

## Small Fry School

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*2018 Seward Community Foundation Mini-Grant Program*

### ***Seward Association for the Advancement of Marine Science, dba Alaska SeaLife Center***

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# Application Form

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## Instructions

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The Seward Community Foundation (SCF), an Affiliate of The Alaska Community Foundation (ACF), seeks applications from qualified, tax exempt 501(c)(3) organizations (or equivalents, such as Tribal entities, schools, and faith-based organizations) that support charitable organizations and programs in the **Seward/Moose Pass** area. Mini-grants of up to \$1,000 are intended to be a flexible funding opportunity that may support a broad range of community needs throughout the year, including but not limited to health and wellness, education, the great outdoors, arts and culture, and community development.

Grant projects must be completed within one year of award and are subject to the grantee completing an online grant agreement signifying acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant. A final grant report and any other outstanding follow ups must also be submitted online before the grantee will be eligible for future grant opportunities from SCF. Due dates and the forms to submit for these follow ups can be found by logging into the online grant system.

**Grant applications must be submitted online.** The Seward Community Foundation's Advisory Board reviews mini-grant applications at their monthly meeting and the **deadline to submit an application for consideration is the first Wednesday of each month.** Any overdue grant reports or other follow ups for previous grant awards from ACF and its Affiliates must also be submitted using the online grant system prior to the deadline for the current application to be considered.

**Please review SCF's Mini-Grant Guidelines to determine your eligibility before applying.**

Please direct **general questions** to SCF's Program Manager, Allison Fong, at [afong@alaskacf.org](mailto:afong@alaskacf.org). Please direct **eligibility and technical questions** about the online grant system to ACF's Affiliate Program Officer, Shawn Rivera, at [srivera@alaskacf.org](mailto:srivera@alaskacf.org) or 907-274-6708.

## Organization Information

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### Name of Organization\*

Seward Association for the Advancement of Marine Science dba Alaska SeaLife Center

### Organization's EIN\*

92-0132479

### Organization Type\*

Only qualified, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organizations (or equivalents, such as Tribal entities, schools, and faith-based organizations) that support charitable organizations and programs in the **Seward/Moose Pass** area are eligible to apply. Please review SCF's Mini-Grant Guidelines to determine your eligibility **before applying.** If you are unsure of your organization's eligibility, please contact ACF's Affiliate Program Officer, Shawn Rivera, at [srivera@alaskacf.org](mailto:srivera@alaskacf.org) or 907-274-6708.

501(c)(3)

### Organization's Location\*

Is your organization located in the Seward/Moose Pass area? If not, will your project/program benefit this area?

Yes

### Benefits to Area (optional)

If your organization is not located in the area but you believe your proposed project/program will benefit area residents, please explain how.

### Mission Statement\*

What is your organization's mission statement?

The Alaska SeaLife Center generates and shares scientific knowledge to promote understanding and stewardship of Alaska's marine ecosystems.

### Description of Organization (optional)

Please provide any additional information about your organization that you wish to share.

The Alaska SeaLife Center (ASLC) is a private, non-profit marine science and education facility located on the shores of Resurrection Bay in Seward, Alaska. The Center is the only facility in Alaska that combines a public aquarium with marine research, education, and wildlife response. The year 2018 marks the 20-year anniversary of the Center's opening in 1998.

The Alaska SeaLife Center is:

- A uniquely positioned cold water research center, contributing valuable scientific understanding of marine mammals, birds, and fish to the world, as well as informing the management of the region;
- Alaska's only Association of Zoos and Aquariums accredited facility, meeting a standard of excellence in and commitment to animal care, conservation and education;
- Alaska's only marine mammal rehabilitation facility in support of orphaned and injured animals, data collection, and wildlife response capability in the event of natural or manmade disasters;
- At the forefront of communication on climate change research and its impact on marine ecosystems;
- The only public aquarium in Alaska, focusing its exhibits entirely on regional sea life and research;
- Annually educating over 165,000 students, national and international tourists, and Alaska residents through memorable wildlife encounters and educational experiences that will inform lifelong choices; and
- Sustained by the financial support of our members, partners, funders, corporate and individual donors.

### Previous Grant Award Details (if applicable/known)

Please list the project title and date of your most recent grant award, if applicable/known.

Engaging Seward in community sciences: a pilot project for local environment observations, \$5,269 and Ocean Science Club, 2018-2019, \$3,000

**Any outstanding follow ups for previous grant awards from ACF and its Affiliates must be submitted using the online grant system prior to the deadline for the current application to be considered.**

Please contact ACF's Affiliate Program Officer, Shawn Rivera, at [srivera@alaskacf.org](mailto:srivera@alaskacf.org) or 907-274-6708 before continuing your application if you have not or are unsure if you have completed a grant report for a previous grant award.

## **Project/Program Information**

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### **Project/Program Name\***

Small Fry School

### **Project/Program Start Date\***

When will your proposed project/program begin?

11/05/2018

### **Project/Program End Date\***

When will your proposed project/program end? **Please note that awarded grant projects must be completed within one year of receiving a grant.**

02/25/2019

### **Project/Program Description\***

Please describe your proposed project/program, including a discussion of the community need and if you are planning to collaborate/partner with other community organizations or entities.

The purpose of this funding request is to establish a Pre-Kindergarten program for local area residents (Seward and Moose Pass). This program will allow parents to bring their children (ages 3-5) to the Aquarium for one-on-one, hands-on programs with our Education Staff.

