**Alaska Native Cultural Activities Grants**

Children and youth are less than 25% of Alaska’s population, but they are 100% of our future. Investing in their mental health today helps our communities thrive for generations. For Alaska Native youth, promoting access to cultural activities helps strengthen two of the strongest protective factors associated with youth mental wellbeing: a connection to one’s culture and community and the presence of a caring adult outside of one’s immediate family.

Promoting protective factors can also be fun! From traditional foods cooking classes to Alaska Native dance groups, organizations across Alaska are finding exciting ways to promote mental wellbeing, strengthen youths’ cultural connectedness, and build healthy relationships.

This is especially important today. Alaska’s high school students report rising levels of sadness and hopelessness, and Alaska’s teen suicide rate is increasing. There is also a growing racial/ethnic disparity in the data; American Indian/Alaska Native youth experience mental health challenges at disproportionate rates.

To promote mental wellbeing and increase protective factors for youth, the Alaska Children’s Trust will provide up to $1,000 to support work that engages Alaska Native youth in cultural activities. This could include (but is not limited to) activities that:

* Engage youth in subsistence activities;
* Teach traditional arts and crafts;
* Promote Native language learning;
* Expose youth to Native history, spiritual beliefs, and cultural values.

Who can 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.

Who can’t 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 outstanding and past due grant requirements are ineligible for funding.

Due Date

Applications are due by 11:59 am on Friday, March 5. Decisions regarding funding will be made by no later than April 30th.

Grant Amount

Applicants can apply for up to $1,000. Eligible expenses include:

* Venue/equipment rental
* Food
* Personnel/staff time
* Supplies for crafts
* Other expenses associated with their proposed cultural activity.

Reporting

Grantees will submit a short final report including the number of youths served and project successes. ACT also encourages grantees to submit photos.

Application:

 Project Name:

Amount Requested:

PROJECT LEAD INFORMATION

Project Lead Name & Title:

Organization Name:

Mailing Address:

Phone Number:

Email:

**FISCAL INFORMATION**

ACT utilizes an online payables system called Bill.com. If you are awarded a grant, grantees are required to accept payments via an e-payment/electronic fund transfer (EFT). To expedite the process, ACT needs the following information (by providing this information does not guarantee an award):

Legal Name of Organization Depositing the Funds/Check:

Mailing Address of Organization:

Contact Person about Finances:

Email of Contact Person about Finances:

Phone of Contact Person about Finances:

Proposed Activity

*What activity will you use this funding/grant for?*

Cultural Connection

*How will your activity promote cultural connectedness and promote mental wellbeing for Alaska Native youth?*