



News Release

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Anchorage, Alaska – First Alaskans Institute (FAI) is honored to share that we are the recipients of a \$1.5M grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF) to support TRHT: Alaska, a three-year statewide Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation (TRHT) process. This endeavor is in direct response to the call from our communities to grow a shared understanding of Alaska’s true history, to right the past wrongs that continue to inhibit our true potential as a state, and to help our communities heal in order to achieve an equitable future for all.

For years, indigenous communities and peoples of color in Alaska and across the country have called for a process that provides for intergenerational healing and permanent systemic and societal transformation. This effort is grounded in the rights of indigenous peoples – our political and racial identities – and includes all peoples of color and all Alaskans from diverse identities and backgrounds. This critical work seeks to bring our communities together to end the wrongful belief that some people matter more than others and the systemic outcomes that result because of it.

Through TRHT: Alaska, we will grow knowledge and understanding of the ways that injustices and racial inequities shape our communities’ experiences as Alaskans through the institutions and systems we all participate in. Racism - from interpersonal to systemic - robs all of us of a truly just and equitable Alaska. We all deserve better, but most importantly and dearest to our hearts - our children and our children’s children deserve better. The TRHT will combine the power of collective healing and relationship building with policy and law to advance a fundamental shift in our society.

Anchored at First Alaskans – a statewide nonprofit with expertise in advancing racial equity throughout Alaska – TRHT: Alaska is strategically positioned to be community-driven and it will be led by Alaska’s indigenous peoples and others committed to this endeavor. All Alaskans, including our governments, businesses, faith-based communities, other organizations, community and advocacy groups, and social change agents and innovators are invited to be part of this effort. We have a lot of hard work to do together – but with the knowledge and support of incredible Ancestors and leaders holding us up, this deeply meaningful endeavor will leave a lasting legacy of wellbeing for a stronger Alaska for the next 10,000+ years.

FAI will host an initial information session for all interested in learning more on July 12th, 9:30am-11:00am at 606 E Street, Suite 200, in Anchorage.

TRHT: Alaska is one of 14 TRHT places funded by the Kellogg Foundation, which has awarded \$24 million over the next two-to-five years to help implement the TRHT nationwide. To learn more about the TRHT, please visit healourcommunities.org.

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At First Alaskans Institute, we know we are responsible for carrying more than 10,000 years of ancestral knowledge into the future with rigor, humor, resilience, vigilance, and love. To learn more about us and what we do, please visit our website at www.firstalaskans.org, contact us at 907-677-1700 or via email at info@firstalaskans.org to learn more.