

FEDERAL BLOCK

GRANTS :

DEPT. OF HESS



Alaska State Legislature  
House of Representatives  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION  
AND SOCIAL SERVICES

POUCH V  
JUNEAU, AK 99811  
465-3759

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES

will conduct a

\* \* \* STATEWIDE TELECONFERENCE \* \* \*

Date: Friday, May 15, 1987

Time: 7:30 - 9:00 A.M. (AST)

Subject: FEDERAL BLOCK GRANTS FOR THE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

The Federal government requires, as a condition of receiving block grant funding, a statewide public hearing concerning the usage of federal funds received and expended by the State of Alaska.

The Department receives block grant funds in the following areas:

Preventive Health and Social Services  
Maternal and Child Health  
Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health  
Low Income Energy Assistance

More detailed information on the amounts of money for each category received and specific program expenditures will be available at local Legislative Information Offices prior to the hearing.

Members of the committee are: Niilo Koponen, co-chair, (D) Fairbanks; Johnny Ellis, co-chair, (D) Anchorage; Dave Donley, (D) Anchorage; Max F. Gruenberg, Jr., (D) Anchorage; Alyce Hanley, (R) Anchorage; Bill Hudson (R) Juneau; Randy Phillips (R) Eagle River.

THIS IS A PUBLIC HEARING. ALL TESTIMONY IS WELCOME.

For more information, contact your local Legislative Information Office or call Lisa McClaren in Juneau at 465-3759



The Intended Usage of the FY 1988  
 PREVENTIVE HEALTH & HEALTH SERVICES BLOCK GRANT  
 by the Division of Public Health/DHSS

Available Funds for FY88

Anticipated Federal Award for FFY88.....\$ 326.8

Expected Expenditures for FY88

Health Education/Risk Reduction Projects.....	\$ 245.7
Continuation Projects.....	142.1
New Projects.....	103.6
Coordination & Administration.....	75.0
Rape Prevention.....	6.1
	\$ 326.8

Basic Overview

The Division of Public Health intends to use these Federal Funds in the following areas to emphasize projects in health education that; promote tobacco education and behavior change, education toward the prevention of cancers, and provide health information and education at the community level. The division will make available grant funds for preventive health services under the Health Education/Risk Reduction Projects. The Division will provide planning, technical, and administrative assistance to grantees and related organizations with similar interests.

Health Education/Risk Reduction Projects

The Division provides grant support to non-profit corporations, state agencies, and political subdivisions of the State of Alaska for community based programs for the purpose of demonstrating and evaluating optimal methods for organizing and delivering comprehensive preventive health service for defined populations.

To receive a competitive grant under this program, the applicant must:

- address a specific health problem or high risk population
- develop a behavioral or health educational intervention program to meet the identified need.
- be fully intergrated into existing service programs and financially independent from block grant funding at the end of two years funding period.
- incorporate an evaluation tool to measure the accomplishments of the project.
- be able to serve as a model for future service projects directed at similar problems.

These grants will be awarded for a maximum of a two year period. The maximum amount of support is \$40,000 for each grant. These grants are intended to supplement agency efforts to address division priorities in health education. It is not intended to supplant existing funding of services.

The Division anticipates that it will continue to fund the efforts of the following projects funded during FY88. These efforts have shown progress and impact on their identified groups.

- Alaska Crippled Children & Adults: Smokeless Tobacco \$10.0  
Public information, instructional video's, PSA's and written information targeting youth and smokeless tobacco usage.
- Alaska Health Fair Project: Health Education & Screening \$25.0  
Training for local coordinators to implement rural health fairs. Develop and health educational displays.
- Alaska Lung Association: Tobacco Education \$20.0  
Provide a public information campaign and instruction concerning the issue of pregnant women and smoking.
- Crisis Inc.: Public Health Information \$10.0  
A library of health information is available to the entire state via a toll-free number. Also known as Tel-Med.
- Kodiak Area Native Association: Tobacco Education \$21.3  
Local education campaigns cessation programs targeting the villages of Kodiak Island.
- Municipality of Anchorage: Tobacco Education \$20.0  
Education program through the Dramady players program for elementary schools. Coordinated media campaign aimed at teenage smoking.
- Providence Hospital: Injury Prevention \$20.0  
Community education targets seasonal injury awareness. aimed at preschoolers and youth.
- Southeast Regional Resource Center: Tobacco Education \$9.4  
Assist smokers in rural southeast villages to quit smoking through local cessation and education programs
- Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation: ATV Safety \$6.4  
Locally developed program to call attention to All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Safety through the use of music. It will emphasize recommended and safe riding practices, and proper riding equipment.

