



# Community Food Security Through Gardening Grant Guidelines

**Deadline for Applications: 5:00PM (AKST) February 29, 2024**

**Maximum Award Amount: \$10,000**

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

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Funded by a generous legacy gift of Willow-based gardeners, Gerald and Kathryn Freeley, the Gardening as Food Security Grant Program seeks applications from eligible organizations for projects that address food security issues by promoting and facilitating gardening projects in Alaska. With a budget of \$100,000, ACF will award 10 \$10,000 grants to projects within the guidelines outlined below. With this award, these grantees will be eligible for a follow up grant in 2025 for \$10,000 (upon completion of a final report, still meets the requirements below, and with a request for additional funding). In honor of the Freeleys' special connection to the Mat-Su region, there will be priority put on Mat-Su based projects.

## Purpose:

The purpose of the Gardening as Food Security Grant Program is to support organizations that address Alaska's food security issues by engaging community members in gardening projects that contribute to a reliable source of food for participants and communities.

**Food Security** is a broad term with growing definitions. This grant seeks to support projects that strengthen a broad definition of food security by ensuring access by all people to safe, nutritious, and local food for healthy lifestyles.

## Priority will be given to organizations that:

- Are located within the Matanuska-Susitna Valley. Funding is available for projects outside the Matanuska Valley.
- Provide participants with hands-on practical education regarding location-specific gardening best practices, crop selection, garden planning, and outcomes that empower participants.
- Demonstrate a commitment to addressing food security concerns via growing and distributing nutritious produce within the community in which the organization is located.
- Intend to use grant funds for school gardens, community gardens, tower gardens, edible gardens, and other hands-on projects that build gardens.
- Leverage funds from other sources (local, state, federal, other grants, funds from the organization itself, and in-kind donations).

## Organization 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. An organization may have only one grant through the Gardening as Food Security Grant program at any one time: new requests will not be accepted until the previous project's final report has been successfully completed.

**Individuals seeking funding:** consider fiscal sponsorship with a local 501c3 designated nonprofit. While ACF cannot grant directly to individuals per policy, ACF can work with an eligible fiscal sponsor to fund your work. To learn more about how this nonprofit collaboration can work for you, give the ACF Programs & Grants team a call, 907-334-6700 or email us at [grants@alaskacf.org](mailto:grants@alaskacf.org).

### Project Eligibility

Applications for both new and continuing programs will be accepted. Applicants are eligible to receive funding for the same project for a maximum of 2 years but must have completed the prior year's project and have a final report submitted before applying for the next year of funding.

**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; 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.

### Timeline:

Grant-funded projects must be completed within 9 months from the date of grant disbursement (funds are anticipated to be granted and paid out March 2024, with final reports due December 30, 2024). Extensions may be requested.

### Selection Criteria

Applications will be reviewed by an advisory committee according to the following criteria:

- **Aligned Purpose:** To what extent is the purpose of the project aligned with the goal of engaging community members in a reliable source of food for participants and communities?
- **Targeted Impact:** To what extent does the project plan include clear, concrete measures of success?
  - Strong applications should demonstrate how funding will directly impact gardening and food security in the community served by the project.
  - Projects involving training should demonstrate metrics on how many participants have/will be trained upon completion of the project and their perceived reach in the community (number of community members involved, impacted, taught, etc.).
- **Hands-on Approach:** To what extent is the project hands-on?
- **Collaboration:** To what extent does the project engage partner organizations to achieve its vision? And to what extent does the project leverage funds from other sources?
- **Sustainability:** To what extent does the project plan indicate a commitment to the long-term?
  - Strong applications should demonstrate how funding will directly impact gardening and food security in the community served by the project.

## Draft Review and Decision Process

Please contact ACF staff by phone or email to discuss your ideas if you are concerned about their alignment with the grant guidelines. **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. Email the Programs & Grants Team at least two (2) weeks prior to the deadline at [grants@alaskacf.org](mailto:grants@alaskacf.org) requesting a review. Applications will be reviewed by a committee shortly after and 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 will need to create a new profile before applying.
4. Applicants will be asked to provide:
  - a. Organizational background (Mission Statement, services provided, geographical area served, brief history)
  - b. Project Information
  - c. Measures of Success
  - d. Community Collaboration
  - e. 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: February 29 by 5:00 PM (AKST)**

ACF Program & Grants Team  
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(907) 334-6700