



Alaska Tobacco Advocacy Initiative: Request for Applications Mini-grant Program, 2009

INTRODUCTION:

The American Lung Association in Alaska in partnership with the State of Alaska is leading the statewide youth movement against tobacco use with The Alaska Tobacco Advocacy Initiative (AkTAI).

One primary goal of this statewide youth movement is to empower and support community level youth. We'll award \$2,000 mini-grants for up to twelve local youth groups to work on tobacco control advocacy. Youth groups associated with schools, faith communities, teen centers, community groups, or other agencies are encouraged to apply.

Groups do not have to be currently working in tobacco control to apply, but relating tobacco prevention efforts to the group's core mission is encouraged.

The deadline for applications is September 30, 2009 (date postmarked by).

Grant recipients who fulfill the requirements of the program shall send a minimum of two youth and one adult advisor to the Youth Tobacco Summit in February 2010 in Anchorage at no cost. Additional members can attend at their own expense. Arrangements for travel and lodging will be made by the AkTAI Coordinator. The summit will provide training in media literacy, youth advocacy, and provide networking opportunities for youth around the state.

Implementation of grant activities must be completed by May 1, 2010, and final reports will be due on May 31, 2010. Extensions will not be given as a part of this grant program; grantees will be expected to spend all allocated funds within the timeline of this grant.

PURPOSE OF GRANT:

Those working with youth have long observed that young people can be very effective agents of change. The purpose of the youth led tobacco use and prevention grants are to engage Alaska youth ages 13-18 or grades 7-12 in the statewide movement against tobacco use and to create a network of youth groups and tobacco advocacy projects. Youth engagement is the cornerstone of this initiative.

Youth Role: As youth members, you are running the show, learning how to make sure your voice is heard and how to create community change. Members will also have opportunities to serve in leadership positions in a statewide organization and advisory group.

Adult Sponsor Role: Each grant application must have an adult group sponsor who is willing to be responsible for the grant money, turning in receipts, and overseeing the youth during the projects. **The youth are to take the leading role filling out the grant application, planning the projects, and following up with the final report.**

PROGRAM GOALS:

1. Encouragement of youth-led anti-corporate tobacco projects
2. Increase awareness of corporate tobacco's targeting of youth
3. Participation in local and statewide tobacco control movement in Alaska
4. Increase media literacy, peer education, and grassroots advocacy into tobacco prevention and control programs

The \$2,000 in grant funding can be used for meetings, trainings, community/school projects and an adult stipend. No more than \$500 of the total grant can be used for the adult stipend. Each project will be led by youth and supported by a school, faith organization, or community-based agency, which provides adult support.

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANT RECIPIENTS:

1. All grantees must have a sponsoring organization that is a school, faith organization, or community based agency. The sponsoring organization must be willing to assume fiscal responsibility for the funds awarded and is responsible for submitting the required final report.
2. All grantees must have an adult advisor/sponsor that works with and supports the youth group leading the project and acts as the adult contact.
3. All grantees must have a minimum of five youth and one adult advisor involved in the project.
4. Each grantee shall send two youth representatives and an adult sponsor to the Alaska Youth Advocacy Summit in February 2010 in Anchorage.
5. Participation in two youth advocacy activities targeting tobacco: including but not limited to a Photo Journal project and/or store front.

REPORTING:

1. All grantees should attend monthly group teleconferences, and/or check-in monthly by phone with the AkTAI Coordinator.
2. All grantees must provide the AkTAI Coordinator copies of any materials produced and media coverage as a result of grant activities.
3. Grantee agrees to work with the Tobacco Control Program technical assistance staff and evaluation contractors throughout the course of this project.

NOTICE TO APPLICANTS:

1. AkTAI is also developing a statewide youth advocacy advisory group. Opportunities to assist with this and other projects and provide youth input will be available to all grantees.
2. Money awarded through the grant program cannot be spent on lobbying (call for action and/or direct support of state legislation) on behalf of a specific bill.
3. Youth Advocacy Groups and their sponsors cannot receive funding not have affiliations or contractual relationships with any tobacco company, its affiliates or subsidiaries or its parent company.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

The application is in two parts, the youth portion and the adult advisor portion. The youth portion should be completed by the youth group, and then the sponsor should fill out the adult portion. Both sections must be included for consideration.

You may include additional materials with your application like pictures, letters of support, stories, or videos. We cannot promise to return your additional information. The AkTAI reserves the right to use these materials from approved grants for promotion and evaluation.

The AkTAI Coordinator will provide administrative services for this grant program by managing the grant making process and providing technical assistance to all interested applicants. If you have any questions about the application process please contact Jennifer Adzima AkTAI Coordinator at (907) 644-6410 or jadzima@aklung.org

TIMELINE:

1. Deadline for Applications: postmarked by September 30, 2009
2. Notification of Funding: October 9, 2009
3. Final Report Due: May 31, 2009

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