

SUR

34

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(11)

Date Referred: March 31, 1989

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 4/10/89

The FINANCE Committee considered:

SJR 34

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 34

[SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES]

Relating to community action agencies.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- [] be replaced with _____ [] the same title
[] have attached amendment(s) [] a new title
 do pass
[] do not pass
[] no recommendation
[] individual recommendations
[] additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: _____ letter of intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):
(Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS:

(Date/Dept)

- [] fiscal impact _____
[] zero fiscal note _____
[] zero with analysis _____

- [] fiscal note(s) _____
 zero fiscal note(s) 3/15 CRA
[] zero fn/analysis _____

SIGNING DO PASS:

SIGNING:

(Check approp. column)

Do Not
Pass
No Rec
Amend

[Signature] HOFFMAN
[Signature] LARSON
[Signature] BROWN
[Signature] KORONEN
[Signature] LUMER
[Signature] BARNES
[Signature] PHILLIPS
[Signature] RIEBER
[Signature] WALLIS
[Signature] SHULTZ

	Do Not Pass	No Rec	Amend

[Signature]
Chairman's Signature

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST: _____

Revision Date: _____
Title: "Relating to community action agencies."

Agency Affected: Community & Regional Affairs
BRU: _____

Sponsor: Sen. Adams, Zharoff, Binkley etc
Requestor: _____

Components: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

REVENUE						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Jim Plasman

Prepared by: Jim Plasman, Deputy Director
Division: Municipal & Regional Assistance

Phone: 465-1750
Date: 3/7/89

Approved by Commissioner: [Signature]
Agency: Community & Regional Affairs

Date: 3-7-89

Distribution (by preparer):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)

BY ADAMS, ZHAROFF, BINKLEY,
STURGULEWSKI, SZYMANSKI AND
KELLY

1 IN THE SENATE

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 34

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to community action agencies.

6 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

7 WHEREAS on August 30, 1964, the United States declared a War on Pov-
8 erty with the enactment of the Economic Opportunity Act; and

9 WHEREAS in the ensuing 25 years this legislation has enabled national,
10 regional, and local programs to address the paradox of poverty in the midst
11 of plenty in this nation; and

12 WHEREAS community action agencies, created to offer the nation's poor
13 "a hand up, not a handout," have formed the cornerstones of the War on
14 Poverty; and

15 WHEREAS in Alaska the Rural Alaska Community Action Program (RurAL
16 CAP) has made an invaluable contribution to this effort through the devel-
17 opment of innovative and cost-effective initiatives to eliminate the causes
18 and conditions of poverty in communities throughout the state; and

19 WHEREAS as Alaska endures the current economic crisis it continues to
20 support the national commitment to the War on Poverty that is embodied in
21 the Community Services Block Grant program, which has enabled RurAL CAP to
22 provide workable solutions and services at the grassroots level; and

23 WHEREAS the State of Alaska upholds its own commitment to the less
24 fortunate among us, including members of the Alaska Native community; and

25 WHEREAS in so doing, the State of Alaska and RurAL CAP have formed a
26 valuable partnership to encourage positive approaches to self-sufficiency
27 in the rural communities;

28 BE IT RESOLVED that the Sixteenth Alaska State Legislature strongly
29 supports the continuing work of RurAL CAP; and be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is respectfully requested to
2 arrange to have copies of this resolution presented with other demonstra-
3 tions of national support for community action agencies at the National
4 Association of Community Action Agencies' Rededication Ceremony in Washing-
5 ton, D.C. on September 8, 1989 for delivery to the Honorable George Bush,
6 President of the United States; the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of
7 the United States and President of U.S. Senate; and the Honorable Jim
8 Wright, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

9 A COPY of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ted Stevens
10 and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don
11 Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

*Information for legislative
CITATION.*

WHAT HAS RURAL CAP DONE?:

1) TRAINING - CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

* Enabled human resources to be developed which trained the target population in the skills needed to participate and be involved in the decisions affecting their lives:

Started the Regional Non-Profits

- * AFN - original funds to support AFN came from Rural CAP
- * CEDC - today a multi-million dollar organization providing valuable services to promote the economic development of rural Alaska -- started with funds provided by Rural CAP;
- * Regional non-profits (Kawerak, Maniilaq, AVCP, KANA, CRNA,) were all started by Rural CAP - Rural CAP provided training and development to these regional non-profits -- who then were supported to be spun-off and self-responsible.
- * Alaska Village Electric Cooperative - electricity generatrion to rural Alaska

-- Rural CAP trained village people from around the State gave them practical experience in dealing with government, boards, and a complex western system. Rural CAP was the first to divide the state into "quasi-governmental" regionals and the organizations started by Rural CAP developed into nine of the regional non-profits in existence today: Kawerak, Maniilaq, KANA, AVCP, Copper River Native Association, etc. Rural CAP provided funding and training so that decisions could be made at the local level. The non-profits became effective providers of service. These corporations spun off and became strong regional non-profits.

-- Rural CAP provided funds to establish CEDC, AFN, and Alaska Legal Services. Rural CAP also started the Alaska Village Electric Cooperative which through a string of tiny generators stretched across the bush and brought electricity to homes and villages where there had never been any before.

-- Rural CAP provided funds and support for AFN which assisted AFN to launch its drive toward the settlement of the Alaska Native land claims. At that time there were no rich Native organizations and poverty money was used for poor people in one of the most important ethnic political group movements in the history of our state.