Tobacco Education and Cancer Prevention

The Division of Public Health will emphasize new projects in the area of cancer education targeted at specific high risk population groups. During State fiscal year 1988, these activities will focus on several areas, smoking in women, smokeless tobacco usage, and smoking in the native population. Implementation of this program will be conducted through a grant(s) to appropriate service agencies. These funds will be intergrated as supplemental resources for service agencies to enhance their abilities to address this health problem.

Coordination and Administration

Professional staff, within the Division of Public Health is assigned to coordinate health promotion activities within the state. These activities are under the auspices of the Preventive Health Block Grant. This position is responsible for the administration of the grants derived from this grant award as well as to administer the award from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. Projects concerning school health education will be supported through activities with the Department of Education.

Support funds are utilized for travel to perform site visits, program planning and technical assistance. Other costs include; communication, advertising, subscriptions, and office supplies.

Rape Prevention

\$6,100 of this Block Grant is required to be used for rape prevention activities. The funds are RSA'd to the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Dept. of Public Safety. They support training activities in Rape Prevention Protocol for field personnel training sessions for Public Health Nurses in the three regions.

## The Report of the Use of the FY 1987

## PREVENTIVE HEALTH AND HEALTH SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

by the Division of Public Health/DHSS

During FY 1987, Alaska received an award of \$326,800 through the Federal Preventive Health & Health Services Block Grant.

The following projects were funded from the FY87 award:

Health Education/Risk Reduction Projects

Funds were provided to non-profit agencies and local governments to provide health promotional programs aimed at reducing the risk of cancer, heart disease, and lung cancer. Other projects emphasized includes TV education and community health education. A description of these projects is as follows.

Alaska Crippled Children & Adults	30,000
Develop a public information service program affecting the usage of smokeless tobacco. Development of educational video's, PSA's, and other written information.	
Alaska Health Fair Project	25,000
Assistance for the coordination of rural health fairs and the training of local health fair volunteers.	
Alaska Health Project	20,200
Develop and implement the Community Hazardous Material Evaluation for rural settings.	
Alaska Lung Association	30,000
Provide a public information campaign and instruction concerning the issue of pregnant women and smoking.	
Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center	10,000
Education classes during early pregnancy to address lifestyle issues and consultation with an Exercise Physiologist on exercises for pregnant women.	
Council on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault, Dept. of Public Safety	6,300
Family Violence Institute conference. (Rape Prevention)	
C.R.I.S.I.S., Inc.	10,000
A library of health messages known as Tel-Med is available to the entire state via a toll-free number.	
Kodiak Area Native Association (KANA)	18,700
The health department staff of KANA will be trained for an intensive tobacco education campaign in the island villages.	

## Report on the Uses of the FY87 Award: Cont.

Municipality of Anchorage	20,000
Smoking education program through the Dramady players program for elementary schools in the Anchorage school district. Media campaigns twice yearly aimed at teenage smoking	
Municipality of Anchorage	10,000
Provide hypertension screening and follow-up education to targeted populations (white males and blacks)	
Municipality of Anchorage	10,000
Education and accident prevention for parents and young children utilizing the TIPP (The Injury Prevention Program)	
Northern Alaska Health Resources Assoc.	17,500
Assist the Fairbanks North Star Borough school district to implement a physical education curriculum that emphasizes fitness rather than competitive skills.	
Planned Parenthood of Alaska	14,800
To instruct women concerning breast self examination techniques and the values of a pap smear to detect cervical cancer.	
Providence Hospital	20,000
Safety Seal program. Community education program will target seasonal injury awareness. Teaching materials will be developed and utilized to disseminate the basic skills of pediatric injury control.	
Southeast Regional Resource Center (SERRC)	30,600
Southeast Alaska Smokefree will assist smokers in rural southeast villages to quit smoking through local cessation and to discourage the general community population to begin smoking through community education.	
Southeast Alaska Regional Health Corporation (SEARHC)	17,750
Provide a Health Lifestyles summer program that emphasizes: substance abuse, nutrition, exercise and stress management for adolescents from southeast villages	
Tanana Chiefs Conference	\$5,000
Dental education materials are available for the rural villages in the TCC region.	
Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC)	18,500
A locally developed program to call attention to ATV safety through the use of a contemporary song composed with lyrics depicting safe practices and proper ATV equipment.	

