

Annual Grantmaking Guidelines

1. Grant Program Overview

The Manh Choh Community Fund (MCCF) was established with a \$1 million legacy gift from Kinross Gold to the Alaska Community Foundation (ACF). The Fund will operate in perpetuity under ACF, with annual accrued interest being utilized for grantmaking cycles that benefit the Manh Choh footprint communities. This fund will provide a sustainable resource for the following communities:

- Delta Junction
- Dot Lake
- Healy Lake
- Mentasta
- Northway
- Tok
- Tetlin
- Tanacross

The Fund is designed to provide annual funding in the form of grants that strengthen and enhance community well-being. While ACF holds fiscal oversight and final approval authority, the Fund's direction and grantmaking are guided by the Manh Choh Community Fund Advisory Committee (FAC). The Committee, composed of representatives of the footprint communities, reviews applications, makes funding recommendations, and ensures that grantmaking reflects local priorities and values.

2. Who Can Apply

Eligibility for funding is limited to organizations and entities that can demonstrate charitable purpose and alignment with the Fund's mission.

Eligible applicants include:

- Nonprofit organizations with current 501(c)3 designation
- Organizations that have a fiscal sponsor with a 501(c)3 designation
- Tribes and Tribal entities
- K-12 schools
- City governments and boroughs
- Collaborations of nonprofit and public agencies
- Organizations with religious affiliations will be considered for funding only if the project for which they seek support addresses the needs of the wider community without regard to religious beliefs

501(c)4, 501(c)6, and 501(c)7 organizations are NOT eligible for funding.

Use the links to learn more about how the IRS defines these designations, examples below:

- [501\(c\)4](#): civic leagues or other social welfare organizations; local employee associations.
- [501\(c\)6](#): business leagues, chambers of commerce
- [501\(c\)7](#): social clubs like hunting clubs, sports clubs, or other clubs organized for recreation or pleasure

Questions about your organization's designation? Contact the Manh Choh team, grants@manhchohcommunityfund.org.

3. Organizational Coordination

Organizations are expected to submit **one application per grant cycle**. We strongly encourage internal coordination and prioritization of your highest-impact need before applying.

We recognize that some entities (such as school districts or tribal governments) operate multiple programs or locations. In limited cases, more than one application may be submitted; however, applicants should make every reasonable effort to consolidate requests.

While multiple applications will not automatically disqualify an organization, the Committee may prioritize among submissions from the same entity based on overall impact, available funding, and equitable distribution across communities.

4. Funding Priorities

The Fund invests in six priority areas identified by the Manh Choh footprint communities. These areas represent the shared values and long-term goals of the region and will guide the distribution of resources:

Focus Area	Focus Area Examples
Community Health and Well-being <i>Healthy People</i>	▪ Mental and emotional wellness ▪ Elder care and aging support ▪ Family and community safety ▪ Substance use prevention and recovery ▪ Basic needs and crisis support
Cultural Enhancement and Historical Preservation <i>Culture and Heritage</i>	▪ Language and arts activities ▪ Cultural practices and intergenerational knowledge
Economic Development <i>Local Livelihoods</i>	▪ Tourism activities ▪ Entrepreneurial and small business efforts ▪ Income-generating community initiatives
Educational Opportunities <i>Learning and Youth</i>	▪ Student activities ▪ Athletic activities ▪ Lifelong learning and skills training
Environmental Protection and Conservation <i>Land and Stewardship</i>	▪ Stewardship of land, water, fish, wildlife ▪ Environmental education ▪ Conservation activities
Infrastructure Improvements <i>Community Assets</i>	▪ Community facilities ▪ Equipment ▪ Capital items that serve public benefit

5. What We Fund

The Fund supports a wide variety of charitable projects and programs, provided they deliver tangible benefits to the Manh Choh communities.

Programs & Initiatives	Multi-year or ongoing efforts that provide lasting community benefit.
Projects	Defined activities with a clear start and end date.
Events	One-time events may be considered, but preference will be given to proposals with long-term community impact.
Capital & Equipment	Modest capital or equipment purchases that directly support program delivery.

6. What We Cannot Fund

Certain types of requests fall outside the Fund's scope. The Fund does not provide support for general operating expenses or administrative overhead, deficit reduction or debt repayment, reimbursements for expenses already incurred, or partisan political activity.

Religious programming is not eligible for support; however, faith-based organizations may apply for funding to support secular community activities. Additionally, projects that discriminate on the basis of race, gender, orientation, age, disability, or other protected categories will not be considered for funding.

7. Grant Cycle and Process

The Fund operates a twice-yearly cycle, with the timelines for each cycle included with the application. The total amount of funding available in each cycle is determined by available resources and will be announced at the launch of the cycle.

2026 Grant Cycle Dates

Spring: March 2 – April 10

Fall: August 31 – October 9

The FAC will review and score applications individually, then meet to deliberate, discuss, and rank proposals. The Committee may choose to approve a request in full, decline a request, defer it to a future cycle, or modify the request by offering partial funding. All decisions, including recusals and rationales, are recorded to ensure accountability and transparency.

The Committee's recommendations are then forwarded to ACF, who will verify that applicants and applications meet all compliance requirements. ACF has final approval authority for all grant awards.

8. Grant Size and Terms

While we accept grant requests of all amounts, grant awards typically range between **\$3,000 and \$5,000**, with the exact number and size of awards dependent on the funds available in each cycle. Partial funding is possible.

2026 Grant Cycle Funds Available

Spring: \$100,000

Fall: \$100,000

The distribution of awards across footprint communities will be considered annually, with attention given to need, fairness, and equity across the region.

9. Award and Reporting Requests

Organizations selected for funding will receive an award letter and a grant agreement outlining requirements. Funds are disbursed once all required agreements are signed and documentation is complete.

All grantees are asked to submit a brief report within one year of receiving funds. These brief reports will summarize the activity, any outcomes or achievements, and may include a photo that can be used in fund announcements and communications.

10. Community Engagement and Transparency

The Fund is committed to transparency and open communication with the communities it serves. Community input will be collected on an ongoing basis through a feedback form included in communications. The Committee will share annual grant cycle information regularly through email, local newspapers, and other public announcements.

11. Contact Information

For all questions about the grant cycle, please contact: grants@manhchohcommunityfund.org