



Alaska Conservation Foundation

Rapid Response Program

Guidelines

Rapid Response grants provide support for direct conservation advocacy to address unforeseen opportunities or threats of statewide significance, leading to more robust environmental policy and enduring conservation impact. Grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$10,000 are provided for efforts where a decision point is imminent within six months.

Applicants for Rapid Response grants must meet the following criteria:

- Be a non-profit organization engaged in Alaska conservation advocacy
- Be based in Alaska, or have an Alaska-based program
- If a current ACF grantee, be in good standing with required grant reports
- A Rapid Response grant must address an unforeseen opportunity for action
- The issue must be a statewide concern, have statewide impact

Rapid Response grants support activities that result in:

- Reduction in destructive environmental activities
- More favorable laws and policies for the environment
- Stronger regulation of these policies and enforcement of these laws
- Stronger environmental protections in place
- More sustainable economic development or activities

Projects will have clearly identified goals, decision makers, strategy, timeline, and measurable outcomes.

The following activities/costs are not eligible for Rapid Response grants:

- Operating expenses, including existing staff salaries
- Expenses/activities that have already occurred
- Equipment, land acquisition, or research
- Education programs or scholarships
- Capital campaigns
- Literary and/or film projects
- Special events
- Fees to attend conferences

Application Process

Applicants who believe their project meets ACF's criteria should submit a letter of inquiry via ACF's online application system. If your project is of interest, a full proposal will be invited. ACF will notify applicants regarding the outcome of their inquiry within 5 business days. Applicants invited to submit a full proposal can expect a final decision with 10 business days of proposal submission.

All grant recipients are required to submit a final report as outlined in the grant contract using the reporting template provided by ACF.

For questions regarding Rapid Response grants, please email grants@alaskaconservation.org.

Helpful Hints for using ACF's Rapid Response online application system:

For First Time Users (Applicants who have previously registered skip to page 3):

First time users will need to click “Register” to complete an organizational profile that will be linked to all applications completed in the online application system. Organizational profiles may be updated as needed.

The screenshot displays the Alaska Conservation Foundation's website. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for Home, About Us, News, Grants, and Contact Us. Below the menu is the ACF logo, which includes a map of Alaska and the text "Alaska Conservation Foundation". The main content area is titled "Applying online for grants / letters of inquiry is now easy" and features a four-step process: 1. Register, 2. Application, 3. Attachments, and 4. Review & Submit/Reporting. A note states: "NOTE: If you have any questions about the grantmaking process, please contact ACF at: acfb@alaskaconservation.org". Below this, there are "Following hints to serve you better" instructions: "If you are a first time user of our online system, please click the Register button.", "If you are a returning user, please enter your username and password at the right side of the page and click the Login button.", and "If you've lost your password, click the Can't Access your account? link next to the Login button to receive a temporary password." To the right of the text is a registration form with fields for "Username" and "Password", and buttons for "Login" and "Can't access your account?". Below the form is a "New Profile User" section with a "Register" button, which is highlighted with a red arrow.

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Be sure to have your organization's tax identification number (EIN) in order to complete the registration process. Fields marked with red are required.

Please save the username and password established in order to return to the online system to complete in-progress applications, review past applications/awards, and complete required reporting requirements.

After you have completed the registration process, an email will be sent to the primary email/username entered confirming your registration. Please save this email.

Please be sure your email address is correct as this is the primary mechanism for communications from ACF regarding applications submitted online.

Once your registration is complete, exit the online system and return to the ACF website. Click “Start a new application” on the grant opportunity page for the Rapid Response grant program.

For Returning Users:

If your organization has already registered in ACF's online application system, please click the "Start a new application" link on the Rapid Response page of the ACF website to begin the Letter of Inquiry process. Use the same username and password established when the organization originally registered in the system.

Rapid Response Application Process:

The Rapid Response application process has three steps: the Eligibility Quiz, Letter of Inquiry, and an invitation to submit a full proposal.

Eligibility Quiz:

In order to complete the Letter of Inquiry, applicants must first successfully complete a short Eligibility Quiz to confirm the applicant meets the Rapid Response criteria. Once the quiz has been successfully completed the applicant will be directed to log into the online system to complete the Letter of Inquiry form.

If the applicant does not meet the eligibility criteria, they will not move forward to the Letter of Inquiry form. Please contact grants@alaskaconservation.org with questions.

Letter of Inquiry:

Please complete all the requested information thoroughly. The Letter of Inquiry process is a very important first step to receive a Rapid Response grant. Responses do not have to be lengthy, but do need to cover all bases.

Attachments: Attachments to the Letter of Inquiry should be in PDF format. Please use the budget template and save the completed form as a PDF.

Proposal:

If the Letter of Inquiry meets the Rapid Response criteria and ACF funding priorities, the applicant organization will be invited to complete a full proposal. A unique link to the online system will be shared with the invited applicant by ACF staff.