



ALASKA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Alaska Community Foundation (ACF) is Alaska's statewide community foundation, founded in 1995. For more than 30 years, ACF has connected people who care with causes that matter – supporting Alaska communities today and for generations to come.

ACF is Alaska-bound, not issue-specific, providing philanthropic infrastructure that Alaska communities can rely on – today and for the long term.

What We Do

Inspire and Advance Philanthropy. We create practical pathways for generosity and support coordination across Alaska's philanthropic landscape. When partners need trusted infrastructure to administer complex or high-volume funding programs, ACF provides the administrative backbone to make that work.

Make Giving Practical and Accessible

We provide flexible, straightforward ways for individuals and organizations to give in Alaska, and support donors with guidance, tools, and services to make charitable giving manageable.

Connect Resources to Community Priorities

ACF designs and operates statewide grant cycles and scholarship programs that direct resources to communities and individuals across Alaska. Through grant advisors, affiliates, and statewide partnerships, we ensure funding reflects local knowledge and community priorities.

Steward Resources for the Long Term. We manage charitable funds with disciplined financial oversight and transparent practices.

Over three decades, ACF has moved more than \$270 million into Alaska communities and now supports complex public and private funding through statewide grantmaking and administrative infrastructure.

Scale & Operations in 2025:

- Approximately \$300 million in charitable assets
- 2,483 active funds
- 4,848 grants awarded last year
- 231 scholarships administered annually
- 80,000 transactions
- 24,000+ individual donors

Statewide Reach

ACF Affiliates

ACF operates twelve local affiliates, each led by volunteer advisory boards of community leaders and supported by local staff. This structure provides deep community insight and trusted local relationships while operating within ACF's centralized financial, administrative, and compliance framework.

Affiliates and Locations

- **Chilkat Valley Community Foundation** – Haines (Chilkat Valley region)
- **Chugiak Eagle River Foundation** – Chugiak and Eagle River
- **Cordova Community Foundation** – Cordova
- **Golden Heart Community Foundation** – Fairbanks
- **Jessica Stevens Community Foundation** – Upper Susitna Valley
- **Kenai Peninsula Foundation** – Kenai and Soldotna
- **Ketchikan Community Foundation** – Ketchikan
- **Kodiak Community Foundation** – Kodiak
- **Palmer Community Foundation** – Palmer
- **Petersburg Community Foundation** – Petersburg
- **Seward Community Foundation** – Seward
- **Sitka Legacy Foundation** – Sitka

Partners and Locations

In addition to its affiliate network, ACF collaborates with regional and community-based philanthropic partners. These partnerships strengthen statewide coordination, support locally informed grantmaking, and expand the reach of funding initiatives across Alaska.

- **Arctic Slope Community Foundation**
- **Bethel Community Services Foundation**
- **Bristol Bay Foundation**
- **Homer Community Foundation**
- **Kawerak, Inc.**
- **Juneau Community Foundation**

Regular Grant Programs and Collaborative Funds at ACF

As part of its regular operations, ACF administers a range of recurring and time-limited grant programs, many in partnership with Alaska-based foundations, corporations, and individual donors. These programs operate through standardized application, review, and compliance systems and reflect ACF's capacity to manage diverse funding sources simultaneously. administer multiple grant cycles concurrently, including donor-advised funds, collaborative pooled funds, corporate partnerships, and legacy-funded initiatives – each with distinct eligibility rules, reporting requirements, and compliance obligations.

