

First Alaskans Foundation

Progress for the next ten thousand years

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May 8, 2001

Michelle Anderson
Project Officer
Denali Commission
510 L Street, Ste. 410
Anchorage, AK 99501

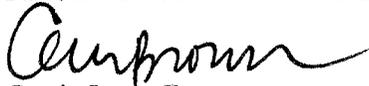
RE: Community Planning & Development Program
Project No: 0018-DC-1999-E4
Performance Report For the Period December 1, 2000 through April 30, 2001

Dear Michelle:

Enclosed is a progress report on the First Alaskans Foundation's Community Planning and Development Program, funded by the Denali Commission. Due to significant program accomplishments, including the selection of all program grants, this report covers the project period from December 1, 2001 through April 30, 2001. There were no grant expenditures reported this period. All grant disbursements will be reported in the next quarterly report, along with any direct program expenditures.

If you have any additional questions about the implementation of the Community Planning and Development Program, or should you require additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
FIRST ALASKANS FOUNDATION



Carrie Irwin Brown
Senior Vice President

Enclosures



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PROGRESS REPORT TO THE DENALI COMMISSION

Submitted by

FIRST ALASKANS FOUNDATION

Community Planning & Development Program

Project No: 0018-DC-1999-E4

Grant Period: December 1, 2000 to September 30, 2004

Grant Award Date: January 29, 2001

Reporting Period: December 1, 2000 through April 30, 2001

I. PROJECT OVERVIEW

Over a two-year period, this program will build capacities of Alaska Native individuals and communities statewide through the development of local decision-making, management and governance skills necessary to plan and implement sustainable community development efforts. This program will impact Alaska Native communities, organizations, and individuals statewide through statewide visioning efforts; a minimum of 2 regions/sub-regions of rural Alaska through specific infrastructure development efforts; and, a minimum of 24 individual Alaska Native villages statewide through specific community development, community economic development, and community infrastructure construction projects.

Grants selections were made available in the following areas:

- Community Development
Six (6) Grants, Maximum Funding \$50,000
- Community Economic Development Planning
Eight (8) Grants, Maximum Funding \$50,000
- Regional/Sub-Regional Infrastructure Planning
Two (2) Grants, Maximum Funding \$125,000
- Statewide Visioning
One (1) Grant, Maximum Funding \$100,000
- Community Infrastructure Construction
Ten (10) Grants, Maximum Funding \$25,000

II. MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FAF's agreement with the Denali Commission was finalized January 29th, 2001, and program implementation was begun immediately. The grant guidelines and a Request for Proposals document was developed prior to the final agreement being finalized, including the required proposal format and questions, application covers, and application submittal instructions. (Copy attached.)

The Request for Proposals was distributed immediately upon finalizing the agreement with Denali Commission on January 29, 2001, and was mailed out to all tribal governments, first and second-class cities, non-profit Native regional corporations, ARDOR's, CDQ groups, and other eligible organizations statewide. In addition, a postcard mailing was sent out, in partnership with Tanana Chiefs Conference's Tribal Civilian Community Corps, notifying applicants of additional project resources available through TCCC, and several proposals received to date have included the resources of the TCCC, particularly for assistance with infrastructure construction projects. (Copy attached.)

Grant Deadlines

Friday, March 2, 2001: Community Development, Community Economic Development, and Statewide Visioning

Friday, March 16, 2001: Regional/Sub-Regional Infrastructure Planning and Community Infrastructure Construction

Proposals Received

Community Development: 14

Community Economic Development: 13

Statewide Visioning: 1

Regional/Sub-Regional Infrastructure Planning: 1

Community Infrastructure Construction: 7

Grant Selections

Initial screening of the applications for organization and project eligibility, application contents, and other necessary requirements was completed by the First Alaskans Foundation. (Form attached.) All applicants were notified of the receipt of their application by FAF, and notification of final project selections by April 30, 2001.

As outlined in our agreement with the Denali Commission, the program Selection Committee included representatives from USDA/RD, AKDCED, AFN, and other appropriate representatives, for the purposes of selecting proposals to be funded. (Committee list attached.) Committee members were provided with proposal evaluation guidelines (attached), and each proposal was evaluated by a minimum of three (3) Committee members, with final project selections discussed and completed in a meeting of the members.

Attached are lists of both the projects selected for funding and projects not selected for funding by the Selection Committee, as well as a draft press release announcing grants awarded. (Attachments)

Outcome Measurements

Specific outcome measurements for each program component as outlined in the program proposal to the Denali Commission will be reported on as selected projects are begun and implemented. The Community Planning & Development Program has the following significant accomplishments or events to report at this time:

- Began program implementation, including development and distribution (statewide) of Request for Proposals
- Selection Committee assembled and proposal screening and grant selections completed for Community Development, Community Economic Development, and Community Infrastructure Construction grants
- All program applicants notified of grant award status (award or non-award) and grant agreements developed and distributed to successful applicants
- Program outreach to organizations statewide and public relations efforts, including press releases of grants awarded

III. PROJECT ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Statewide Visioning Grant

As outlined in the Request for Proposals, the purpose of the statewide visioning grant (maximum funding \$100,000) is to develop a statewide process for planning for the future of Alaska's indigenous people and communities (both rural and urban). Eligible entities included organizations or consortia that have a statewide mandate to provide planning and other services to Alaska Natives and their communities. We received only one proposal for this grant category, and it was determined that the application was not eligible for the grant. The proposal was submitted by the Tlingit and Haida Regional Housing Authority (a regional organization as opposed to a statewide organization), for funding of a Southeast Alaska Native Housing Symposium project—a project that clearly does not fit the intended scope of a Statewide Visioning project.

To address the goal of developing a statewide visioning process, the First Alaskans Foundation has developed a partnership with the Alaska Humanities Forum's *Alaska 20/20 project*, a project developed specifically for the development and implementation of a Statewide Visioning process. A joint proposal for the visioning project has been developed for discussion with and approval by the Denali Commission. (Proposal attached.) It is anticipated that the Alaska Humanities Forum would be the primary organization for implementation of the project, with significant input and involvement (particularly regarding Alaska Native and rural issues and input) from the First Alaskans Foundation's newly formed Alaska Native Policy Center. This project is anticipated to begin in May 2001, dependent upon final approval by the Denali Commission.

Regional/Sub-Regional Infrastructure Planning Grants

The purpose of the Regional/Sub-Regional Infrastructure Planning grants (2 available for maximum funding of \$125,000) is to seek new and better information on the desirability and viability of multi-community infrastructure development in the areas of basic utility, transportation and life, health, and safety infrastructure, including transportation planning, public facilities construction planning, facilities maintenance planning, and other innovative plans for future infrastructure development and sustainability. The Selection Committee did not select any of the proposals submitted for this category for funding, determining that none of the proposed projects fit the intended scope and intent for Regional or Sub-Regional Infrastructure Planning. It is our intent to re-define and clarify the grant criteria and send out a Request for Proposals soliciting proposals specific to this grant category in May 2001.

IV. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD

During the next reporting period, the Community Planning & Development Program anticipates accomplishing the following major activities:

- Complete development of Visioning Project scope and begin implementation with the Alaska Humanities Forum
- Re-define grant criteria and solicit proposals for the Regional/Sub-Regional Infrastructure Planning grants, and complete project selections
- Complete all grant agreements and disburse initial grant funds
- Project implementation begins for all selected projects
- Reporting and monitoring of selected projects, as well as additional funds disbursements as outlined in grant agreements
- Continued program outreach, including program information inclusion on First Alaskans Foundation and Denali Commission websites