

The Social Justice Fund

The Social Justice Fund enables Alaskans to join together to ensure equity in access to services and equal rights for all, high levels of civic engagement, and environmental justice. If you want to make a difference in Alaska, consider a gift to the Social Justice Fund. Donations to the Social Justice Fund will be matched dollar for dollar, up to \$250,000 per year.

How was the Social Justice Fund created?

In 2015, John Rubini and Clare Bertucio made a \$1 million pledge over four years to create a Social Justice Fund, intended to meet critical, emerging needs in Alaska and to encourage collaboration among organizations tackling social justice issues. Knowing that the people working in this field often face enormous funding challenges and gaps, John and Clare wanted to create a stable source of funding that would provide much needed resources in the social justice sector. Rather than providing grants for individual organizations, the vision for the fund is to strengthen the social justice sector, help develop and retain capable leaders, create opportunities for collaborative work and partnerships, and build awareness of the sector.

The \$1 million pledge was made with a matching component to encourage donations from other individuals who are concerned about social justice issues in Alaska and want to take action. This fund is one way that Alaskans can work together to have a stronger, more powerful impact than can be achieved individually.

How is the fund set up?

The fund is based on other social justice fund models that have been built from the ground up with the involvement of organizations and individuals working in the social justice arena. To gain input from others, ACF has hosted gatherings with nonprofit partners and surveyed organizations and leaders on the most pressing social justice issues in the state. A key theme ACF has garnered from these gatherings is the need for more coordinated efforts so that organizations and community members can discuss challenging issues and work together on large, difficult causes.

Based on input we have received, the Social Justice Fund will provide a mechanism to support the collaborative work of 501(c)(3)s, their equivalents, and grassroots groups. It will also provide funding to meet urgent, emerging needs that require immediate funding for an effective community response.

How will grants be awarded?

ACF's goal is to support innovation and collaboration to promote more balanced, fair, and equitable relationships within our communities. The Social Justice Fund will support collaborative work in areas including, but not limited to: civil rights, social and racial equity, access to services, civic engagement, immigrant rights and advocacy, LGBTQ rights, reproductive rights, gender equality, advocacy for youth and elders, climate justice, economic justice, legal justice, and access to services such as education, human services and health services.

Grants will not be distributed in a traditional manner with a call for proposals and a grant application process. Instead, ACF and its advisory panel aims to be more agile, with the ability to respond to social justice needs as they arise. This non-competitive approach will help fill urgent funding gaps and enable quick responses to community needs or emergencies.



Interested in learning more?

Contact Kelsey Potdevin, Programs and Grants Associate, at kpotdevin@alaskacf.org
Beth Rose, VP of Philanthropy and External Relations at brose@alaskacf.org



www.alaskacf.org

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Who decides who receives these grants?

The Social Justice Fund will be overseen by an advisory panel of individuals with long-term expertise and leadership in social justice in Alaska, those currently working with affected constituencies, and potential donors who can inspire others to contribute to this important fund. The advisory panel will be supported by ACF's professional grantmaking staff.

How is this fund different than giving to an individual organization?

Until now, there has never been a fund at ACF dedicated to social justice issues. This is a fund where individuals, companies and foundations can pool their donations to make a greater impact to meet social justice needs in our state. No one can predict what the greatest needs for underrepresented individuals and communities will be in the future. With support, this fund can provide a stable source of funding for organizations doing cross-sector work at the frontlines of social change. It will offer resources for immediate responses to social justice emergencies, not currently available in Alaska. There will always be a need to give to individual organizations working on social justice issues, and this fund is not meant to replace those donations.

Does ACF have a working definition of social justice?

Social justice is a broad concept that is defined in different ways by the people at the forefront of this work. In order to keep the fund agile and responsive, ACF has purposefully chosen not to use one definition of social justice. Instead, funding decisions will be guided by the values of equity and inclusion and decided on by active and experienced social justice activists and supporters in Alaska.

How can I contribute?

You can donate securely to the Social Justice Fund on our website at: <https://alaskacf.org/blog/funds/progressive-social-justice-fund>. For larger or more complex gifts, please contact Beth Rose, VP of Philanthropy/External Relations, at brose@alaskacf.org or Nina Kemppe, President and CEO, at nkemppe@alaskacf.org. Donations of stock, Donor Advised Fund gifts, and legacy gifts to this fund are also gratefully accepted.

How can I become involved?

If you let us know your interests, we can help connect you with efforts or groups addressing different issues. You may be interested in signing up for the ACF newsletter, where you can find updates about the Social Justice Fund and other funds at ACF. Please contact Kelsey Potdevin, Program Associate of Grants and Impact, at kpotdevin@alaskacf.org for information.

When will this fund start making grants?

The Social Justice Fund will make its first grant disbursements in 2017.



Interested in learning more?

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