

**The Alaska Children's Trust
Grant Program Guidelines
FY 2013 Community Based Child Abuse Prevention Grants**



FY 13 Application deadline is May 1, 2012

Alaska Children's Trust
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<http://www.friendsofact.org/>

About the Alaska Children's Trust

Mission

The mission of the Alaska Children's Trust (ACT) is to improve the status of children in Alaska by generating funds and committing resources to eliminate child abuse and neglect.

History

The ACT was created by the Alaska State Legislature in 1988 and received initial funding in 1996. Today, the ACT's assets total more than \$10 million. Each year, the ACT funds community based prevention programs. Since 1988, the ACT has awarded over \$4 million in grants across the state aimed at strengthening families, protecting children and developing healthy communities.

Funding Priorities

Historically, the ACT has funded both primary and secondary prevention programs. The ACT values services offered in geographic areas with a demonstrated high need and leveraging new funding sources for child abuse prevention.

Definitions:

Primary prevention

Services and programs that positively influence families, parents, caretakers, and children in the general population *before* abuse or neglect occur. Primary prevention services:

- are accessible to everyone in the community;
- are received voluntarily;
- seek to promote positive family functioning rather than just preventing problems;
- attempt to influence social forces which impact parents and children;
- are culturally responsive to the program participants, building on the cultural strengths of the family and community; and
- use methods which are educational and supportive, rather than clinical or treatment-oriented.

Secondary prevention

Services are offered to populations considered "at risk". Child abuse or neglect may not have occurred within these families, but there is a higher probability that it may occur (or it may have occurred without clear recognition). In addition to the primary services described above, secondary prevention services:

- are offered to a predefined group of vulnerable or "at risk" individuals;
- focus on particular stressors or parenting issues for identified parents and caretakers;
- build upon participants' strengths and are not based on a deficit approach;
- offer solutions oriented to specific problems experienced by the target group.

Grant Program Information

Grant awards are made one time per fiscal year with the following deadline for proposals:

May 1 at 9:00 pm

All applications must be submitted through The Alaska Community Foundation's online system by 9:00 p.m. Alaska-time. Only completed applications that meet the basic eligibility criteria will be considered.

The online application system can be accessed at www.alaskacf.org.

Two Grant opportunities:

Call to Action Grant Awards for up to \$10,000 for community-based discussions to generate engagement in local prevention. Community Cafés are a series of guided conversations designed to build community wisdom to impact policy, practice and action to improve the lives of children and their families. More information about Call to Action Grants can be found at <http://www.alaskacf.org/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/ACT/Call%20to%20Action%20project%20criteria.pdf>.

Program Support Grant Awards for up to \$50,000 for planning, development, expansion or enhancement of new or existing primary and secondary prevention programs. Program Support grant awards can also fund developing a community's capacity to prevent child abuse and neglect, and capital and equipment purchases if these are imperative to prevention program success.

Organizations may request funding for up to 12 months. No more than two applications per organization are allowed per grant cycle.

Who is eligible to apply?

Eligible applicants include 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organizations; municipalities and Regional Educational Attendance Areas or other political subdivisions of the State; State agencies; Alaska Native Tribes, or a combination of these entities.

Preference will be given to applications which empower the disadvantaged or underserved, are collaborative or cooperative in nature, and do not duplicate existing programs and services. In addition, preference will be given to applications which demonstrate measurable results, accountability, cultural sensitivity, unify communities. Applications should detail measurable and achievable outcomes and address the sustainability of the program or project for which funding is desired.

Applicants with open ACT grants must be current on all grant reporting. Applications from organizations with outstanding grant reports will not be accepted.

Who cannot apply?

Individuals, for-profit, 501(c)(4) or (c)(6) organizations, non-Alaska based organizations, and federal government agencies are not eligible for competitive grants. Applicants with open ACT grants that are past due on any grant reports will not be considered for funding.

Applications for religious indoctrination or other religious activities, endowment building, deficit financing, fundraising, lobbying, electioneering and activities of political nature will not be considered. Nor will proposals for ads, sponsorships, or special event and any proposals which discriminate as to race, gender, marital status, sexual preference, age, disability, creed or ethnicity or are for activities that have the potential to support terrorism. Funds cannot be used for expenses incurred prior to the grant award.

ACT Grant Program funding priorities

The Alaska Children's Trust considers as a priority grants that support an approach of prevention and strengthening families. Key components of the prevention and strengthening families approach include:

- Promoting healthy parenting skills and strengthening families.
- Providing support and services that are universally available and are received voluntarily, and not targeted to those at risk.
- Focusing on existing strengths and promoting continued growth and development.
- Fostering parent leadership and empowering parents to identify resources, support and strategies to help them parent more effectively.
- Promoting the following five **Protective Factors** identified by the Center for the Study of Social Policy based on an extensive review of the research literature related to young children:
 1. Parental Resiliency
Courage during stress or after a crisis; parents feel supported and able to solve problems.
 2. Social Connections
A support system; relationships with extended family, friends, co-workers and other parents with children similar ages.
 3. Knowledge of Parenting/Child Development
Basic information about how children develop.
 4. Concrete Support in Times of Need
Supports and services within the community which can include transportation, food assistance, job training, mental health services.

