



Alaska Conservation Foundation

Alaska Native Fund 2013 Letter of Inquiry (LOI)

Note: please review the guidelines before completing the LOI on pages 3-4.

Grant Guidelines

Alaska Conservation Foundation (ACF), in partnership with an Alaska Native 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 will host bi-annual ***Gatherings*** of Alaska Native organizations (including 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 arenas:

- **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 protect cultures and communities from future climate change impacts.
- **Food Security:** Food security is threatened by unsustainable development, in particular large-scale industrial fishing. The Fund will support Alaska Native stewardship of marine resources, in particular marine mammals and fish (salmon are a critical species).
- **Sustainable Economies:** Oil, gas, timber, and mining activities impact community health and access to subsistence foods. The Fund will support Alaska Native strategies to reduce these impacts and transition to more sustainable economic development throughout the state.
- **Energy:** Skyrocketing energy costs threaten the very existence of rural Alaska Native villages, pushing many people 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:** Alaska Natives are at higher risk from toxic substances that bio-accumulate (like Persistent Organic Pollutants) due to their intense reliance upon their surroundings. The Fund will support work that draws upon this connection, 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:

We anticipate awarding \$150,000-\$200,000 this year.

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

*We will consider up to three grants for qualifying youth organizing projects. The grant range is smaller because the expectation is that young people are volunteering their time to implement discrete projects that address local issues.

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. In addition, you must:

- Be an Alaska Native individual, Tribe or other Alaska Native nonprofit organization (with Alaska Native majority on the Council or Board of Directors); and
- Conduct work that has an impact at the community level.

Applicants that engage Alaska Native communities but do not have Alaska Native leadership (defined above) are not eligible for this funding.

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).

Alaska Native Fund

2013 Letter of Inquiry (LOI)

I. Applicant Information

a. Type of Application:

☐ Individual (*Individual Applicants do not need to submit a Total Organizational Budget*)

OR

☐ Organization

If an Organization, please check your nonprofit status:

☐ Federally Recognized Tribe

☐ 501 c (3) Nonprofit Organization

☐ Fiscally-sponsored Project/Program of a Nonprofit Organization

Is this a *Youth Organizing* Project? (Yes/No) _____

b. Contact Information:

Primary Contact Name & Title (*Note, this is the person we can contact to discuss the project/application*):

Primary Contact Phone, Email: _____

Organization or Tribe: _____

Address (street, city/village, zip code): _____

Website URL (if applicable): _____

Mission Statement:

c. Project/Program Title: _____

II. Financial Information

a. Total Annual Organization Budget (*does not apply to Individual Applicants*): \$ _____

b. Total Project Budget: \$ _____

c. Alaska Native Fund Request: \$ _____

d. Have you applied for or received other funding for this project? (Yes/No)

III. Project Information

a. Which ANF priority issue(s) will your project address? (Please review guidelines; check all that apply):

☐ Climate Change

☐ Food Security

☐ Sustainable Economies

☐ Energy

☐ Holistic Wellness

b. Which ANF core strategies will you implement? (Please review guidelines; check all that apply)

☐ Policy Development

☐ Leadership (includes Youth Organizing)

☐ Communications & Technology

☐ Arts and Expression

☐ Gathering

IV. Project/Program Description

Please use a maximum of 2 pages to address each of the questions below (1 inch margins/12pt font). *Applications that do not address all of these questions and/or do not adhere to our page limit will not be considered.*

- a. What is the goal of your project?
- b. How does this project advance your organization's long-term vision and mission?
- c. What is the role of Indigenous Knowledge in your project?
- d. Where will your project or program take place? Which community(ies) you are serving?
- e. What is the timeline for your project (start and end date)?
- f. What will have improved or changed as a result of your project? Please consider both the community(ies) you are serving and the issue(s) you are attempting to address.

Please return your completed Letter of Inquiry to Alaska Conservation Foundation by
July 15, 2013 to: grants@alaskaconservation.org

FAXED LOI's can be sent to (907) 274-4145

ACF will verify receipt of your Letter of Inquiry.

Please direct any questions after reviewing our guidelines to lpeterson@alaskaconservation.org

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