Report on the Uses of the FY87 Award: Cont.

Coordination and Administration

The grant enabled the Division of Public Health to dedicate one staff person to coordinate health education and promotion activities in the state. Many of these activities centered around the funds granted from this Federal Grant. Funds were utilized for travel to project sites, communications, advertising, supplies.

BACKGROUND PAPER  
ON  
MCH BLOCK GRANT  
FOR  
LEGISLATIVE HEARING

The Maternal and Child Health block grant was created in 1982 to enable each state to:

- 1) assure mothers and children (in particular those with low income or with limited availability of health services) access to quality maternal and child health services,
- 2) reduce infant mortality and the incidence of preventable disease and handicapping conditions among children, to reduce the need for inpatient and long-term care services, to increase the number of children (especially preschool children) approximately immunized against disease and the number of low income children receiving health assessments and follow-up diagnostic treatment services, and otherwise to promote the health of mothers and children, and prenatal, delivery, and postpartum care for low income mothers),
- 3) provide rehabilitation services for blind and disabled individuals under the age of 16,
- 4) provide services for locating, and for medical, surgical, corrective, and other services, and care for, facilities for diagnosis, hospitalization, and after care for children who are crippled or who are suffering from conditions leading to crippling.

The amounts awarded to Alaska have been as follows:

Federal FY	Amount
1982	\$ 657,700
1983	877,700
1984	705,400
1985	845,100
1986	808,800
1987	846,000

A state has two years in which to expend each year's grant award.

In FY 88 the amount of the MCH block grant is likely to be same as FY 87 due to Graham Rudman. As a long term goal, the Section of Family Health recommends using approximately half of the MCH Block grant for maternal care and half for child health services.

This grant will be used for continuation of previous activities in improving the outcome of pregnancy, improving availability and quality of prenatal care, and improving family planning services and genetics counseling. The other half would then be used for the Handicapped Children's Program, maintenance of Child Development Services and Communicative Disorders Program. The speciality medical, audiological,

and treatment clinics made possible with these funds are fulfillment of the Federal mandate to locate and treat crippling conditions of children.

For FY 88, it is suggested that the following percentage be established for this grant:

		Anticipated Grant
Maternal Health Programs	40%	338.4
Child Health Programs	59%	499.3
Administrative	1%	8.4
		<u>846,100</u>

Public input is sought on this allocation. Any increase to one type of program will necessitate a decrease in the other program.

FY 86

Consolidated Annual Report

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Portion of the  
Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Block Grant  
Public Law 97-35

On October 1, 1986, the first day of the new Federal fiscal year, the State of Alaska had been awarded block grant funds for the provision of alcohol and drug abuse services. These funds were allocated subsequent to the beginning of the State fiscal year. The State, on a yearly basis, undertakes a complex and extensive process whereby agencies and individuals offer proposals to the Department of Health and Social Services for the provision of alcohol and drug abuse services throughout the state. It was decided that the FFY 86 funds would not be expended until the beginning of the next State fiscal year, July 1, 1986 (SFY 87). The State included these block grant funds with appropriation of State general funds and funded services at this new, increased level.

Beginning on July 1, 1986, and in compliance with the State's grant-in-aid regulations, Public Law 97-35 and consistent with the block grant application as well as those program activities begun under sections 301 and 312 of the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 and sections 409 and 410 of the Drug Abuse Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation Act, the Department issued grants to some 47 different program agencies.

In developing the grant awards, the State in compliance with section 1914(b) did not use any block grant funds received under section 1913 to:

- 1) provide inpatient hospital services in the case of amounts provided for alcohol or drug abuse programs,
- 2) make cash payments to intended recipients of health services,
- 3) purchase or improve land, purchase, construct, or permanently improve (other than minor remodeling) any building or other facility, or purchase major medical equipment,
- 4) satisfy any requirement for the expenditure of non-federal funds as a condition for the receipt of federal funds, or
- 5) provide financial assistance to any entity other than a public or non-profit private entity.

