



Grant Application Guidelines

Strengthening Organizations

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: 5:00 PM, JUNE 8, 2021

Total grant funds available:	\$200,000
Suggested grant request amount:	Up to \$10,000

The Alaska Community Foundation (ACF) offers the Strengthening Organizations grant program with the goal of helping Alaska nonprofits become better equipped to meet their missions. This program supports projects that strengthen the applicant organization, ensuring it has well-organized systems in place and skilled employees who have the training and resources to successfully provide services.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants include 501(c)(3) nonprofit or equivalent organizations located in the state of Alaska. Equivalent organizations may include tribes, churches, or local government agencies and programs.

Eligible projects: Applicants may select **only one capacity building activity to be accomplished at a time** with Strengthening Organizations grant funding, from the following categories:

1. Board training and/or board related consultants
2. Staff/volunteer training and leadership development
3. Financial management (e.g., accounting software or consultation)
4. Strategic or business planning (e.g., strategic planning, program evaluation, communications or business plans, policy creation, etc.)
5. Community building (e.g., events/conferences to build professional networks, community needs assessment)
6. Technology infrastructure (non-capital costs, e.g., donor tracking systems, website upgrades, etc.)
7. Executive director recruitment or coaching
8. Fundraising plans (e.g., creating and implementing a fundraising or donor development plan)

THE FOLLOWING ARE **NOT** ELIGIBLE FOR GRANT FUNDING:

- Individuals
- For profit organizations or businesses
- State or federal government agencies
- 501(c)(4) or (c)(6)
- Non-Alaska based organizations

Ineligible projects include: religious indoctrination or other religious activities; endowment building deficit financing; lobbying; electioneering; and activities of political nature; proposals for ads; sponsorships for special events; direct fundraising, including hiring a grant writer; reimbursement of pre-award costs; construction; purchase of real property; pass-through funding or other financial assistance to nonprofits; activities that have the potential to support terrorism; core government or organizational services; any proposals that discriminate as to race, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, creed or ethnicity; direct program costs; and personnel costs.



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Examples of ineligible expenses; include but are not limited to; operating expenses (staff time), technology (laptops), and memberships and fees.

Exceptions: In selected cases, projects undertaken by organizations that normally fall outside the above guidelines may be able to receive funding. Examples include; religious organizations whose proposal impacts the broader community; or units of government whose proposal extends beyond the traditional governmental functions and impacts the broader community.

Priorities: Due to limited budgeted funds for each grant program year, preference will be given to small, rural organizations or projects that result in stronger outreach or programming to rural communities; demonstrate accountability, cultural sensitivity, and unify communities; are politically neutral and environmentally sound; empower the disadvantaged or underserved; are collaborative and show community support.

Applications that include research into the real and estimated costs of the proposed project will be more competitive. *Applicants are highly encouraged to include in their grant proposal estimates and bids for contracted services and/or significant purchases for the project.*

HOW TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION

Step 1: To apply, log into your account in ACF's [online grants system](#). Applicants using the web-based system for the first time will need to create a profile. The profile should be completed by the person writing the grant application and responsible for any grant reports. Please remember your username and password as it will be used for all current and future applications and any reporting on awarded grant projects. Visit the ["Helpful Hints"](#) section for more in-depth information about using the online application system.

Step 2: After logging into the system, you will be routed to the Applicant Dashboard. To start a new application, click "Apply" above your contact information. Select the Strengthening Organizations grant program from the list to access the application. The online system times-out after 40 minutes of no activity; **remember to save your application often.**

Step 3: When logging back on to the system after establishing a Profile, you will be directed to the Applicant Dashboard where you can check your status, find report deadlines and manage your contacts. Contact grants@alaskacf.org if you experience difficulty with the online grants system.

If you have any questions, please contact ACF's VP of Programs & Grants, Eleanor Huffines, at ehuffines@alaskacf.org or Senior Program Officer of Grants & Scholarships, Stefanie O'Brien, at sobrien@alaskacf.org.