Examples include:

- Scholarships
60+ individual scholarship programs serving students statewide, administered annually through a single application and review process
- Strengthening Organizations
Supported nonprofit organizations in building strong internal systems, skilled staff, and organizational capacity. Administered in partnership with Rasmuson Foundation.
- Vocational Fund for Alaska's Future
Supported projects building a skilled workforce in Alaska's natural resource development industries, with a focus on career pathways and workforce readiness.
- Social Justice Fund
Supported organizations and projects addressing systemic barriers, civic participation, and equitable access to opportunity. Administered as a donor-supported pooled fund.
- GCI Suicide Prevention Grant Program
Administered in partnership with GCI, funding community-based efforts to reduce suicide rates and promote mental wellness through strengthened personal and community connections.
- Camps Initiative
A collaborative effort with Rasmuson Foundation, Mat-Su Health Foundation, the George and Stephanie Suddock Foundation, and other donors to support summer enrichment and childcare programs for Alaskan youth, including overnight and day camps.
- Anchorage Trail Care Fund
Supports maintenance, repair, and accessibility improvements for soft-surface trails in the Anchorage area, from Eklutna to Girdwood, through a donor-established fund.
- Pick.Click.Give.
Alaska's Permanent Fund Dividend charitable giving program is administered by ACF on behalf of the State of Alaska. ACF oversees nonprofit eligibility, donor processing, fund distribution, and reporting, supporting thousands of nonprofits and directing millions of dollars annually to community organizations across Alaska.

Managing Complex Funding Programs

The Alaska Community Foundation has administered high-visibility, time-sensitive, and compliance-intensive funding initiatives on behalf of the State of Alaska and in partnership with regional and community leaders. Across these efforts, ACF has operated as neutral, community-based infrastructure – providing structured processes, financial oversight, and documented compliance systems capable of operating at scale.

Coronavirus Nonprofit Relief Fund (CARES Act) and ARPA Nonprofit Recovery Fund

When Alaska received approximately \$1.25 billion in federal CARES Act funding, the Legislature appropriated funds for competitive nonprofit relief grants. The State selected ACF to administer the \$35 million Coronavirus Nonprofit Relief Fund (CNRF) statewide.

ACF designed and implemented a structured application, review, and disbursement process aligned with federal CARES Act requirements. The program included published eligibility standards, documented review criteria, conflict-of-interest safeguards, compliance tracking, and audit-ready financial controls. The Foundation managed high application volume and ensured timely distribution of funds to nonprofit and faith-based organizations across Alaska.

To support proposal review, ACF convened experienced Grantmakers through the Alaska Funders network – an established group that has collaborated on other statewide funding initiatives, including the Domestic Violence Shelter Initiative and the Pre-Development Program. Reviewers assessed applications against published criteria, while ACF maintained administrative oversight, documentation, and compliance safeguards. Final program authority remained with the State.

ACF subsequently supported ARPA-related grant programs using similar administrative controls and structured review systems.

The programs were delivered with clean audits, in full compliance with federal guidance, and without material protest or substantiated complaint.

For more information, see the Coronavirus Nonprofit Relief Fund Project Report:



For more information, see the ARPA Nonprofit Recovery Fund report:



Program Scale & Rapid Mobilization

Western Alaska Disaster Relief Fund (2025)

Following severe storm systems, including Typhoon Halong, that struck Western Alaska in October 2025, ACF activated the Western Alaska Disaster Relief Fund in partnership with regional and Tribal leaders.

Two major storms caused record flooding, extreme winds, and widespread damage from Kwigillingok to Kotzebue – damaging homes, compromising infrastructure, and disrupting subsistence resources. The fund was established to support immediate relief, housing stabilization, infrastructure repair, and longer-term recovery and resilience.

The initiative mobilized rapidly and at significant scale, raising more than \$8 million from over 21,000 donors across Alaska, all 50 states, and 34 countries. In addition to individual contributions, ACF processed grant awards from partner foundations and reconciled multiple funding streams.

The surge increased ACF's annual transaction volume from approximately 40,000 to nearly 80,000 transactions. Despite the unplanned nature of the event, ACF's systems, staffing, and financial controls flexed to absorb the additional volume without disruption to ongoing operations.

Distribution decisions were informed by Advisory Council members with direct experience in the affected communities, ensuring resources reflected locally identified needs. Throughout, ACF maintained neutral administrative oversight, structured documentation, and full financial accountability.