The funds for the third year of utilization of the block grant were allocated in accordance with the three year State plan for the delivery of alcohol and drug abuse services in a unified system to provide an equity of service to all those in need throughout the State to the limit of the available funding. The utilization of these funds as well as the State general funds were based in part on the local and area health plans and public input.

These two items are addressed in the grant applications and possible revisions submitted by the individual grant applicants to the Department in consideration of funding. The final factor utilized by the State to provide that the funds are spent in a consistent manner with the needs of the State's population were the legislative hearings and the Governor's advisory board public meetings. In addition to the use of these public input activities, the State agreed to replace the lost funding which several programs suffered as result of the block grant program. Prior to the block grant program, the Cook Inlet Native Association, the Gateway mental health Center and South Kachemak, Inc. received federal discretionary funding under the Uniform Alcoholism and Intoxication Act. The Department replaced these lost federal funds with a portion of the State's block grant. The goal of the State's plan for the use of the block grant funds for SFY 87 was to:

"use federal block grant funds to replace lost federal formula and discretionary funds and to fund additional projects according to the regulations, statutes and the three year plan of the State Office of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse."

The two objectives under this plan were:

1A. To use block grant funds received in FFY 1986 to replace federal discretionary funding under the Uniform Alcoholism and Intoxication Act for Cook Inlet Native Association, Gateway Mental Health Center, and South Kachemak, Inc., in SYF 1987.

1B. To use federal block grant funds to replace lost federal formula funding under the Uniform Alcoholism and Intoxication Act to make grants to community alcohol and drug abuse programs in the State in SFY 1987.

The State and local plans, public input, statutory guidelines, etc., mandated that the State establish the following priorities for the use of the block grant funds in order to ensure the provision of a full range of alcohol and drug abuse services throughout the State:

- Outreach
- Emergency Care Services
- Inpatient Care Services
- Intermediate Care Services
- Outpatient Care Services
- Aftercare Services
- Follow-up Services
- Criminal Justice Diversion Service
- Counseling to Corrections Services
- Women's Services

These services were provided to residents of Alaska. They were provided to any individual residing or employed in Alaska regardless of ability to pay for such services, current or past health conditions, or any other factor. These services were available and accessible promptly, as appropriate and in a manner which preserves human dignity and assures continuity and high quality care.

The State, utilizing federal block grant funds, purchased through grants the following services:

Service Category

Emergency Care	Services provided to persons having acute problems relating to substance use and abuse including immediate diagnosis and care as well as appropriate referral for continuing care after emergency treatment. Includes detoxification, etc.
Intermediate Care	The provision of nonmedical or medical model substance abuse treatment services in a full twenty-four hour residential milieu therapy setting, or a partial (less than twenty-four hours) residential milieu therapy setting.
Outpatient Care Care/Drug Free	The provision of non-residential diagnostic, therapeutic, and other counseling services in a drug free environment.
Outreach	Actively working within a community systematically for the purposes of identifying persons in need of services, alerting persons and their families to the availability of services, locating needed services, and enabling persons to enter and accept the service delivery system.
Aftercare	The provision of continued post-treatment contact for the purpose of providing support and/or to increase the gains made to date in the treatment process.
Youth Alternatives	The provision of consultative and educational information to "at risk" youth concerning alternatives to substance abuse. Conducting or facilitating prevention alternative activities, primarily recreational in nature.
Consultation and Education	Consultation services provide information and/or technical assistance to a particular group or individual seeking resolution of a specific alcohol and/or other drug problem(s). Education disseminates relevant information aimed at increasing the awareness, receptivity and sensitivity of the community towards alcohol and/or other drug abuse and stimulates social action to increase the services provided for people with problems associated with the use of alcohol and/or other drugs.
Training	Program activities associated with regional training grants as well as any other State funded training efforts.
Support Services	Support services include: patient data collections, medication dispersement and control, referral services, dietetic services, and research activities related to program services.
Women's Services	Twenty eight day (24 hour) residential treatment program for women which provides individual and group counseling, family education and counseling, and aftercare

With this menu of services which the State considered appropriate under the block grant program, the State reviewed the goals and objectives of the grant applications as negotiated and revised. The State, in compliance with Section 1915 allocated the total available funding under the block grant program to five components; prevention and early intervention, alcoholism/alcohol abuse services, drug abuse services, discretionary, and women's services. The State did not utilize any of the funding for the administration of the block grant program. The State expended State general funds to operate the program. All of the funding was allocated to the grant-in-aid program. The State set aside \$300,880 for the prevention and early intervention activities, \$526,540 for the alcohol abuse activities, \$526,540 for the drug abuse activities, \$45,740 for the discretionary activities and \$104,700 for new or expanded women's services. The total block grant funding available for SFY 87 was \$1,504,400. Upon the allocation of funding into separate components and the review of activities proposed by the grant applicants, the Department awarded grants to applicants consistent with both the State and block grant goals and objectives in order to purchase the appropriate services and activities.

