



2024 Vocational Fund for Alaska's Future Grant Guidelines

Deadline for Applications: November 15, 2024

Request Amount: Up to \$25,000
Access the Online Application [Here](#)

The Vocational Fund for Alaska's Future (VFAF) grant program seeks applications from eligible organizations for projects that sharpen vocational skills and contribute to the competitiveness of Alaska's natural resource and overall economy. Proposed projects should focus on efforts to build a highly qualified and highly skilled workforce in Alaska's natural resource development industries with a preference for the oil, gas, and mining industries. Desired activities for this program are those that help build skills of Alaskans of all ages and in areas such as electrical work, plumbing, carpentry, welding, mining, engineering, geology, and other related disciplines. Scholarships are within the scope of this fund.

Purpose:

Projects that build and refine skills that are cross-cutting across a variety of vocational industries and sectors will be especially competitive, as will projects that build career awareness, employability skills and promote cross-sector skill acquisition.

A project that leverages funds from other sources (local, state, federal, other grants, funds from the organization itself and in-kind donations) will be more competitive, although this component is not required. Preference will be given to projects that are in rural Alaska or programs that reach rural communities in Alaska (defined as outside of Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau). Specifically, Bristol Bay organizations.

Timeline:

Grant-funded projects must be completed within **12 months** from the date of grant disbursement. Extensions may be requested. An organization may have only one open grant through the VFAF program at any one time: new requests will not be accepted until the previous project's final report has been successfully completed.

Project Criteria

- Applications for new and continuing programs will be accepted. Strong applications should include measures of success and demonstrate how funding will directly impact Alaska's workforce.
- Applications that demonstrate collaboration with other non-profits will be stronger and are encouraged:
 - Projects involving training should demonstrate metrics on how many students have/will be trained upon completion of the project.
 - If you are applying for funding for an already existing program, demonstrate how the program has



received funding in the past as well as how the program will be funded in the future.

- Applicants are eligible to receive funding for the same project for multiple years (**maximum of 3 years**) but must have completed the prior year's project and have a final report submitted before applying for the next year of funding.
- Overhead and Indirect costs will be considered eligible expenses under this grant program but cannot exceed 10% of the total request.

Eligibility:

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

Ineligible applicants include: Individuals, for profit, 501(c)(4) or (c)(6) organizations, non-Alaska based organizations; and state or federal government agencies.

Ineligible projects include: religious indoctrination or other religious activities; endowment building; deficit financing; fundraising; lobbying; electioneering and activities of political nature; proposals for ads; sponsorships or 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; and any proposals that discriminate as to race, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, age, disability, creed or ethnicity.

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

Draft Review and Decision Process

Please contact ACF staff by phone or email to discuss your ideas. **A draft review of your application is strongly encouraged.** If your organization would like to have a draft review of your application, complete and save your application, but do not submit. Please email The Alaska Community Foundation at least two (2) weeks prior to the deadline at grants@alaskacf.org requesting a review. Applications will be reviewed by a committee of Alaskans across the State. Award announcements should be made up to 6 weeks after the grant deadline.

Reporting

Submission of receipts or invoices is not required. Grantees must submit an online final report within 30 days of project completion. ACF reserves the right to require the return of funds if it deems that the grantee has not complied with the grant agreement terms for use of funds or with any law or regulation affecting the grantee, grant or ACF.



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 expenses
 - Background of program
 - Requested amount
 - 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: November 15th 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 or by phone: 907-334-6700 for a draft review.

ACF Contact Information

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