2018 will be the pilot year for this program, as we have never offered this type of opportunity to our visitors before. We propose to offer a weekly program on Monday mornings between 10 and 11am, prior to our open public hours during off-season. This time window will allow full access to the Center with no interruptions from regular guests. We will coordinate the program day with other Pre-K programs in town so we can supplement the offerings available to parents of preschool age children. It is important to us that we enhance rather than compete with other programs in town, such as the reading program at the library. The program will run from November through February.

We understand the need for programs and activities for this particular audience; it is never too early to promote discovery and wonder, as well as respect and care for our ocean. We are also aware of the strain parents face when looking for affordable activities for their little ones. We wish to make this program free for participants as we know that Seward has a high percentage of low income families. This is a population that is not being fully served by other community resources, and we want to help fill that gap!

We hope that this initial funding will allow us to leverage other funding sources to maintain the Pre-K program for years to come! We will offer this program during the months of November through February, with the intent to expand the time period in future years if there is enough interest.

### **Project/Program Goals\***

Please describe the goals of your proposed project/program, including what outcomes you hope to achieve.

The main objective of this new program is to introduce pre-school aged children (and their caregivers) to the ocean and all the animals that live within this ecosystem. We would like to use this as an opportunity to build the next generation of ocean stewards in Seward, which is in line with the mission of the ALC. Weekly lessons will be designed to keep the children both engaged and active by utilizing hands-on activities, entertaining books, and fun crafts. Themes will focus on Alaska marine ecosystems, and specifically the ecosystem of Resurrection Bay.

We hope to provide a place of learning and enjoyment, in which parents accompany their children. During the shorter daylight winter hours, parents home with little ones can quickly run out of educational learning opportunities, especially if there is a cost involved. We will work in conjunction with Seward's established pre-k programs to find a day that will compliment, rather than compete, with these other community programs, thus allowing us to continue to help the pre-k community find more things to do with their parents.

An advantage to scheduling this program before the doors to the Center are open to the public, we hope that this will provide uninterrupted access to the community for optimal learning and engagement of our young stewards. This also allows us to use the Center to our full capacity; instead of trying to find quiet corners, constantly telling the children to use their inside voices, or worry about other folks being in the way of our games, we can have total run of the Center.

### **Project/Program Benefits\***

Please describe the benefits of your proposed project/program. What will improve on in the Seward/Moose Pass area as a result of this project/program? Who and how many individuals will benefit from this program/project?

This is a pilot program, which we hope will fill a new niche for our local preschool-aged children and their caregivers. We do not have exact numbers on who in the community will be served, nor what kind of participation we will get. However, there have been requests for such a program over the past several years. We hope that this coming fall we will have secured the funds to start the program and make it available to eligible participants in the Seward and Moose Pass areas.

There is a potential need for this program that will be greater than the 20 preschoolers and 20 caregivers to whom we plan to offer this pilot program. The pilot program will help to answer the question of program relevance and interest within the community.

### **Measuring Success\***

Please describe the outcomes that will define if your project/program is successful, including how your organization plans to track and report on these outcomes. Please also describe how your proposed project/program will continue beyond the original grant term, if applicable.

The Alaska SeaLife Center measures success by attendee numbers, which include participants of the many special programs, tours, and events provided throughout the year. Success for the Small Fry School will be measured by sustained attendance week to week. Caregivers will be asked to fill out surveys periodically in an effort to adapt the program to current interests and needs of the group.

Parents will be asked to use sign-in sheets each time they and their preschooler attend the program. The sheets will provide the means for tracking participants, and a comment column will offer immediate feedback for the education staff on the success of the activities and themes. The participation numbers will help determine the viability of continuing the program.

## **Project/Program Budget**

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### **Total Project/Program Budget\***

\$5,000.00

### **Amount Requested\***

Please note that individual grant amounts will be awarded up to \$1,000.

\$1,000.00

### **Project/Program Budget Form\***

Please download, complete, and upload the Project/Program Budget Form below. At the bottom of the form, please also list other sources of funding you are seeking and the status of those requests.

#### **Project/Program Budget Form**

In the box below, please describe the line items from the budget worksheet in detail.

SCF-Mini-Grant-Budget-Sheet, Small Fry School.xlsx

The costs for this new program will be low in this pilot year. The expenses will cover staff time to develop the weekly programs and then implement the lessons. Other costs will be for program supplies, each lesson will involve a marine-themed arts and craft project. The final costs will be for a nutritious snack. We have secured 50% of the funding from Wells Fargo Foundation and have submitted a request for funding from Holland America Group Community Board. The ASLC plans to provide this program should SCF select to not fund the project. However, this funding will ensure new program content rather than recycling existing supplies and will help cover costs for a snacks.

## ***Optional Documentation***

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### **Other Useful Information (optional)**

Please provide any other useful information that could help the SCF Grants Committee evaluate your grant application. If desired, you can also upload letters of support and other documentation below.

## ***Electronic Signature***

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### **Authorized Signature\***

By typing my name below, I certify that the information provided in this grant application is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge, and that I am authorized to submit this application on behalf of my organization.

I authorize The Alaska Community Foundation to verify any information submitted as part of this application. I also agree to allow any information on this application (unless otherwise noted) to be released for publication.

Tara L. Riemer

### **Title\***

President and CEO

### **Date\***

09/04/2018

**Please complete the grant application process by clicking the [Submit Application] button below.**

## File Attachment Summary

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### *Applicant File Uploads*

- SCF-Mini-Grant-Budget-Sheet, Small Fry School.xlsx