The block grant funds for new or expanded services for women was used to provide additional funding to a 28 day residential (24 hour) treatment program for women alcohol and other drug abusers in the Anchorage area and to provide aftercare services to residents completing the treatment program.

Activities initiated and/or expanded in this program include increased admittance into the program. A goal of 60% of residents admitted will complete treatment, and of those residents completing treatment 60% will maintain the gains made in treatment at a six month follow-up measured by freedom from substance abuse and productive life styles. A weekly aftercare life planning and relapse prevention group is conducted at the facility.

The social stigma attached to women who abuse alcohol and other drugs and the corresponding reluctance of these women to enter the traditional institutional-based treatment setting makes it necessary to provide a home-like treatment facility. This facility is in Anchorage but serves women throughout the state.

This program has gone a long way towards helping Alaska's women solve their alcohol and other drug addiction problems. It is the intent of this program to continue to provide these services to the women of Alaska.

SOADA will survey (review) this component of service on an annual basis.

The following listing reflects the SFY 87 grant awards as well as the allocation of funding between State general funds and the five components of the block grant:

SFY 87 Funding Allocation

GRANT NAME	TOTAL FUNDING	STATE FUNDS	PREVENTION BLOCK GT.	ALCOHOL BLOCK GT.	DRUG ABUSE BLOCK GT.	DISCRET. BLOCK GT.	WOMEN'S PROGRAMS BLOCK GT.
Bethel	435,600	355,600	10,000	70,000			
Norton Sound	522,800	522,800					
Yukon-Kuskokwim HC	235,900	205,900	10,000	20,000			
Cook Inlet Council	186,700	146,700	5,000	35,000			
Seward	91,000	57,000		25,000	9,000		
KNA	83,800	60,800	2,000	15,000	5,000		
Valdez	39,600	34,600		2,000	3,000		
Kodiak	223,800	181,800	5,000	25,000	12,000		
BBAHC	132,400	107,400	5,000		20,000		
Copper River	74,400	66,900	3,000	4,000	500		
Cordova	51,300	47,300		4,000			
South Kackemak	9,300	0				9,300	
FNA CAP	906,800	812,800	4,000	50,000	40,000		
McGrath	82,800	60,800	1,000	20,000	1,000		
North Slope	144,900	112,400	15,000	17,500			
Galena	58,800	46,800	2,000	10,000			
Juneau	530,900	443,100	7,800	40,000	40,000		
Sitka	306,200	296,200		5,000	5,000		
Ketchikan	254,800	206,800	3,000	15,000	30,000		
Petersburg	62,900	61,900	1,000				
Wrangell	79,000	68,000	1,000	8,000	2,000		
Yakutat	34,800	32,800		2,000			
COHO	43,400	43,400					

GRANT NAME	TOTAL FUNDING	STATE FUNDS	PREVENT. BLOCK GT.	ALCOHOL BLOCK GT.	DRUG ABUSE BLOCK GT.	DISCRET. BLOCK GT.	WOMEN'S PROGRAMS BLOCK GT.
SEARHC	140,600	110,600	10,000	20,000			
FNA -Regional	84,400	67,400	5,000	10,000			
Sitka -Regional	84,400	81,400		3,000			
Bethel -Regional	94,300	79,300	5,000	10,000			
Alaska Council	739,000	549,000	150,000	20,000		20,000	
RurAL CAP	70,300	33,100	3,000	18,000		16,200	
Mugen's Ranch	400,100	350,100			50,000		
Mat-Su	173,800	158,800		15,000			
ASAP	1,004,800	1,004,800					
North Pacific Rim	27,600	18,700		6,000		400	
Aleutian Pribilof	82,800	27,800	30,000	20,000	5,000		
Maniilaq	582,500	582,500					
Tanana Chiefs	236,400	236,400					
Ketchikan	30,300	30,300					
FNA	72,700	72,700					
Mat-Su	91,300	91,300					
Cook Inlet	66,400	66,400					
Bethel PATC	19,900	19,900					
Salvation Army	284,900	284,900					
NCA/Juneau	34,100	34,100					
Norton Sound	41,300	41,300					
Kana	49,700	49,700					

