



# Request for Qualifications

Evaluator - Chugachmiut Education Innovation & Research Early Phase Grant FY24

## INTRODUCTION

Chugachmiut requests considerations from qualified researchers or research firms (henceforth referred to as the “researcher”) to serve as Principal Investigators in a five-year grant application to the federal Department of Education for the FY24 Education Innovation and Research Grant (Assistance Listing Number: 84.411C Early Phase Grants).

Chugachmiut is preparing an application for a five-year development of a transformative education partnership between the Chugachmiut Tribal Education Department and three remote/rural Alaska Native tribes and public high schools. (This partnership project will be henceforth referred to as the “Intervention”).

Within the budget of \$1 million over 5 years, we invite researchers to submit a proposal outlining the qualifications of serving as the Principal Investigator of this Intervention.

### **Project Information**

This project will use a Theory of Change model to develop an Intervention in three rural/remote high schools, each serving 30 to 40 Alaska Native students and non-Native peers. The Intervention introduces a place-based and local artist-driven curriculum. It will operate with the hypothesis that its teaching components will improve social-emotional learning factors, particularly related to identity, belonging, and placehood.

This multi-faceted Intervention promises to fill many voids in remote and rural schools throughout the Chugach region. Alaska Native voices comprise the local community's identity and place-based knowledge but are not yet dominant in the school experience. Students will be provided heritage instruction by local artists who contribute to the vibrant local culture of their communities. This Intervention will facilitate tribal artists, Elders, and other school community experts to serve in schools as teachers and storytellers. The evaluation will follow the intervention implementation and utilize the methodology of a quasi-experimental study to assess the effectiveness of the intervention in improving social-emotional learning factors.



## ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

**Organization:** Chugachmiut

**Address:** 1840 Bragaw Street, Suite 110  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

**Contact:** Paul McDonogh, Department of Education Director  
[paul@chugachmiut.org](mailto:paul@chugachmiut.org)

**Telephone:** (907) 562-4155

**Project:** Chugachmiut Education Innovation and Research Project

**Proposal Due:** Thursday, July 12, 2024, at 5 PM AKST

## BACKGROUND OF CHUGACHMIUT

**Chugachmiut is an Alaska Native Tribal consortium** providing healthcare, social services, and education & training to the Chugach region. The Internal Revenue Service recognizes Chugachmiut as a charitable, tax-exempt organization pursuant to section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. We serve the Prince William Sound and Kachemak Bay areas comprised of the following tribes: Qutekcak (Seward), Nanwalek, Port Graham, Tatitlek, Eyak (Cordova), Valdez, and Chenega. Chugachmiut was founded in 1974 with a defined mission to promote self-determination to the seven Native communities of the Chugach region, adopted in May 1994.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.chugachmiut.org](http://www.chugachmiut.org).

The **Chugachmiut Tribal Education Department** (CTED) is a new addition to the Chugachmiut community that is expanding with educational services activities through federal grant administration. The CTED incorporates the Chugachmiut Heritage Programs, which have a twenty-year history of documenting, recording, and teaching about the histories of our region's Sugpiaq and Eyak communities. We partner with four school districts and provide educational services that improve whole learning and community integration of school services.

For more information on the CTED, please visit [www.chugachheritageak.org](http://www.chugachheritageak.org).

## SERVICES TO BE PERFORMED BY THE RESEARCHER

The researcher will develop a research plan with a total cost of \$1 million over 5 years that will study the effectiveness of the Intervention using a quasi-experimental study design. This evaluation will produce research conclusions on the outcomes related to student learning.

Services will also include guiding the program implementation and overall project management plan to incorporate research elements to complete a high-quality quasi-experimental study of the research. This research plan and cost estimate will form the foundation of Chugachmiut's proposal to the U.S. Department of Education Innovation and Research Grant.

