

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

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Friday, July 31, 2009

2009 Alaska Teachers' Scholarship Program Request for Proposals ~ Application Deadline August 28th, 2009

To: Interested Alaskan Teachers

Director Franci Havemeister is pleased to announce the availability of funds through the new 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 cannot focus on ineligible Alaska Grown products that **DO NOT** qualify as specialty crops under the federal agreement such as: feed crops (such as barley, corn, hay, oats) livestock, dairy products, eggs and aquaculture products.

Scholarship amounts for the ATSP are \$500 each. Applicants will be eligible for up 80% of the scholarship amount (\$400) up front. After the final report is turned in, the remaining 20% (\$100) will be paid out to awarded recipients.

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, and then collaborate with one another on their projects. This scholarship program is open to home schooling teachers. If you home school, and only have a few children, you can apply as a group, to reach the minimum number of 20 students/ curriculum.

Requirements of the contracts will include:

- Minimum number of 20 students reached through the curriculum utilized.
- How you tracked results to demonstrate that students have a better understanding of agriculture.
- A list of items purchased with receipts.
- Conducting two surveys, one prior to and one following the implementation of the project, 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 at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag>.

"Develop, Conserve, and Enhance Natural Resources for Present and Future Alaskans."

Proposals will be evaluated based on the curriculum outlined, number of students reached, future ability to utilize curriculum, participation and collaboration with Ag in the Classroom (AITC). 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, August 28, 2009.

Selected proposals will be announced by September 18, 2009. Projects and reports must be complete and submitted to the Central office of the Division by 5:00 pm on June 18, 2010. 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 Patricia O'Neil at Patricia.ONeil@alaska.gov, (907) 761-3858.

Sincerely,

Patricia O'Neil
Natural Resource Specialist

Cc: Douglas Warner, Marketing & Inspection Administrator
Amy Pettit, Development Specialist