit, Gravel met with Executive Director Byron I. Mallott, and the Ruralcap Central Staff.

Gravel was briefed on all of the Ruralcap programs by the senior staff, and commented that in his estimation, that Ruralcap was doing a really excellent job for the state's rural areas.

Gravel chatted with staff members and had his picture taken with the Child Development Staff.

HEAD START TRAINING DIRECTOR VISITS

Danny Norman, the new Northwest Regional Director for Head Start Supplemental Training visited Alaska for the first time in October.

Norman, a representative of Head Start Supplemental Training Associates of San Francisco, a private firm that contracts with the national Project Head Start Program, visited Ruralcap; the Greater Anchorage Area Community Action Agency; and Pat Soll, Program Director for Head Start Supplemental Training at Alaska Methodist University.

In Fairbanks, he toured the offices of Connie Smith, Regional Head Start Training Officer at the University of Alaska.

As the new Head Start Supplemental Training Director for the Northwest OEC Region, Norman is responsible for training activities in Washington Oregon, Idaho and Alaska.

Don Goldberg, Assistant Director of Ruralcap's Office of Child Development, was formerly employed by the San Francisco firm for which Norman works.

FIELD TRAINING SUPERVISORS TO MEET

Field Training Supervisors for the Ruralcap Head Start program will hold their first staff meeting of the year in Anchorage in November.

During the meeting, the four Field Training Supervisors and their assistants will discuss the Regional Workshop for Head Start teachers planned for December.

By the end of November, the Field Training Supervisors and their assistants will have visited all of the Head Start Programs in their individual regions and submitted evaluations of each village to the central staff for study. The evaluations will also be reviewed by the statewide Head Start Parent Advisory Committee in April.



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FIVE LAND ALLOTMENTS

The Native Allotment Act of 1906 gives Alaska Native People the right individually select 160 acres of land that they use and occupy.

This act is presently in effect, but has only until December, 1970 before time runs out for Alaska Natives to file for their land, and the act expires.

Senate Bill 1830 revokes the Native Land Allotment Act and this provision could eventually become law if it goes through Congress this year.

In addition to this, the "Land Freeze" may be lifted as of January 1, 1970, and allow outside interests, which include the State and Federal governments as well as individuals, to select land presently used by Native people in Alaska.

There is now a Land Allotment Drive to file as many applications as possible before the December 1970 deadline.

Agencies such as the Alaska Legal Services Corporation, Bureau of Indian Affairs Realty (in Anchorage and Fairbanks), Rural Alaska Community Action Program, with the specific approval, assistance and endorsement of the Federation of Natives, have pooled their resources to take advantage of the Native Allotment Act before it expires.

Regional Ruralcap directors are assisting all people in their area who are eligible to participate in this program. These directors are providing villagers in their areas with maps, application forms and any other assistance that the applicants may need to obtain the allotment have coming to them.

All of the agencies mentioned above, and individuals sympathetic to the cause of just Native Land Claims settlement, are aware that personal ownership of an individual piece of land is often not a concept that many villagers understand. In the past, the tradition in most areas has been that all men used and shared the land equally for food, shelter and sustenance. However, the Land Claims Bill now before the U.S. House of Representatives, that has already passed the U.S. Senate, cuts the allotment of land to a bare 10 million acres, just 4 percent of total land mass of Alaska.

Bearing in mind that the agencies and individuals involved want to help insure that every Alaska Native will be allowed continued use of the land he now depends on to feed his family, after the "Land Freeze" is lifted, each has set out to get as many Natives registered under the Allotment Act as possible. Thus, the Allotment drive is a form of insurance, which will guarantee continued use even when the land is made in Congress.

BRISTOL BAY AREA DEVELOPMENT CORP.
William P. Johnson, Director
Box 48
Dillingham, Alaska 99576

INUPIAK DEVELOPMENT CORP.
Harry Koozaata, Director
Box 505
Nome, Alaska 99762

KOYUKON DEVELOPMENT CORP.
Andrew Demoski, Director
Box 72
Galena, Alaska 99741

SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA CAP
Gordon Jackson, Director
Box 449
Juneau, Alaska 99801

UPPER YUKON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION INC.
Donald Peter, Director
Box 99
Fort Yukon, Alaska 99740

KIKIKTUGRUK AREA COMMUNITY DEV. CORP.
David Stone, Director
Box 131
Kotzebue, Alaska 99752

KODIAK AREA COMMUNITY DEV. CORP.
Dolores Padilla, Director
Box 2708
Kodiak, Alaska 99615

COPPER VALLEY-PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
George Hobson, Director
Box 877
Copper Center, Alaska 99573

AVCP CAP
Raphael Murran, Director
Box 236
Bethel, Alaska 99559

OTHER ASSISTANCE CAN BE OBTAINED FROM:

Dolores Roulier BIA Realty
Box 120
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Phone: 279-1401

William Mattice, BIA Realty
Box 530
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
Phone: 452-1248

Alaska Federation of Natives
Eben Hopson, Executive Director
1675 C Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Phone: 279-4578

GOODMAN REPLACES COX ON RURALCAP BOARD

N. Roy Goodman, recently was appointed as the representative for the Governor's Office to serve on the Ruralcap Board of Directors. Goodman is one of three public officials who serve on the 23 member board.

Goodman, the Director of State Planning and Research, replaced Frank Cox who resigned to assume duties as the new Alaska Director of the Small Business Administration.

