



**Alaska  
Conservation  
Foundation**

## **Alaska Native Fund Grant Guidelines**

### **Grant Guidelines**

Alaska Conservation Foundation (ACF), in partnership with an Alaska Native Fund Steering Committee, launched the Alaska Native Fund in 2011 to *advance Alaska Native priorities for protecting our land and sustaining our ways of life*. The fund provides an Indigenous framework for impacting critical environmental issues while promoting innovative strategies to strengthen the capacity of Alaska Native organizations and communities. The fund goals are to 1) Leverage more foundation and donor resources for Alaska Native organizations, 2) Support Alaska Native strategies and solutions on environmental issues, and 3) Build relationships that will grow and strengthen the conservation movement in Alaska.

The Alaska Native Fund will provide annual grants to qualifying Alaska Native nonprofit organizations and individuals. In addition, through the fund, we host biennial **Gatherings** of Alaska Native organizations (including current and past grant recipients) and foundations to address environmental issues of significance and develop collaborative strategies.

### **Funding Criteria**

The Alaska Native Fund Steering Committee has identified environmental issues and strategies to be supported by the Fund. Indigenous Knowledge is at the center of the Fund framework, reflecting the powerful connection that Indigenous people have with their surroundings. The Fund priorities reflect a responsibility to the land, air, water, plants, and future generations.

**Priority Environmental Issues:** The Fund will support work in the following areas:

- **Climate Change:** Alaska Natives are already feeling the impacts of climate change at an alarming rate, including the threats of erosion and reduced sea ice, and the impact of warming temperatures upon migration patterns/food sources. The Fund will support the documentation and application of Indigenous Knowledge and other strategies to inform efforts to address climate change and protect cultures and communities.
- **Food Security:** Food security in Alaska Native communities is threatened by unsustainable development, especially large-scale industrial fishing. The Fund will support Alaska Native stewardship of marine resources, including marine mammals and fish (salmon are a critical species).
- **Sustainable Economies:** Resource extraction and lack of economic opportunities impact community health, access to subsistence foods, and overall community vitality. The Fund will support Alaska Native strategies to reduce these impacts and support a transition to more sustainable economic development. Projects considered will work toward creating sustainable opportunities and will be awarded to non-profit organizations including tribes and municipalities. For-profit business projects and individuals do not qualify for funding under this category.

- **Energy:** Skyrocketing energy costs threaten the very existence of rural Alaska Native villages, pushing many to relocate in urban centers. The Fund will support innovative renewable energy and energy conservation strategies that build local economies and sustain Alaska Native cultures.
- **Holistic Wellness:** Healthy and resilient individuals and communities are important for the future. Holistic Wellness includes cultural, social, mental and physical health. The Fund will support work that aims to advance Alaska Native Health.

### **ANF Funding Criteria (continued)**

#### **Core Strategies:**

All qualifying applicants engaged in the priority issues above must incorporate at least one of these strategies:

- **Policy Development:** research, planning, and application of Indigenous Knowledge to impact policy
- **Leadership:** investing in emerging leaders, Elder voices, exchanges, and mentoring  
-**Youth Organizing:** youth identify issues and solutions, and are the project leaders\*
- **Communication & Technology:** using tools to connect people and inspire change
- **Art and Expression:** connecting cultural and environmental preservation
- **Gathering:** bringing people together to share strategies, success stories, and collaborate  
*(note: the Alaska Native Fund will sponsor bi-annual Gatherings, but will also fund projects that bring people together)*

#### **Grant Range:**

ACF anticipates awarding up to \$350,000 in grants awards this cycle.

- Organization Grant Range: \$10,000-\$20,000
- Individual Grant Range\*\*: ACF will reimburse expenses up to \$10,000
- Youth Organizing Grant Amount\*: up to \$5,000

\*The ANF Steering Committee will consider grants for qualifying organizations interested in incorporating youth organizing projects. The grant range is smaller because the expectation is that young people are volunteering their time to implement projects that will be addressed at the local level.

\*\* Grant awards to individuals will be paid on a reimbursement basis as project expenses are incurred. ACF will work with individual grantees on a case by case basis.

#### **Eligibility**

In order to be eligible for an *Alaska Native Fund* grant, you or your organization must perform work that aligns with the priority environmental issues and core strategies supported by the Fund.

Eligible applicants include:

- 501c3 nonprofit organizations, Tribes or other Alaska Native nonprofit organizations
- Organizations with Alaska Native majority on the Council or Board of Directors
- Alaska Native individuals for charitable activities
- Organizations working to have impact at the community, regional, or statewide level

- If prior grantee, be in good standing with ANF program

*Applicants that engage Alaska Native communities but do not have Alaska Native leadership are not eligible for this funding. Prior grantees that did not fulfill grant reporting requirements are ineligible.*

*Applicants must identify the type of funding they are requesting from ANF in their LOI, and the amount of funding must be within the ANF grant ranges (above).*

Please contact [lpeterson@alaskaconservation.org](mailto:lpeterson@alaskaconservation.org) with questions.