



# Strengthening Organizations Grant Guidelines

**Spring Deadline for Applications: April 26, 2023**  
**Fall Deadline for Applications: November 14, 2023**

**Request Amount: Up to \$10,000**

**Access the Online Application [Here](#)**

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The Alaska Community Foundation (ACF) offers the Strengthening Organizations grant program in partnership with Rasmuson Foundation to help Alaska nonprofits become better equipped to meet their missions.

## Purpose

This program supports projects that strengthen the applicant organization, ensuring it has well-organized systems and experienced staff with the training and resources to successfully provide services. Due to the high volume of applications and limited funds for each program year, applicants may select only one capacity-building activity to be accomplished at a time from the following eight categories:

- **Board Training and/or Board-Related Consultants**  
Examples: training on board roles and responsibilities, board succession planning, or consultation with experts in the field of board engagement, etc.
- **Executive Director/CEO/Tribal Administrator Recruitment or Coaching**  
Examples: Hiring an executive coach, CEO transition support, succession planning, etc.
- **Staff Training & Leadership Development**  
Examples: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training, nonprofit management training, organizational leadership development, etc. *Registration and travel for professional conferences are not eligible costs.*
- **Volunteer Training & Skills Development**  
Examples: CPR training, mental health first aid, development of a volunteer orientation curriculum, etc.
- **Strategic or Business Planning**  
Examples: Hiring a consultant to develop a strategic plan, communication/marketing plan, develop policies, conduct a community needs analysis, etc.
- **Donor Development/Fundraising Planning**  
Examples: Hiring a consultant to develop a fundraising or donor development plan. *Contracts with grant writers for specific grant writing projects are not eligible costs.*



- **Financial Management**

Examples: Installation of accounting software or migration of accounting data, accounting software class, consultation to improve the financial record keeping, etc. *Annual memberships or subscription fees are not eligible costs.*

- **Technology Training**

Examples: Marketing/communications tools training, donor database or CRM software training, Microsoft Office Suite training, data migration work, etc. *Annual memberships or subscription fees are not eligible costs.*

All awarded projects must be completed within one calendar year from the date grant funds are received.

### Key Considerations

1. Grant requests may be up to \$10,000 per organization for *one* capacity building activity.
2. Prior Strengthening Organizations grant award recipients may apply for additional capacity-building support once all previous grant reporting requirements have been completed, but preference will be given to those organizations or projects that have not received a Strengthening Organizations Grant within the last two years.
3. Applications will be evaluated on the following criteria:
  - **Organizational Impact:** To what extent will the project have meaningful, sustainable, and lasting benefits for the organization?
  - **Timeliness:** To what extent is this project well-timed for the organization and in line with their most pressing capacity-building need?
  - **Right-Size:** Is the project the right size for the organization given its budget, staffing, and financial health?
    - For instance, an endowment planning session is probably not appropriate for a newer organization with a small budget. Similarly, a \$10,000 capacity building project is probably too big for an all-volunteer organization with a \$2,000 annual budget).
    - 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.*
  - **Equitable Support across Alaska's Nonprofit Ecosystem:** To what extent will this proposal contribute to a healthy and strong nonprofit ecosystem across regions, audiences, and sectors statewide?
    - Strengthening Organizations will prioritize projects to distribute grant funding, to the extent feasible, equitably across Alaska's geographic regions.
    - Priority will be given to proposals from organizations that serve under-resourced audiences and communities.



## Eligibility

Your organization is eligible for funding through this grant opportunity if it is one of the following:

- 501(c)3 public charitable organizations with 509(a)(1), 509(a)(2), or 509(a)(3) public charitable status as designated in your IRS Determination letter (including qualified faith-based organizations)
- The faith-based organization providing social services to the broader community
- Federally recognized Tribes or Tribal nonprofit organizations
- City governments or Boroughs

The following are not eligible for grant funding:

- Individuals
- State or federal government agencies
- For-profit organizations or businesses
- Private nonprofit organizations (those not identified in their IRS determination letter as 509(a)(1), 509(a)(2), or 509(a)(3))
- Organizations that function solely as a fiscal agent or fiscal sponsor for passthrough project funding.
- Requests for support that do not fall within the funding guidelines outlined above.
- Activities that improperly discriminate as to race, gender, marital status, sexual preference, age, disability, creed or ethnicity, or grants for religious indoctrination or other religious activities.

Specific ineligible activities and costs include:

- Religious indoctrination or other religious activities
- Endowment building
- Individual staff attendance at conferences
- Deficit financing
- Lobbying
- Electioneering and activities of political nature
- Advertising
- Sponsorships for special events
- Direct fundraising, including hiring a grant writer
- Reimbursement of pre-award costs
- Construction or the purchase of real property
- Indirect operational costs and overhead, including personnel costs.
- Membership or subscription fees



## Process

1. Review the guidelines to ensure your organization is eligible for funding.
2. Contact the Alaska Community Foundation (ACF) grant staff at (contact information below) if your organization is a strong fit with the eligibility criteria and is interested in applying. ACF is happy to discuss if your organization is a strong candidate for funding.
3. Log in to your account in ACF's online grant management account at <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=alaska>. If you are new to ACF's grant management system, you must create a new profile before applying.
4. Applicants will be asked to provide:
  - Organizational background (Mission Statement, services provided, the geographical area served, brief history)
  - Organizational budget
  - Background of camp and/or programming offering(s)
  - Requested amount
  - Description of need as specifically related to camp and other youth programming as described above
  - Project budget and budget narrative
5. Applications can be saved in process and returned to for completion. Once an application is submitted, it cannot be modified by the applicant.
6. Grants will be reviewed soon after submission and award announcements should be expected by the beginning of April. **Applications are due: Wednesday, March 22 by 5:00 PM (AKST)**

To best position your application for success, applicants are encouraged to speak with ACF staff ahead of time to discuss their project and to submit a draft proposal for review by ACF staff. Draft reviews are available. Please contact ACF program staff via email: [grants@alaskacf.org](mailto:grants@alaskacf.org) or by phone: 907-334-6700 for a draft review.

## ACF Contact Information

The Alaska Community Foundation  
Programs & Grants  
[grants@alaskacf.org](mailto:grants@alaskacf.org)  
(907) 334-6700