GRANT NAME	TOTAL FUNDING	STATE FUNDS	PREVENTION BLOCK GT.	ALCOHOL BLOCK GT.	DRUG ABUSE BLOCK GT.	DISCRET. BLOCK GT.	WOMEN'S PROGRAMS BLOCK GT.
Counselor Cert.	3,600	3,600					
KANA-St. Hermans	45,000	45,000					
Cook Inlet Native	279,500	279,500					
Akeela House	589,100	589,100					
Salvation Army	1,425,200	976,500	20,000	20,000	304,000		104,700
ARCH	713,200	693,200			20,000		
NCA/Juneau	57,400	57,400					
FNA Youth	111,800	111,800					
Ketchikan Youth	111,100	111,100					
Kila Inc.	177,800	177,800					
Petersburg Youth	71,100	71,100					
Sitka Teen	71,100	71,100					
Center for Drugs	253,400	253,400					
Craig Youth	33,300	33,300					
Kuskokwim Native	17,800	17,800					
Aleutian Pribilof	31,400	31,400					
Yukon Kuskokwim	21,100	21,100					
Bristol Bay HC	39,300	39,300					
Cook Inlet Council	35,600	35,600					
McGrath/Anvik	19,600	19,600					
City of Tanana	23,100	23,100					

In all, the State's alcohol and drug abuse program served in excess of 12,500 clients, provided the "Here's Looking At You" youth education/prevention curriculum to approximately 19,000 youth, served 1,850 clients in the detox facilities, served more than 10,682 persons in outpatient and intermediate care settings, provided intensive short-term care to 335 clients and after-care to more than 714 clients. The federal share of these levels is 11 percent. Though the Department does fund programs according to the primary problem with which the grantee affects results and the reporting system does report the primary substance abuse problem, the Department is finding that a clear distinction between alcohol abuse and other substance abuse is rare with the vast majority of abuse problems in this state being polysubstance.

STATE OF ALASKA  
ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

PURPOSE: The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) is administered in Alaska by the Department of Health and Social Services through the Division of Public Assistance. The purpose of the program is to provide assistance for low-income households to offset the high cost of home heating energy.

FUNDING: The program is 100% federally funded with a Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) block grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Approximately 10 million dollars is allocated for Alaska. While the State receives almost 7 million dollars, 9 tribal organizations run their own block grant programs with the remainder of the federal allocation. Based on the federal allocation method, Alaska's native organizations would not be able to offer comparable services to the state program. Therefore, the State arranges for the Department of Health & Human Services to provide a larger share of the state's allocation to the tribal organizations.

ELIGIBILITY: Both home owners and renters (including those who pay for heating costs as an undesignated portion of their rent) may apply for energy assistance. Eligibility is based on the applicant's average gross monthly income for the last 90 days. Applicants with income at or below 60 percent of the 1986 median income for Alaska are eligible for energy assistance:

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Average Gross Monthly Income</u>
1	\$ 994
2	1,300
3	1,606
4	1,912
5	2,218
6	2,524

For each additional member add approximately \$57

Households containing an individual receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), food stamps, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or certain income-tested VA benefits are automatically eligible for energy assistance benefits upon application.

Households eligible for or receiving benefits from a tribal organization administering a LIHEAP grant are not eligible for benefits under the State EAP, except where an agreement to the contrary exists between the State and the tribal organizations.

In determining eligibility the following income is included:

- All wages and salaries before taxes and deductions.
- Payments from Social Security, Unemployment Insurance, Workmen's compensation, VA benefits, child support, alimony, and pensions.

- Receipts from self-employment after operating expenses.
- Insurance or annuity payments, dividends, interest, rents or income from estates or trusts.
- All Public Assistance payments.

