

CITY OF BETHEL

COMMUNITY ACTION GRANT

Overview

Purpose

The City of Bethel has established a Community Action Grant (CAG) Program to allow community organizations and individuals to request financial support from the City for civic programs or events that contribute to the health, welfare and overall lives of the residents of Bethel, especially its most vulnerable populations.

The purpose of the grant program is to advance and enhance the community's opportunities, sustainability, and wellbeing. The City encourages projects and programs with components that foster community wellness, directly impact the community's vulnerable populations and/or provide civic engagement of Bethel residents and project beneficiaries.

Funding

The City Council has certain statutory and fiscal limitations on the aggregate amount of municipal funds it can set aside for donations to community projects. The amount of grant awards available to disseminate on behalf of all the applicants is dictated by the amount which is set aside by the City Council during the annual budget preparation process. The Council has committed to budget an amount equal to 20% of the revenue generated from the alcohol tax to health, public safety, and social services that offset the effects of alcohol in the community.

The amounts contributed shall be accounted for in the Community Action Grant Fund, a special revenue fund. Annual distributions to grantees from the Community Action Grant Fund cannot exceed the available resources of the Fund or other limits established by City Council.

Funding Exclusions

- Indirect costs that are not traceable to a program, product, or activity; application of an indirect rate to cover overhead costs;
- In-kind donations, including gift cards;
- Nationally-sponsored organizations (such as, but not limited to, American Cancer Society, American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association, Children's Miracle Network and United Way);
- Memberships, including association/chamber memberships;
- Organizations that deny service, membership or other involvement on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, age national origin, ancestry, citizenship, veteran, disability or any other protected status;
- Organizations whose programming or policies may portray the City of Bethel in a negative light;
- Political causes, candidates, organizations or campaigns;
- Projects that send products or people to foreign countries or on domestic travel;
- Registration fees;

- Projects or programs that sponsor, endorse or provide in-kind services for any programs or events that will or may promote tobacco or marijuana products, gambling, sexually related products or services, the sale or manufacturing of firearms or weapons, or products or services that are contrary to the interest of public health, safety or welfare;
- Requests made on behalf of another organization or by an unauthorized representative of the recipient organization;
- Scholarships and/or the payment of tuition, room, board, other expenses for college/university/vocational school or conference/training attendance;
- Third-party giving, including funds that are re-allocated to fiscally sponsored organizations;
- Tickets for contests, raffles, prizes or any games of chance or skill.

Application Process

The City of Bethel will accept applications for the Community Action Grant on a quarterly basis, per the following 2019 schedule:

Quarter 1: January 29 to February 28

Quarter 2: May 1 to May 30

Quarter 3: August 1 to August 30

Quarter 4: October 14 to November 13

Submission deadline is 11:59 pm Alaska Time.

Applicants must submit the CAG application packet to cag@cityofbethel.net on or before the deadline. Late submissions will not be accepted. Incomplete submissions will be given a due date to provide missing items. If the due date is not met, the proposal will be rejected. Applications will not be carried over from one quarter to the next.

The application packet must include completed:

- Community Action Grant Cover Page Form
- Community Action Grant Project Summary
- If applicable, verification of the organization's or fiscal agency's tax exempt status.
- If applicable, current and prior-year operating budgets, including expenses and revenues, sources of revenue received and those pending, to include in-kind;
- If applicable, most recent annual financial statement (audited, if available);
- List of key project/program staff members responsible for overseeing and carrying out the grant and a one-paragraph resume for each one.

Funding Priority

Funding priority will be given to applications that demonstrate one or more of the following:

1. Advancement to or enhancement of the community of Bethel and its residents
2. Direct impact to populations impacted by substance abuse in the community

3. Community engagement
4. Healthy community activities

Review, Evaluation and Selection

All applications, regardless of amount, will be reviewed by the Community Grant Technical Review Board (Board). The Board will hold public meetings to discuss and evaluate the grant applications. Application representatives are invited to attend the application review meetings in order to make a presentation supporting their request and respond to questions from the Board.

After review of all eligible applications, the Board will make funding recommendations to the City Council. These funding recommendations may be less than the amount requested and may be adjusted by the Council without prior notice to the applicant.

Upon receipt of the Board's recommendations, the City Council will make a final determination regarding the distribution, if any, of grant funds. City Council action will be by Action Memorandum. In making their final determination, the City Council may make amendments to the recommendations of the Board, including, but not limited to, amending the recommended amounts, and/or imposing limitations or special conditions that will appear in the grant agreement.

Applicants will be notified of any decision by e-mail within three (3) business days following City Council review. All funding decisions are final. If an Applicant is approved, grant checks will be mailed directly to the awardee within three weeks of the City Council's approval.

Agreement Requirements and Monitoring

Awardees will be required to enter into a Community Action Agreement that outlines the responsibilities of both parties. Applicants should note that liability insurance might be required. Awardees will agree to hold the City and the CAG Board harmless from the awardee's actions.

All approved grant award winners shall maintain detailed documentation of the expenditures of grant money expenditures. In addition to the requirement to submit the documentation at the completion of the grant, Applicants shall make the documentation available to the City Clerk's Office upon request. Awardees who fail to maintain such documentation or to provide documentation upon request may be disqualified from future grant awards.

Exit Report

Awardees will be required to present a written exit report to the Community Action Grant Board within thirty days of completion of the project/program. Awardees must complete an exit report prior to submitting another request for funds. If project/program is not completed at the time another funding request is prepared, a spending plan may be submitted in lieu of an exit report. The spending plan must describe how the remaining expenditures will be made to complete the project/program.