

University of Alaska Grant Writing Network Final Report

Jun 30, 2025

Project Title: The University of Alaska Grant Writing Network

Award Amount: \$29,931

Project Duration: January 2024 - December 2024, extended to June 2025 with permission from Dr. Paul Layer

Project Overview

This FIF award successfully established a network and web platform connecting aspiring and experienced grant writers across Alaska's three university campuses and rural communities. Now known as the **Alaska Grant Writing Network** to highlight its availability to all Alaskans, the project addresses Alaska's critical need for enhanced grant writing capacity, the project created centralized resources, training opportunities, and networking tools to maximize funding opportunities for Alaskan communities. The initiative directly supported UA's mission to advance knowledge and serve Alaska's diverse peoples while building cross-campus collaboration between UAA, UAF, UAS, and rural campuses.

Key Accomplishments and Quantifiable Outcomes

- **Network Growth:** 149 Network members, enrolled in a mailing list
- **Educational Impact:** 30 students enrolled in WRTG 280 (Grant Writing) across multiple semesters.
- **Active Website Users:** 945
- **Funding Obtained:** *Uṅalaqliq Inupiaq Artist Takes the Lead*, Naomi Jones, UAF Northwest, \$69,000, awarded June 16, 2025

Cross-Campus Collaboration and Impact

The network fostered strong collaboration across the UA system. The Network launch team included faculty from UAA's Department of Writing, UAF's Communication Department, UAS Ketchikan, and Mat-Su College. Website resources and regular virtual workshops reached participants from Sitka to Fairbanks, with members of the three major campuses, including staff, actively engaging in grant writing professional development.

Deliverables

The project produced a fully functional website (www.alaska.edu/writegrants/) featuring Alaska-specific funding opportunities, a job board with grant writing positions posted, a directory of UA grant writing courses, and a moderated discussion forum. Additional outputs include a mailing list, a regular newsletter reaching 149 subscribers, and a total of five webinars. The website is the cornerstone of the Network. It includes a guide to Alaska-based and federal funders, a page listing local funding opportunities, a "Key Topics" guide providing introductory guidance on grant writing, a grant writing jobs classified page listing positions available across the state, and community resources, including a discussion board and mailing list.

Implementation Highlights

The Network launched successfully in October 2024 following extensive website user testing with Alaska grant writers and systematic population of resources by two undergraduate interns. Other implementation highlights include the five free grant writing webinars, which were promoted widely by the Network members and partners and archived on the website. These include: the [Alaska Grant Writing Network launch event](#), October 15, 2024; [Grant Writing and AI](#), November 12, 2024; [Nurturing Partnerships for Nonprofits](#), December 10, 2024; [AlaskaX Grant Proposal Writing Webinar](#), March 23, 2025, and [The Federal Funding Situation in Alaska: Updates and Q&A](#), April 28, 2025. Challenges included the sudden change in the federal budget grant environment beginning in January of 2025, which required a revision to some website resources.

Budget Summary

Due to careful stewardship of grant funds, including lower than anticipated web development costs, we were able to bring the project in under budget and return funds to the Faculty Initiative Fund. Of our initial \$26,007 budget, we spent approximately \$23,858.00 the full amount to be determined when the final pay period is complete.

Expenditures included **\$13,748** for wages (PI and Co-PI course releases, plus wages for student workers), **\$3,464** for benefits, **\$3,400** for professional web development (\$6,995), **\$1,886** for Candid database subscription, and **\$700** for contractor services.

[The full project budget can be viewed here.](#)

Sustainability and Future Directions

In Summer 2024, PI Harnish presented on the Network to faculty at the University of West Florida and the University of Florida system. PI Harnish is in the process of preparing a 2026-2027 FIF proposal to support the Network's operations going forward.

Bottom Line Impact

The University of Alaska Grant Writing Network has enhanced grant seeking capacity across Alaska. This initiative positions UA as one of the state's primary resources for grant writing education and support, fulfilling our mission to serve Alaska's communities while building intellectual capital that will benefit the state for years to come.