

**Alaska Children's Trust
Community Investment Guidelines**

**Tier 2
Innovation Grants**



**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 \$11 million, which has allowed them to invest over \$5 million in communities aimed at strengthening families, protecting children and developing healthy communities.

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

TIER 2 – INNOVATION GRANTS

Do you have a new and innovative idea that would prevent child abuse and neglect? Do you have a current program that if it had more support could have a greater impact? ACT's Tier 2 Innovation Grants were created to stimulate the development and adoption of groundbreaking approaches and technologies to prevent child abuse and neglect. Tier 2 grants fund projects above \$10,000 up to a maximum of \$50,000 per year. Requests can be single year or multi-year, up to three years.

Innovation is either introducing something new or infusing a current product/program with more resources to strengthen its reach and impact. It is usually driven and supported through data. It is compelled by an organization's desire to understand and meet the ever-changing needs and challenges of the people they are serving while trying to prevent child abuse and neglect. As a catalyst for change, ACT has introduced the Innovative Grants to stimulate new ways of preventing child abuse and neglect and strengthen the current methods that have proven successful.

Think bigger, think differently. Together we can prevent child abuse and neglect.

Total Award Available: Above \$10,000 to a maximum of \$50,000 per year

Grant Cycle: One to three years.

FOCUS AREAS

ACT has identified four core areas of focus on the prevention of child abuse and neglect: (1) primary prevention of child abuse and neglect programs, (2) collection and dissemination of quality data, (3) advocacy and community building, and (4) positive social norming. Tier 2 grants fund all four of the core areas.

Primary Prevention Programs

Prevention is the direct effort to stop CAN 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. Primary prevention aims to prevent CAN before it ever occurs. This is done by preventing exposures to hazards that cause CAN (i.e. social determinants like poverty, unplanned pregnancy, teen violence, historical trauma), altering unhealthy or unsafe behaviors that can lead to CAN, and increasing resilience should trauma like CAN occur.

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 CAN 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 CAN 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.

GRANT PROGRAM INFORMATION

Full proposals are accepted by invitation only. Organizations interested must submit a Letter of Inquiry (LOI).

Deadline: there are no application deadlines, but please note that due to the process, it normally takes six to nine months to process, evaluate and take final action on each request.

All LOI's and full applications must be submitted through The Alaska Community Foundation's online system. 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>.

General Requirements

- Projects are required to be focused on one of the focus areas.
- No more than one Tier 2 LOI/application per organization is allowed at any given time.
- Organizations can receive a Tier 1 and Tier 2 at the same time. However, funding must support separate programs/projects.
- LOIs are reviewed quarterly.
- If LOI is selected, the organization will be invited to complete a full proposal which will be due 3 months from date of invitation.
- Applicants are welcome to contact ACT staff prior to applying to discuss proposed projects.
- If a proposal is declined, organizations may call ACT staff for feedback.

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 that promote discrimination based on race, gender, marital status, sexual preference, age, disability, creed or ethnicity. 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.
- Addressing social determinants that create an environment that leads to CAN
- 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.

LETTER OF INQUIRY (LOI)

LOI’s are limited to 3 pages and must include the following:

- Background of Organization
 - An abbreviated mission statement
 - Date founded

- Staff and board size and demographics
- Constituency and geographic region served
- Type(s) of service provided
- Annual operating budget size
- Any other key relevant information
- Project Description
 - Factors contributing to the need for the project, include data if available
 - How the project is innovative
 - Why project is important to your organization and constituency
 - How project prevents child abuse and neglect
 - Components of the project
 - Target population
 - Geographical area served
- Please note any other factors you believe would help us understand your situation and request.
- Project Budget – in summary form, provide total project cost for each year requested (multi-year funding is limited to no more than 3 years), total funds requested from ACT, other sources of support outside of ACT funding and sustainability

Preparing your Proposal

All LOI's and full 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.

LOI Review and Action

Evaluation criteria include but are not limited to the completeness of the LOI/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.

Preference will be given to projects/programs which empower the disadvantaged or underserved, are collaborative or cooperative in nature, address key social determinants related to child abuse and neglect, 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 120 days after LOI's are submitted.

Contact Information:

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

Trevor Storrs
Alaska Children's Trust
3201 C Street, Ste 110
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

tstorrs@alaskachildrenstrust.org
907-248-7676

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

Kelsey Potdevin
The Alaska Community Foundation
3201 C Street, Ste 110
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

kpotevin@alaskacf.org
907-274-6710