SENATE PRAISES CAPS

Community Action Programs were recently praised by the U.S. Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare in its report on the Employment and Training Opportunities Act of 1970. The Committee report states: "The important quality of CAAs which must be protected in manpower legislation

is their role as voice of the poor, as the one agency which, on the basis of personal experience, is able to express judgements on how a program will look to the poor and how it will serve their real needs. Properly used, the more than 900 CAAs provide an invaluable resource for reaching the target population, and they constitute a ready-built monitoring and evaluating system."

RURALCAP BOARD APPROVES NEW EXPERIMENTAL RE-FUNDING PLAN

The Executive Committee of the Ruralcap Board of Directors met in Anchorage, September 28 and 29, to discuss and approve a new and experimental re-funding program known as the "Three Year Plan."

The new program, being instituted this year in 10 programs in the Northwest Region for the federal Office of Economic Opportunity.

Junior J. Ramos, Ruralcap Coordinator of Regional Technical Assistance, said that the new plan will "cut the time set aside for re-writing the Ruralcap grant each year by at least one-half."

"Rather than writing new plans and priorities sections for each year's grant," he said, "under the new process, the plans and priorities for Ruralcap programs will cover a three year period. The plans and priorities will only have to be updated each year."

Ramos said that the new method of operation offered a graph which will be readily readable for all Ruralcap staff members.

The new plan will deal with all Ruralcap programs in an overall manner, and work programs, with their many projects and sub projects, will be handled in more detail. Plans and priorities for work programs will be specific to the point that they will specify who will carry out the individual projects.

"Not only will the new package be easire to read," Ramos said, "but it will save staff time and money. Staff members will also be able to readily see where technical assistance and training are needed to meet goals in specific activities," Ramos said.

This new concept is intended to carry out, in a more meaningful and systematic manner, the plans and priorities established by the regional boards and the central as well as the regional staff. The plan extends over a three year instead of a year to year basis.

The field prereview to begin inaugeration of the program was conducted by Charles Sauvage, OEO Field Representative for the Northwest Region.

It was agreed that Ruralcap would operate programs in Neighborhood Service Centers, Community Organization, Emergency Food, Head Start, Youth Development and Village Equipment Mobilization. Ruralcap will also be the grantee for the Alaska Legal Services program, which is a fully delegated program.

The Ruralcap Board of Directors will hold it's annual meeting in Anchorage, October 28 and 29 at Carpenter's hall, to approve plans and priorities, and select a new slate of officers.

Listed among the agency's top priorities are: Political education on democratic processes for villagers; Training in program development; management training at regional high schools; cultural heritage programs; youth development programs; land claims; economic development; expansion and upgrading of communications systems; adequate water, sewer and sanitation programs; housing and medical services; and child development.

OEO EVALUATION TEAM VISITS RURALCAP PROGRAMS

A team of five OEO evaluators, which will grow to eight, by the time it finishes its two week tour of Ruralcap projects in Alaska, arrived in Anchorage from Northwest regional headquarters in Seattle, Oct. 6.

The evaluation team, headed by OEO representative, Mike Ishikawa, will visit the ten Ruralcap regional offices and several village programs.

Ishikawa will step down as director of the tour when Dick Stannard, Chief of the Northwest OEO Plans, Budget and Evaluations Division, arrives the second week to complete the rest of the tour.

The evaluators broke up into three teams. Two of these teams will divide the regional headquarters among them, and the third will evaluate the central staff.

VIRGINIA DEMMERT NAMED HEAD START FIELD TRAINING SUPERVISOR

Virginia Demmert, a long-time participant in the Ruralcap Head Start program, was recently named as Field Training Supervisor for the Southeastern Head Start region.

Prior to her appointment, she was active on the Head Start Career Development Committee and at one time was a Teacher-Director at the Head Start program in Angoon.

She is a resident of Kake, and will operate from there, spending five days a month in the SEACAP office in Juneau.

FEDERAL HEALTH TEAM VISITS HEAD START ALASKA PROGRAMS

Dr. Gertrude Hunter, National Director of Health Services for the Office of Child Development, along with three officials from Washington; D.C., visited the Ruralcap Child Development Division for a medical conference, Oct. 5-6. The conference was designed to evaluate the health needs of Head Start children in rural Alaska.

Dr. Hunter, accompanied by Dr. Phillip Calcagno, Regional Medical Consultant for the national Office of Child Development; Edmund N. Epstein, Administrative Director, Medical Consultation Service, Project Head Start; and Dr. Robert Faine, Dental Consultant, Department of Health Education and Welfare; visited Alaska to investigate the possibility of funding a grant to provide Ruralcap the funds to set up health service facilities in the bush.

The conference, hosted by Ruralcap, was attended by representatives of the state Public Health Service and Alaska Native villagers.

PCC REPRESENTATIVE FROM WASHINGTON, D.C. TO VISIT ALASKA

Rosamund Kolberg, federal Parent Child Center Program Specialist will arrive in Anchorage October 16, from her office in Washington, D.C..

The purpose of her visit is to evaluate the PCC programs run by Ruralcap in Hoonah and Kotzebue.

Mrs. Kolberg will be accompanied on her trip into the bush by Betty Scaman, Ruralcap Child Development Director.

RURALCAP STAFFERS ATTEND DENVER WORKSHOP

John O'Hara, Head Start Field Training Supervisor and Mrs. Betty Scaman, Child Development Director, attended a three day workshop, at the John F. Kennedy Child Development Center in Denver, Colorado, Sept. 28-30.

The workshop, on micro-training, was planned to familiarize CAP representatives from throughout the western U.S. with the use of VTRV and tape equipment in pre-school education.

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