



Alaska Conservation Foundation

Alaska Native Fund Grant Guidelines

Program Overview

In 2011, the Alaska Conservation Foundation (ACF) launched the Alaska Native Fund. Developed in partnership with the Alaska Native Fund Steering Committee, the fund exists to *advance Alaska Native priorities for protecting our land and sustaining our ways of life*. Through an Indigenous framework, the fund supports strategies that strengthen the capacity of Alaska Native organizations and communities to impact critical environmental issues.

The goals of the Alaska Native Fund 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 provides grants to qualifying Alaska Native nonprofit organizations and individuals.

Funding Criteria

The Alaska Native Fund Steering Committee identified key 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 supports conservation work in the following priority environmental issue areas:

- **Climate Change:** The Fund supports mitigation/adaption, documentation and/or application of Indigenous Knowledge and other strategies to protect cultures and communities from future climate change impacts.
- **Food Security:** The Fund supports Alaska Native stewardship of marine resources, in particular marine mammals and fish (salmon are a critical species).
- **Sustainable Economies:** The Fund supports Alaska Native strategies to reduce impacts of resource extraction and strengthen efforts to transition to more sustainable economic development throughout the state. Projects considered will work toward creating sustainable opportunities. Only proposals from nonprofit organizations, tribes and municipalities will be considered; for-profit business projects and individuals do not eligible.
- **Energy:** The Fund supports innovative renewable energy and energy conservation strategies that build local economies and sustain Alaska Native cultures.
- **Holistic Wellness:** The Fund supports work that advances Alaska Native health and wellness including cultural, social, mental and physical health.

Core Strategies

Applicants engaged in the priority issues above must incorporate at least one of these core strategies:

- **Policy Development:** Research, planning and application of Indigenous Knowledge to impact public policy
- **Leadership:** Investing in emerging leaders, Elder voices, exchanges and mentoring
 - **Youth Organizing:** Youth-led efforts addressing conservation issues and solutions
- **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 biennial Gatherings, but will also consider proposals that support gatherings.)*

Grant Range

- Organization Grant Range: \$10,000-\$20,000
- Individual Grant Range: Up to \$10,000. Note: Grants to individuals are awarded on a reimbursement basis and paid as project expenses are incurred. ACF will work with individual grant recipients on a case-by-case basis.
- Youth Organizing Grant Amount: up to \$5,000. Note: 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 smaller projects that will be addressed at the local level.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants include:

- 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, federally recognized Tribes or other Alaska Native nonprofit organizations
- Organizations with Alaska Native majority on the Council or Board of Directors
- Alaska Native individuals for specific charitable activities that align with the priority issues and core strategies supported by the Fund.
- Organizations working to have impact at the community, regional or statewide level on work that aligns with the priority issues and core strategies supported by the Fund.

If you are a prior ANF grantee, you must be in good standing with ANF program. Prior ANF grantees with outstanding reporting requirements are ineligible.

Organizations that engage Alaska Native communities, but do not have Alaska Native leadership (as 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).