### **Qualifications for the principal investigator:**

- Must hold a PhD or equivalent terminal degree in Indigenous studies, education, or curriculum & instructional design or have demonstrated an equivalent research repertoire highlighting Indigenous education and self-determination efforts.
- Must have some experience working on a federally funded grant project.
- Must understand the methodology for developing and implementing an evaluation plan appropriate to Alaska Native Tribal communities.
- Must be available to travel to remote/rural Alaskan communities in Southcentral Alaska several times during the project period.

### **An ideal candidate:**

- Must demonstrate prior successful experience:
  - Designing quasi-experimental studies on school populations that meet the What Works Clearinghouse standards for research “without reservation” or “with reservation.”
  - Tribal education research, particularly in models for whole learning models, transformational Indigenous praxis, or social-emotional learning based on identity and placehood.
  - Creating research tools and guiding project implementation to ensure limited threats to research validity.

### **Specific responsibilities of the researcher:**

- 1.** The researcher will create an evaluation plan that must incorporate measures to achieve the following quality measures:
  - a.** Establish relevance and connection to various education dialogues about identity, belonging, placehood, and tribal education program outcomes.
  - b.** Create relevant process and outcome evaluation questions to guide the five-year study of the Intervention's outcomes on improving student social-emotional learning success by incorporating a place-based co-teaching course in three high schools.
  - c.** Design a quasi-experimental study that clearly outlines how to study control and experimental groups during the five-year period.
  - d.** Substantially identify and mitigate threats to validity, both internal and external, using the standards described by the WWC.
  - e.** Incorporate Evidence of Effectiveness as described in the Every Student Succeeds Act.
- 2.** The researcher must develop a project management plan with a timeline for the research, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing tasks over the five-year project period.
- 3.** The researcher must include a detailed cost for services, including an itemized budget for 12-month intervals and exact costs or estimates of personnel salaries, fringe, travel, materials and supplies, and other projected expenditures, at minimum.
- 4.** The researcher will provide comprehensive and timely support to the project team and Chugachmiut administration to develop timely research tools.

### **TIMELINE**

All proposals must be received by **5 PM AKST on Thursday, July 12, 2024.**

If funded, the project will begin in December 2024 and continue for 60 months. The first full school year will be dedicated to project planning, evaluation planning, and developing partnerships and infrastructure with schools. Students will begin the program in September 2026 and continue each year until May 2030. The final evaluation of the program will be completed before October 2030.

Chugachmiut will review and select the highest-scoring proposal by 5 PM AKST, Monday, July 15, 2024. The selected researcher must provide a signed Letter of Support to the grant project by 5 PM Friday, July 19, 2024.

## PROPOSALS FOR THIS EVALUATION SERVICE

Chugachmiut invites the researcher to submit a brief narrative of a research philosophy and work history relevant to the project perspective. To simplify the evaluation of proposals and to obtain maximum comparability, the researcher should prepare proposals organized in the manner and format described below:

### **A. Executive Summary (suggested maximum length 200 words)**

- Describe the researcher's philosophy that aligns with the direction described in this program; provide an overview of the evaluation proposal; and describe the ability to perform the work within the timeframe provided.

### **B. Professional Experience (suggested length ½ page to 1 page)**

- Identify the specific person(s) who will be assigned to this engagement, including the roles and responsibilities to this evaluation project. In the proposal, please provide brief biographical sketches specifying relevant experience to the types of services requested. Attach CVs or resumes as Appendix A of the proposal.
- Describe how and why the research philosophy, organization structure, and qualifications are ideal for serving Tribal non-profit organizations and/or governments. Include relevant research repertoire, copies of research publications, or other resources that address perspectives relevant to this field of work in Appendix B of the proposal.

### **C. Impact Statement (suggested length ½ page to 1 page)**

- Please summarize how the research approaches have impacted or will impact people, culture, and place-based learning, particularly related to Tribal education, place-based learning, social-emotional learning, or Native language revitalization. Include relevant evidence or prior projects, research publications, and/or evaluations as attachments in Appendix B.

### **D. Methodology**

- Provide a brief narrative of the approaches used when designing, developing, and implementing a quasi-experimental study. Describe the process of developing a

methodology that will include the outline of a literature review, creating a study design, developing research tools, and outlining methods of obtaining and analyzing data.

