Alaska Children’s Trust
Community Investment Guidelines

Community Based Child Abuse & Neglect
Prevention Grants

2015 Application Deadline
7 August 2015

Alaska Children’s Trust
3201 C Street, Ste 110
Anchorage, AK 99503
(907) 248-7676

www.alaskachildrenstrust.org
ABOUT THE ALASKA CHILDREN’S TRUST

Mission
The mission of 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
ACT is the statewide catalyst for empowering communities to be leaders in the prevention of child abuse and neglect. For nearly two decades, ACT has provided organizations and communities with the support to build safe, stable and nurturing environments for Alaska’s children. ACT was first created by the Alaska State Legislature in 1988 and received initial funding in 1996. In 2010, ACT became an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Today, ACT’s assets total more than $12 million, which has allowed them to invest over $4 million in communities aimed at strengthening families, protecting children and developing healthy communities.

For further information, go to www.alaskachildrenstrust.org.

FOCUS AREAS

Alaska Children’s Trust (ACT) recognizes, to effectively impact current trends, ACT must utilize our resources in a strategic and sustainable fashion. Alaska has struggled for decades with some of the highest rates (per capita) of child maltreatment in the nation. Our future is influenced greatly by the types and level of trauma our children are exposed to and the amount of resiliency they are equipped with to handle these traumas. This acknowledgement drives much of ACT’s work to ensure all Alaska children live in safe, secure and nurturing environments. ACT has identified four core areas of focus related to the prevention of child abuse and neglect:

Prevention Programs
Prevention is the direct effort to stop child abuse & neglect before it occurs. The term "prevention" can either represent activities that stop an action or behavior or be used to represent activities that promote a positive action or behavior. Research has found that successful child abuse interventions must both reduce risk factors and promote protective factors to ensure the well-being of children and families.

Collection & Dissemination of Quality Data
Collecting good quality data plays a vital role in supplying objective information to help understand a problem, to determine potential solutions and provide feedback on the impact of activities. To successfully change the curve, all organizations who are working to improve the lives of our children require good and accurate data. Obtaining reliable and accurate data that reflects the true magnitude and nature of child maltreatment is a major gap in Alaska and across the nation.

Advocacy & Community Building
ACT strives to ensure the spotlight on child maltreatment is strong. By increasing our community’s knowledge and awareness, we empower them to take impactful action that leads to positive change at a local level.

**Positive Social Norming**
Attitudes of child abuse and neglect and the value of children in general plays a major role in our efforts in eliminating child abuse and neglect. Positive Community Norms (PCN) framework is a new approach to improving health and safety in our communities. PCN fosters cultural transformation by addressing many different audiences throughout the community for the purpose of growing positive norms and thereby improving health and safety. PCN integrates leadership, communication and prevention portfolio integration across the social ecology to improve health and safety.

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**GRANT PROGRAM INFORMATION**

Grant awards are made one time per fiscal year.

**Deadline:** 7 August 2015

All applications must be submitted through The Alaska Community Foundation’s online system by 5 p.m. Alaska-time. Only completed applications that meet the basic eligibility criteria will be considered.

The online application system can be accessed at [http://alaskacf.org/grants-overview](http://alaskacf.org/grants-overview).

**Community Investment Grant**

A total of $150,000 is available for Community Investment Grants. Each project is limited to a maximum of $10,000. Projects are required to be focused on one of the focus areas.

No more than one application per organization is allowed per year.

**Who is eligible to apply?**

Applications are accepted from qualified 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, or equivalent organizations located in the state of Alaska. Equivalent organizations may include tribes, local or state governments, schools, or Regional Educational Attendance Areas. Organizations that have received past awards and are in good standing are eligible to apply. 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 sponsorships, special event or 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 Funding Priorities**

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

- Promoting community inclusion.
- Promoting healthy parenting skills and strengthening families.
- Providing support and services that are universal.
- 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.
- Incorporating the understanding of Adverse Childhood Experiences study (i.e. reduce trauma and build resiliency).
- Support evidence based or promising practices.
- Promoting the following five **Protective Factors** identified by the Center for the Study of Social Policy (http://www.cssp.org/reform/strengthening-families) 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, and number of individuals served.

Project Description
Outline the need for the project, what you will be doing, target population (whom and how many will benefit) and geographic area served, and community support for your project. Explain how the targeted population will be better off as a result of this project. Please be specific about the expected benefits and how it relates to the selected areas of focus.

Explain how the project supports and/or will incorporate the Strengthening Families projective factors. In addition, outline how the project reduces adverse childhood experiences (trauma) and supports the building of resiliency.

If you are requesting funds to support an existing project, share the impact the project has had already on the targeted population.

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.

Project Outcomes
Provide up to four measurable outcomes that will be reported on at the end of the funding year.

Budget
Provide a project budget using the spreadsheet attached to the online application. Indirect costs are limited to 10% of the total budget.

Budget Narrative
Explain the costs and revenue sources described in the budget, and how they were derived. If the funds 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 are encouraged but not required.

Preparing your Proposal

All applications must be completed through The Alaska Community Foundation’s (ACF) online application system

The application portal can be found through the ACF website: http://alaskacf.org/grants-overview. Click “Apply now” under the Alaska Children’s Trust Grant Cycle to begin the application process.
Please refer to the “Online Application Tutorial” for more in-depth information about using the online application system.

**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 project's 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.

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, and unify communities.

**Notification of Application status and Grant Award and Agreement**

ACT will notify applicants by letter no more than 60 days after applications are due.

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**Contact Information:**

For questions related to the request for proposals, please contact:

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For questions related to the on-line application system, please contact:

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