2) - Leadership Development

- * Trained leaders
- * Village Participation Conference
- * Hired as staff to gain experience
- * Project Grass Roots
- * Board - volunteers from villages - gain experience

-- Native people received training through RURAL CAP programs which gave them the skills needed to begin work with the legal and governmental establishment of Alaska/US. Project Grass Roots - an innovative program of leadership training

-- Others trained through RURAL CAP were John Sackett, Frank Ferguson, Al Adams, Mike Harper, Nels Anderson, John Shively, Willie Hensley, Jonathon Solomon, Bill Barr, Al Ketzler, Tony Vaska, Charlie Edwardsen, Sheldon Katchatag, Andy Ebona, Anna Phillip, Charlie Kairaiuk, Willie Kasayulie, Byron Mallott, Phil Smith all either have been actively involved in some of its programs or a staff member of RURAL CAP.

Rural Alaskans most of whom are below poverty income guidelines are provided the opportunity to meet in forums like the Village Participation Conference. This annual event sponsored by RURAL CAP enables villagers to access resources, gain information, and share successes. It is a training ground for village leaders.

3) Innovative, Cost-Effective Programs

- * RURAL CAP started national Weatherization Program
- * Bulk Fuel Buying -- for villages
- * Fuel Loan Program
- * Project Grass Roots - leadership training
- * Head Start - RURAL CAP brought Head Start to the villages

WEATHERIZATION AND ENERGY CONSERVATION

- * RURAL CAP was the originator of the national weatherization programs now administered by states as a cost effective and innovative approach to cold and drafty homes in rural Alaska and for other states as well;
 - * Continues to be the top weatherizing agency in the state - hiring locally to insure total participation and involvement by those whom it serves;
 - * Last year did a needs assessment on rural housing which resulted in the HUD allocating another \$3 million to Alaska to rural Alaskans;
 - * Fuel Loan Programs
 - * Bulk Fuel Buying
- these were innovative programs started by RURAL

enabled villages to obtain money necessary to purchase fuel and later to pay the loan back. In the end, it cost the government nothing. Emergency funds were provided to pay for fuel to be flown into villages in crisis situations.

-- Bulk Fuel Buying obviated emergency situations regarding fuel -- storage tanks large enough provided savings to villagers who had to pay exorbitant amounts for fuel -- bulk buying saved money

HEAD START

- * RurAL CAP was the first to bring Head Start to rural Alaska a preschool program intended to give three- and four-year olds from disadvantaged families a boost before entering elementary school. National statistics prove that every dollar spent on Head Start results in \$7 saved from costs for social and judicial costs later in life.
- * Otitis Media - through RurAL CAP Head Start programs attention was brought to devastating epidemics of tooth decay and ear infection (otitis media). Hundreds of rural children have been brought to Anchorage for corrective ear surgery, and parents taught about the dangers of excessive sweets.
- * Today - RurAL CAP is acknowledged as the foremost trainer in Head Start - Head Start programs are administered in 35 villages - over half of the rural children attend Head Starts administered by RurAL CAP. RurAL CAP Head Start continues to bring issues affecting rural families and children to the forefront of attention -- most recently the lack and gaps in preventive health care for rural Alaskans

Funds channeled into villages through RurAL CAPe exceed \$1 million dollars in teacher, aide, cook salaries -- a significant sum of money into rural economies;

ALCOHOL/DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION

- * RurAL CAP was first to start counselor training program in villages -- later formed a training institute to provide alcohol counselor training;
- * Today in the forefront of the "Sobriety Movement" - first to bring outside resources/information -- about Alkali Lake into Alaska;
- * Promotes one of the most effective approaches to alcohol abuse in villages: the Community Development - which assists the local community to take responsibility

through stages of Personal Development - Family - Village Development -- based on values of the Native community - has proven to be more successful than any other approach thus far;

- * Continues to provide youth leadership training - through the Rural Providers Conference - supports young people to take positive responsibility for leading healthy lives -- provides hope and support--by building community with other young people

SUBSISTENCE & NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION

Subsistence and Natural Resource Protection are of vital concern to rural Alaskans who depend on the subsistence resources for life. RurAL CAP has continued to enable rural Alaskans to meet in such citizen advisory committees as: the Rural Alaska Resource Association, the Sea Otter Commission, plus RurAL CAP provides support to the Eskimo Walrus Commission as well as Indigenous Survival International.

Through the years RurAL CAP has joined with villagers to protect the subsistence use of wildlife over other forms of hunting and fishing. In the bush, subsistence is not merely a lifestyle. It was and is life; cultural and spiritual life as well as physical life.

Native Allotment Act - spearheaded efforts to enable more Native allotments which ensured more land would be under Naive control in addition to lands allowed for selection once ANCSA was reached.

RurAL CAP has brought issues to the forefront in Alaska which have needed to be addressed:

- * Land Claims
- * Native Allotments
- * Bulk Fuel Loans
- * Weatherizing homes in rural Alaska
- * Head Start for Village Children
- * Leadership training for villagers
- * Project Grass Roots
- * Subsistence and Natural Resource Protection
- *

assisted rural Alaskans and the Native community to become land owners and as participants in the economic system

Workshops, trainings, and conferences - to enable villagers to take control at the local level in decision making - to become effective providers of services

ability to be one step ahead of the curve, to see issues developing which affect bush Alaska before anyone else does and then to take action.