Note: Chugachmiut requests a brief narrative and portfolio of past work demonstrating successes in these areas. The researcher does not need to develop an evaluation framework in this proposal. Grant funds will compensate for the time and effort required to develop a full evaluation framework for this quasi-experimental study during Year 1.

### **E. Budget and Work Plan**

- Please provide a detailed budget under \$1 million over sixty months that details the costs for the evaluation services for the research project.
- Please provide a detailed work plan identifying milestones, deliverables, roles, and responsibilities. At a minimum, detail the work plan according to yearly and quarterly deliverables, with a more discrete timeline gradient if needed.

### **F. References**

- Include at least two relevant references from supervisors or clients in related fields to this work. Please provide names, telephone numbers, and email contact information.

### **G. Additional Information**

- The researcher is invited to attach portfolio work of relevant publications, evaluations, reports, policy briefs, or similar documents. All included portfolio elements should be referenced in the narrative to explain their relevance to the fitness of this project's perspective. Attach these portfolio materials in Appendix B.
- Please feel invited to include any additional information not explicitly requested but which you believe would help evaluate your proposal.

## **PROPOSAL TIMETABLE**

RFP Distributed	June 27, 2024
Proposals due to Chugachmiut	July 12, 2024
Evaluation of Proposals	July 15, 2024
Letter of Support Must be Submitted	July 19, 2024
Grant Application Submitted to ED	July 22, 2024

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

Preference will be given to researchers who qualify under PL 93-638. Additionally, Chugachmiut will evaluate proposals using the following criteria.

<b>a)</b>	The extent to which qualifications for the project personnel team include relevant education and research experience in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indigenous Education Program Evaluation</li> <li>• Alaska Native/American Indian Studies</li> <li>• Quasi-experimental studies that meet the What Works Clearinghouse standards with or without reservation</li> </ul>	<b>25</b>
<b>b)</b>	The extent to which the impact statement demonstrates community growth related to Tribal education, place-based learning, social-emotional learning, or Native language revitalization.	<b>25</b>
<b>c)</b>	The extent to which the methodology process will meet design criteria for a Quasi-Experimental Study and would satisfy the What Works Clearinghouse standards for research “with reservations” or “without reservations.”	<b>15</b>
<b>d)</b>	The extent to which the work plan, roles & responsibilities, and budget detail a clear plan for completing the program evaluation over five years.	<b>20</b>
<b>e)</b>	The extent to which references provide a high-quality evaluation of past work in Tribal education, community education, Indigenous program evaluation, teacher education, or equivalent field of research.	<b>15</b>

## SUBMISSION DETAILS

Please email complete proposals to [paul@chugachmiut.org](mailto:paul@chugachmiut.org) and [andrewg@chugachmiut.org](mailto:andrewg@chugachmiut.org). If assistance is required, please contact either of the Key Contacts.

Please format the proposal in a single-spaced format using professional font and stylings. Include the criteria A through G listed in the [PROPOSAL CONTENT](#) section as the main narrative of the proposal. Include all other attachments as appendices, including the following appendix considerations.

## Proposal Outline Format:

- Project Narrative:
  - Format in order of criteria A through G in the [PROPOSAL CONTENT](#) section.
  - Include relevant tables and figures, particularly to provide a detailed Work Plan and proposed Budget.
  - The suggested length is 5 pages, although proposals that exceed the page length will be considered. Appendix content is not considered in the page length recommendation.
- Appendix A:
  - Resumes/CVs of project staff.
- Appendix B:
  - Portfolio of relevant projects completed by the organization or contractor(s). Attachments should be referenced and described in the proposal narrative.
- Appendix C:
  - Attach a copy of the researcher's business license and insurance attestation.
    - A corporate license is required if the research firm is a corporation; an individual license is required if the research firm is an individual or partnership.
    - Alternatively, the proposal may include a statement from an accredited university or government division attesting that the researcher is working on university/government time and under insurance.

## KEY CONTACTS

Following are key contacts for information you may seek in preparing your proposal:

Paul McDonogh  
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