



COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS AWARDS
HEALTHY AND THRIVING COMMUNITIES

REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTEREST

Submission Deadline: April 30, 2014 at 11:59pm AST

Estimated Project timeline: 06/01/2014 – 06/01/2015

Dear Alaska Native Community and Organizations that serve Alaska Native Peoples,

On behalf of the First Alaskans Institute Board of Trustees and Staff, we are pleased to announce this Request for Letters of Interest for our 2014 First Alaskans Institute Community Investments Awards.

In 2007, First Alaskans Institute introduced the Community Investments Awards funding initiative for projects that demonstrate collaborative efforts among community organizations to plan and implement innovative, lasting programs that contribute to healthy and thriving communities. Since that time, we have utilized over \$1,000,000 to support projects created and driven by communities to achieve the following outcomes (listed in totality, not in preference or priority order):

- preparing children for success in learning and leading through early childhood development
- increasing high school graduation rates
- connecting Elders and youth in cultural learning and knowledge transference
- enhancing, promoting, and/or creating leadership opportunities for youth

The Community Investments Awards provide financial support to non-profit or tribal organizations committed to working collaboratively with other organizations serving Alaska Native communities. Organizations that are eligible for funding are those that are designated as tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code that serve Alaska Natives and/or are federally-recognized Alaska Native Tribes. Individuals and for-profit entities are not eligible to apply. First Alaskans Institute is specifically interested in ensuring that Community Investment funds directly support our Alaska Native villages, hub communities and other remote, rural areas in service to the Alaska Native population. Urban-based organizations interested in applying should make sure to explain the nexus between their project and rural Alaska Native communities.

Awards will be determined based on the number of applications funded. We generally fund projects in the range of \$5,000 - \$50,000. No funds from First Alaskans Institute can be used for political campaigns, to support political candidates, or for political purposes that would jeopardize our IRS 501(c)(3) status.

To submit a complete letter of interest packet, please send us the following by the submission deadline:

- Completed Organization Information Form(below)
- Letter of Interest, no longer than 3 pages in total, that includes:
 - brief description of your organization,
 - description of your project idea and how it connects to or will achieve any or all of the above outcomes, and a
 - brief outline of your project budget (note any in-kind or other grant funds that may be used on this project and the amounts)
- Proof of eligibility: Please send a copy of your organizational status that makes you eligible for this funding opportunity

After reviewing the completed Letters of Interest, First Alaskans Institute will select the projects that align most closely to our goals and outcomes for the initiative, and will invite those organizations to submit a full proposal.

An optional, informational teleconference to share the purpose of these funds and answer questions will be held on Tuesday, April 22nd from 11am-12pm. To participate call 1-800-528-2793 and enter the following Participant Code: 9387827. To get a better idea of First Alaskans and the types of projects we've funded in the past, interested organizations should visit our website at www.firstalaskans.org.

First Alaskans Institute's desired outcomes are long-lasting, positive changes in communities that draw on the determination, skills, talents, abilities, and motivation that already exist in the community. We will use the opportunity to learn from those funded about how their best practices and partnerships are impacting communities, and share this story statewide. Please note that the Community Investment funds are intended for activities or outcomes that can be sustained when the funds are expended, it is not intended to solely fund positions within an organization, travel, or other expenses that the community cannot sustain, post-award.

We are seeking projects that achieve the above outcomes, and are:

- collaborative, innovative, seek to utilize indigenous knowledge, values, and practices,
- support strengthening of cultural identity and the empowerment of Native voices in shaping the decisions that impact our communities and Native peoples, and
- utilize measures - indigenous, community-based, cultural practices based, and/or research and evidence-based - that both track and tell the story of the impact of your project on the outcomes these funds are dedicated to.

Gunalchéesh, Haw.aa, Thank you for all you do for our Native community and for considering this opportunity to further your good work. We look forward to learning how we might be able to support your efforts.

With highest regards from our Board and Staff,

Liz Medicine Crow (Haida/Tlingit)
President/CEO

First Alaskans Institute

Organization Information Form

Please limit the entire Letter of Interest to 3 pages, including budget and any addenda.

Legal name of organization

Address of organization

City

State

Zip Code

Fax number

Web-site address

Date of incorporation

Federal Tax ID #

Organizational status: IRS 501(c)(3)

Other (explain)

Mission of organization

Name of Executive Director

Title

Executive Director's telephone number

Executive Director's email address

Contact for this Letter of Interest

Contact's title

Contact's telephone number

Contact's email address

Total project budget

\$

Amount requested

\$

Specific purpose(s) for which funds are requested: (please check all that apply)

Early Childhood Development

Increasing High School Graduation Rates

Increasing Leadership Opportunities for Youth

Cultural Connections Between Elders and Youth

Signature of authorized official (Board Chair or Executive Director)

Date

Typed Name

Title

Financial Summary	Last audited fiscal year actuals	Current Fiscal Year (budget)
Operating Revenue	\$	\$
Operating Expenses	\$	\$
Approved Indirect Rate		

Proposed start date for this project: _____ End date for this project: _____

Does your organization have the human-power necessary to carry out the proposed project during the time noted above?
(circle one) **YES** **NO** **DEPENDENT ON FUNDING**

*Please Note: Community Investment funding is not intended to fund positions, travel, or other similar expenses that the community will not be able to sustain

DEADLINE AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

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Complete Letters of Interest packets must be submitted by the deadline via email: info@firstalaskans.org. Emailed applications are preferred, however, if you are not able to submit via email please use one of the following methods to submit a complete packet by the deadline:

FAX:

FAI Community Investments Awards
907-677-1780

MAIL OR IN PERSON DELIVERY:

First Alaskans Institute
Community Investments Awards
606 E Street, Suite 200
Anchorage, AK 99501

Incomplete Letter of Interest packets will not be considered. Packets that arrive after the deadline will not be considered.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at info@firstalaskans.org or (907) 677-1700.