Community Profile: Alakanuk, AK
Alakanuk is located at the east entrance of Alakanuk Pass, the major southern channel of the Yukon River, 15 miles from the Bering Sea. It is part of the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. It lies eight miles southwest of Emmonak, approximately 162 air miles northwest of Bethel. Alakanuk is the “longest” village on the lower Yukon - the development stretches over a three mile area. Approximately 25 homes along the bank are being threatened by erosion. The US Census in 2010 recorded the population as 677.

Current Funding Opportunities
The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) has been announced and is due December 1, 2017 at 4:30 pm. The Division of Community and Regional Affairs requests receipt of your Notice of Intent to Submit a CDBG application form no later than October 6, 2017.

The CDBG grant is open to municipal government entities as defined by Title 29 of the Alaska Statutes, i.e., home rule, first, second and third class boroughs, unified municipalities and first and second class cities. Consider partnering with your local city to help get funding for an important community project.

This list is not all inclusive, but eligible projects include: public facilities construction, improvements, water and sewer systems, and flood and drainage facilities; boardwalks; demolition of real property; fire protection facilities and equipment; planning; and a list of special economic development projects. Additional information may be found on pages seven and eight of the CDBG application handbook. Follow this link to the CDBG funding opportunity information: https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/dcra/GrantsSection/CommunityDevelopmentBlockGrant5.aspx.

The Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), has issued a notice of funding opportunity for Pre-Disaster Mitigation projects. This application is due November 14, 2017. You can find the full announcement at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html. Federally recognized Native American Tribal governments may apply for this funding. All applicants submitting project applications must have a FEMA approved Mitigation Plan by the application deadline. FEMA funds for this opportunity can be used for planning, training-related costs, domestic travel, construction and renovation costs, and equipment costs.
United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Solid Waste Management Grants program is open for applications that are due December 31, 2017. This program reduces or eliminates pollution of water resources by funding organizations that provide technical assistance or training to improve the planning and management of solid waste sites. This opportunity is open to federally recognized tribes. Funds may be used to: evaluate current landfill conditions to determine threats to water resources in rural areas; provide technical assistance and/or training to enhance operator skills in the maintenance and operation of active landfills in rural areas; provide technical assistance and/or training to help associations reduce the solid waste stream; and provide technical assistance and/or training for operators of landfills in rural areas which are closed or will be closed in the near future with the development/implementation of closure plans, future land use plans, safety and maintenance planning, and closure scheduling within permit requirements. You can find more information about this opportunity at this website: https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/RD-WEP-AppGuideTAT_SWM_FY2017.pdf.

Upcoming Grant Opportunity

It’s not too soon to start thinking and strategically planning for your grant application to the Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG). This opportunity is generally announced in the spring and is due at the beginning of May. The ICDBG grant may be used for new construction, rehabilitation, and acquisition of residential units and public facilities, as well as housing services, and economic development projects. There is also a national set-aside for ICDBG Imminent Threat grants that are intended to alleviate or remove threats to health or safety as described at 24 CFR Part 1003, Subpart E. https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/24/1003.400.

Grant Training

The ETC Grant Center training, previously scheduled for November 2017, has been postponed, due to a conflict of schedules with the Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management (ATCEM). We do not yet have a new date for the grant training.

Grant Tips

When researching the correct funder for your project, you will need to:

- Find out what the funder wants to fund;
- Review the funding opportunity guidelines and format requirements;
- Consider the amount and length of the funding to be allocated;
- Submit a letter of intent, if it's requested or required;
- Make note of the application submission due date;
- Think about the capacity and strengths of your community and what level of competition there is for this funding opportunity.

Grant Center Staff Update

New staff member, Max Neale, has joined the Grant Center team. Max has worked with climate change adaptation in Detroit, Michigan, the San Francisco Bay Area, and with environmental conservation groups throughout Alaska. Max is looking forward to learning about and assisting with environmentally threatened communities and utilizing his expertise on environmental issues.

About the Environmentally Threatened Communities (ETC) Grant Center:

The Center was established with a Denali Commission Grant to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) and provides grant support to the 31 rural Alaska communities experiencing infrastructure impacts associated with environmental threats such as flooding, erosion, and melting permafrost. Please contact the ETC Grant Center staff at the numbers below.

Melodie Fair, mdfair@anthc.org (907) 729-2418 or Max Neale, mdneale@anthc.org (907) 729-4521
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