



Alaska Conservation Foundation

Alaska Native Fund

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 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:

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

*The ANF Steering Committee may consider grants from qualified organizations interested in pursuing youth organizing projects.

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);
- Conduct work that has an impact at the community, regional, or statewide level; and
- If prior grantee, be in good standing with ACF

Applicants that engage Alaska Native communities but do not have Alaska Native leadership (defined above) 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 direct any questions after reviewing our guidelines to lpeterson@alaskaconservation.org

Alaska Conservation Foundation
911 West 8th Avenue, Suite 300
Anchorage, Alaska 99501