The following are not included as income in determining eligibility:

- All assets including checking and savings accounts.
- Resources such as house or car.
- Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act payments.
- Permanent Fund Dividend
- Alaska Longevity Bonus

BENEFITS: The benefits given to an eligible household are determined on the basis of that family's gross monthly income, home heating costs, and the geographic region in which it lives. Maximum grant amounts vary in different regions of the state, ranging from \$200 to \$1050. EAP grants are given once per program year per household. EAP makes payments to home heating energy suppliers on behalf of eligible households. Households do not have to have overdue bills to qualify. If the household's account are not overdue, credit will be established with its home heating energy supplier. Credit can be established for home heating payments made for fuel oil, natural gas, electricity, propane, wood, and other petroleum products used for home heating needs. When the grant is used up, the household's case is closed and all bills again become the household's responsibility.

APPLICATION PROCESS: Households seeking energy assistance must contain an Alaska resident, and submit an application. Only one application may be submitted per household. Applications are sent directly to all households receiving Public Assistance from the State. Applications are also available from Public Assistance district offices, village fee agents, many home energy suppliers, social service agencies, or by contacting the EAP office. Completed applications should be sent to this address.

Energy Assistance Program  
 P.O. Box H-07  
 Juneau, AK 99811-0641  
 Phone: 465-3058

Incomplete applications and those lacking adequate verification of income will be returned for the necessary information. Applicants receive notice of their eligibility decision within 30 days of receipt of the application in the Juneau office. Applications are accepted until June 30, 1987.

EMERGENCY SERVICES: EAP provides expedited service to eligible households facing termination of energy services required for heating the home. Emergency service is also extended to those eligible households who cannot obtain home heating service due to supply shortages or natural disasters. Households whose service has been terminated after depletion of their EAP grant may be eligible for additional

benefits. Households facing these situations should contact the EAP office in Juneau.

STATUS REPORT: As of May 12, 1987 the EAP had processed over 9,500 grants, providing an average grant of \$490 per household. Over 10,700 applications have been received to date. The EAP expects to receive up to 12,000 applications this year. The 9 tribal organizations will serve an additional 8,000 households in Alaska. The average household size served by EAP is 3.5 people. One fifth of these households contain an elderly member, 1/3 have a member on food stamps, and 1/4 have an AFDC recipient in them.

ISSUES: The program, begun in 1979, has been reauthorized by Congress for another 4 years. President Reagan has recommended a 35% budget reduction. The latest U.S. House of Representative's budget actually gives LIHEAP a small increase. At this time the Senate has not passed a budget and the proposals for LIHEAP funding vary. Last year we received an 8% reduction. The reductions are justified in part on the availability of Exxon overcharge dollars, however, it does not appear that the EAP will receive any of these funds in Alaska based on the proposed budget developed by Community and Regional Affairs.

Power Cost Equalization, while reducing electric bills in rural areas does not always generate a double subsidy for our clients. The grants are based on actual fuel costs to the clients by region. In addition, most of our rural grantees heat with wood or stove oil, rather than electricity, and EAP grants go to vendors providing those services.



**Alaska State Legislature**  
**House of Representatives**  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION  
AND SOCIAL SERVICES

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

POUCHY  
JUNEAU, AK 99811  
465-3759

THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES

will conduct a

\* \* \* STATEWIDE TELECONFERENCE \* \* \*

Date: Friday, May 15, 1987

Time: 7:30 - 9:00 A.M. (AST)

Subject: FEDERAL BLOCK GRANTS FOR THE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

The Federal government requires, as a condition of receiving block grant funding, a statewide public hearing concerning the usage of federal funds received and expended by the State of Alaska.

The Department receives block grant funds in the following areas:

Preventive Health and Social Services  
Maternal and Child Health  
Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health  
Low Income Energy Assistance

More detailed information on the amounts of money for each category received and specific program expenditures will be available at local Legislative Information Offices prior to the hearing.

Members of the committee are: Nillo Koponen, co-chair, (D) Fairbanks; Johnny Ellis, co-chair, (D) Anchorage; Dave Donley, (D) Anchorage; Max F. Gruenberg, Jr., (D) Anchorage; Alyce Hanley, (R) Anchorage; Bill Hudson (R) Juneau; Randy Phillips (R) Eagle River.

THIS IS A PUBLIC HEARING. ALL TESTIMONY IS WELCOME.

For more information, contact your local Legislative Information Office or call Lisa McClaren in Juneau at 465-3759