5. Healthy Social/Emotional Development

Children feel loved, have a sense of belonging and can get along with others.

Proposal Contents

Agency Description and Background

Briefly describe your agency including its mission, founding date, services offered, geographic area(s) served, number of individuals served, and number of full, part-time and volunteer staff.

Project Description

Describe the project for which funding is requested, including information about whom and how many will benefit. Include background information explaining why you chose this method.

Include how you will involve parents/clients and how you will address cultural diversity. Describe how you intend to collaborate and coordinate with other existing community-based organizations. Describe plans to sustain the project after the ACT grant has ended.

Logic Model

Describe how you will evaluate and measure effectiveness using your logic model. Upload a Logic Model that includes at least one of the five Protective Factors listed above and links the selected Protective Factor(s) to the proposal's activities and outcome measures.

See http://www.alaskacf.org/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/ACT/ACT%20Evaluation_Guidebook.pdf for more information.

Personnel Experience

Please identify the individuals responsible for managing this project and describe their qualifications and capabilities.

Budget

Provide a project budget using the spreadsheet attached to the online application. Indirect costs are limited to 10% of the total budget. Include your self-evaluation costs at 15% of total. Applicants must also identify how the match requirement is going to be met.

Budget Narrative

Explain the costs and revenue sources described in the budget, and how they were derived. If the money needed to fully fund the project, including a potential Alaska Children's Trust grant, is not secured, please describe how the remaining funds will be raised by identifying pending and planned sources of funding and when decisions will be made.

Matching Funds

The grant award may not exceed 75% of the costs of the project. Grantees are required to match the remaining 25% of their grant. Matching funds may include:

In-kind support: staff/volunteer unpaid time, donated materials; donated office space and equipment; travel; donated services and materials and other non-cash donations.

Cash support: Cash contributions designated for the project from funding sources beyond the ACT grant funds. Projects that leverage new cash support are prioritized.

Preparing your Proposal

All applications must be completed through The Alaska Community Foundation's web-based application system

The site can be found through the ACF website <http://www.alaskacf.org/grants> . Please refer to the “Helpful hints for applying online” document next to the grant program summary on ACF’s website for more in-depth information about using the online application system.

Registering as an applicant

Applicants using the web-based system for the first time will need to complete a profile. The profile should be completed by the person writing the grant application and responsible for any grant reports. Please remember your username and password as it will be used for all current and future applications and any reporting on awarded grant projects. The User Profile will only need to be completed the first time you enter the system.

After logging in to the system

After logging into the system, you will be sent to the Application Status Page. To start a new application, please click “Apply”. There will be a list of grant programs. Please select the ACT grant program that fits your project and you will be taken to the application. The online system will time-out after 40 minutes of no activity, so please remember to save your application often.

When logging back on to the system after establishing a Profile, you will be directed to the Application Status Page which acts as your homepage where you can check your status.

Applications must be submitted through the online site by 9:00 pm Alaska-Time on the posted deadline date. If this date falls on a weekend, the deadline moves to the following Monday. Please contact ACF if you experience difficulty with the application site.

Grant Application Review and Action

Evaluation criteria include but are not limited to the completeness of the application, overall merit of the project, the ability and past reputation of the agency for successful completion of projects, the clarity and measurability of the projects goals, the feasibility of the time frame given for completion of the project, the benefit to the target population, whether the costs are commensurate with benefits, the potential of the project to become a long-term solution for an existing or emerging problem, other sources of support, and the overall sustainability of the project.

Proposal Review Standards

- Is the organization qualified and credible in providing service to the population it will serve?
- Is the organization capable of managing the grant?
- Does the program provide primary or secondary prevention services as described in the ACT grant guidelines?
- Does the project use the Logic Model for addressing protective factors?
- Does the project use the Logic Model for addressing the evaluation plan?
- Does this project serve a high-risk area?
- Does this project serve an under-served area?
- Does the applicant collaborate with similar organizations and not duplicate efforts?
- Does the proposal leverage funding sources for prevention?
- Where applicable, does the applicant identify how the program will be sustained following the ACT grant, if a continuing effort?
- Does the evaluation plan include outputs and outcomes?

Proposals will be reviewed and evaluated by the ACT Grants Committee, which is comprised of at least three members of the Board and may include individuals with expertise in the prevention of child abuse and neglect, finance, or other areas of special expertise as thought necessary by the Chair. The Committee may consider the advice of the ACT Executive Director.

The Grants Committee will make recommendations to the ACT Trustees.

Notification of Application status and Grant Award and Agreement

The ACT will notify applicants by letter.

Contact Information:

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