

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

## **Tier 2 Innovation Grants**



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## **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 over three 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 2012, ACT completed their transition from being under the state umbrella to being an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Today, ACT's assets total approximately \$13 million, which has allowed them to invest over \$8 million in communities aimed at strengthening families, protecting children and developing healthy communities.

For further information, go to [www.alaskachildrenstrust.org](http://www.alaskachildrenstrust.org).

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## **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 ensure children grow up in safe, stable, and nurturing environments and relationships. 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.

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## FOCUS AREAS

ACT has identified three core areas of focus on the prevention of child abuse and neglect: (1) early childhood development, (2) empowering youth, and (3) building community resilience. These core areas promote thriving children, healthy families, and community development. Tier 1 Community Based Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention grants fund within all 3 portfolio areas.

### Early Childhood Development

ACT will provide grants that support early childhood development work based on research that highlights the importance of social-emotional development in the first three years of a child's life. Organizations funded under this portfolio area will have a specific focus on ages 0 to 3 years. ACT chose this age because of its importance in ensuring children have safe, healthy, secure, and engaging environments that allow them to develop social attachments, acquire physical and intellectual abilities, and build positive self-identities and trust of others. It is also the age range where the largest service gaps exist in Alaska, with childcare and early education programs for infants being the least available and affordable. The rapid brain growth that occurs during this time influences all future functioning and long-term school success. ACT will therefore prioritize funding for organizations that emphasize social-emotional learning and development and infant mental health including, but not limited to: high quality, evidence-based home visitation programs and parent skills training programs.

### Empowering Youth

These grants will invest in organizations that are developing, modifying, implementing, and/or evaluating effective and proven curriculum to help students ages 12 to 16 learn the major tenets of developing healthy, intimate relationships. Curricula will have a clear focus on sexual education, be medically accurate, culturally-responsive, and LGBTQ-inclusive. Topics addressed will include, but not be limited to: issues of consent; domestic and sexual violence, delaying parenthood; and; effective reproductive health interventions. Grantees in this area must be able to show how their approach is researched-based and can be effectively evaluated.

### Building Community Resilience

ACT will invest in community-based efforts/initiatives focused on preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and building resilience. ACT recognizes communities know their children and families best and know how to help them prevent child abuse and neglect and heal those who have experienced trauma.

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## 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 Alaska Children's Trust online system. Only completed applications that meet the basic eligibility criteria will be considered.

The online application system can be accessed at  
<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=actcf>

### 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.
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## LETTER OF INQUIRY (LOI)

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

- Background of Organization
  - Mission statement
  - Date founded
  - The number of staff and board, and their diversity
  - 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 project 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 Alaska Children's Trust (ACT) online application system.**

The application portal can be found through the ACT website:

<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=actcf>.

### 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 that work with people who most at risk of being impacted by child abuse and neglect, are collaborative or cooperative in nature, address key social determinants

related to child abuse and neglect, incorporates utilization of data, 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.

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## Contact Information:

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

Trevor Storrs  
[tstorrs@alaskachildrenstrust.org](mailto:tstorrs@alaskachildrenstrust.org)  
907-248-7676

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

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