

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

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Monday, February 06, 2012

2012 Alaska Teachers' Scholarship Program Request for Proposals ~ Application Deadline March 30, 2012

To: Interested Alaskan Teachers

Director Franci Havemeister is pleased to announce the availability of funds through the 2012 Alaska Teachers' Scholarship Program (ATSP). Funding is a result of the successful USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG) proposal submitted by the Division of Agriculture.

Eligible *specialty crops* include fruits, vegetables, and nursery crops including floriculture. Your projects must focus on eligible Alaska Grown specialty crops. Crops that **DO NOT** qualify as specialty crops under the federal agreement are: feed crops (such as barley, corn, hay, oats) livestock, dairy products, eggs and aquaculture products.

Scholarship amounts for the ATSP are up to \$500 each. Applicants will be eligible for 50% of the scholarship amount up front. After the final report is turned in, the remaining 50% will be paid out to awarded recipients. Contracts will be made with the teachers directly, and will not go through the school districts. Because the funding amount is under \$600 you will not have to report this as personal income.

The purpose of the ATSP is to introduce or expand agricultural in your curriculum. Scholarship funding can be used to purchase: books, videos, supplies, transportation to participate in a farm tour, etc. Teachers can apply independently for scholarships or collaborate with one another on their projects. If teachers do apply for a "group" project, each will still be responsible to complete an application and final report. This scholarship program is open to home schooling teachers. If you home school, and only have a few children, you can partner with other teachers to reach the minimum number of 20 students/ project. There is an exception for villages, where only a minimum of 10 students must be met. For village schools the scholarship amount is \$300 per 10 students.

Requirements of the contracts will include:

- **Contracting directly with teachers, not with the school districts.**
- **Minimum number of 20 students reached (for each \$500 grant) through the curriculum utilized.**
- **Maximum of three teachers collaborating per project (for a total of \$1500 and minimum of 60 students reached).**

"To responsibly develop Alaska's resources by making them available for maximum use and benefit consistent with the public interest."

- *Village schools must reach 10 students per \$300 scholarship. Collaborating with other villages is approved and encouraged. Maximum of three teachers collaborating per project (for a total of \$900 per project and minimum of 30 students reached).*
- *Documenting how you tracked results to demonstrate that students have a better understanding of agriculture.*
- *A list of items purchased with receipts.*
- *Conducting a pre & post assessment to gauge students' knowledge of agriculture.*

Applicants should submit proposals using the proposal requirements supplied. Please review the application information **carefully**. The application, evaluation methods, sample proposal and budget sheet can be found online. Click [here](#) to access it.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the curriculum outlined, number of students reached and future ability to utilize curriculum, participation and collaboration with Ag in the Classroom (AITC) or an expert in your project area. Please see the criteria and points associated with each evaluation method. The Division of Agriculture intends to award multiple contracts from this solicitation.

Proposals must be received at either the Central or Northern Region Division of Agriculture (Division) offices (see above addresses) by 5:00 pm on Friday, March 30, 2012. You may also email the application to Kristi.Krueger@alaska.gov .

Selected proposals will be announced by April 13, 2012. Projects and reports must be complete and submitted to the Central office of the Division by 5:00 pm on December 28, 2012. Final reports received after that time and date will be considered late and influence evaluation points given on future proposals. If you have any questions, please contact Kristi Krueger at Kristi.Krueger@alaska.gov or (907) 761-3858.

Sincerely,

Kristi Krueger
Project Assistant

Cc: Franci Havemeister, Director
Amy Pettit, Marketing Program