Voices Across Alaska

Voices Across Alaska was established as a rapid-response pooled fund to address an urgent gap in Alaska's public media infrastructure. When several public and community radio stations faced sudden funding shortfalls, there was a risk that stations serving rural and remote communities could reduce service or cease operations.

ACF provided neutral fiscal sponsorship and administrative infrastructure for the fund. An advisory group of Alaska public-media leaders contributed expertise to inform priorities, while ACF maintained clear governance boundaries, structured intake, documentation standards, and financial oversight.

The initiative mobilized quickly, raising \$4.46 million from 188 donors statewide. ACF processed individual and institutional contributions, reconciled funding streams, and administered structured distributions under documented compliance and reporting standards. By hosting the initiative, ACF enabled philanthropic partners to move resources quickly while preserving accountability, transparency, and public trust.

The Alaska Community Foundation Board of Directors

The Alaska Community Foundation Board includes respected community leaders from across the state whose expertise guides ACF in the careful stewardship of its mission and investments:

Tom Barrett – Board Chair; Former President, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company; Vice Admiral (Ret.), U.S. Coast Guard.

Jessica Graham – Vice Chair; Risk & Governance Leader; Chief Risk Officer & General Counsel, Global Federal Credit Union; former Deputy General Counsel, GCI.

Bernard Gatewood – Board Treasurer; Community & Public Service Leader; Former Fairbanks City Council Member and Superintendent of the Fairbanks Youth Facility; Founder of G2 Diversified Services.

Monica Shah – Board Secretary; Museum & Cultural Stewardship Leader; Director of Collections & Chief Conservator, Anchorage Museum.

Margo Bellamy – Education Leader & Community Advocate; Long-time Anchorage School Board Member and Career Educator.

Pearl K. Brower – Alaska Native Corporate & Educational Leader; President & CEO, Ukpeaġvik Iñupiat Corporation; Former President, Iļisaġvik College.

Rita De La Torre – CPA & Audit Leader; Director at Swalling & Associates with extensive experience in nonprofit finance, compliance, and organizational oversight.

Haven Harris – Alaska Native Corporate Leader; Vice President of Corporate Development, Bering Straits Native Corporation; Alaska Native Heritage Center Board Member.

Victor Joseph – Tribal Leader; Chief of the Native Village of Tanana; Former President of Tanana Chiefs Conference and longtime Tribal social services leader.

Aaron Kusano – Radiation Oncologist and Medical Director, Anchorage & Valley Radiation Therapy Centers; Community Health Leader.

Anthony Mallott – Philanthropic Leader; Former President & CEO, Sealaska Corporation.

Lisa Parker – Public Policy & Community Leader; Vice Mayor of Soldotna, President of the Alaska Municipal League.

Presenters

Alexandra McKay

President & CEO, Alaska Community Foundation

Alexandra (Alex) McKay is President & CEO of the Alaska Community Foundation, the state's community foundation working through a network of local affiliates and philanthropic partners across Alaska. Born and raised in Alaska, she brings nearly 30 years of experience in philanthropy. Alex focuses on building durable infrastructure for giving, aligning resources with community-identified needs, and ensuring strong governance and fiscal stewardship. She works closely with public, private, and tribal partners to move resources responsibly and at scale – with a focus on trust, transparency, and local context.

Megan Cacciola

Vice President of Programs & Grants, Alaska Community Foundation

Megan Cacciola serves as Vice President of Programs & Grants at the Alaska Community Foundation, overseeing statewide grantmaking, scholarship programs, and complex multi-partner initiatives. She brings deep expertise in program design, grant administration, and operational execution, with a focus on clarity, compliance, and consistency at scale. Megan plays a key role in translating strategy into practice – ensuring that funds move efficiently, equitably, and in alignment with community priorities and funder requirements.