



Request for Statements of Interest

Rural Alaska Biomass Gap Funding

In partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture-Forest Service (USFS), the Denali Commission seeks statements of interest for funding from eligible applicants for a limited field of biomass projects. The intent of this solicitation is to identify applicants who will be invited to apply for financial assistance awards of up to \$200,000 to meet gap funding needs for projects underway or for critical repairs to existing facilities. The funding partners anticipate making 3-6 financial assistance awards based on a competitive evaluation and scoring of the full applications submitted by invitation.

REVISED Deadline:	5:00 p.m. AKDT on Friday, 20 October 2023
Direct Submittal to:	Katie Conway, Program Manager kconway@denali.gov Denali Commission 550 W 7th Ave, Suite 1230 Anchorage, Alaska 99501 907-341-9617
Email Subject Line:	Biomass Gap Funding Statement of Interest

Description of Funding

The Denali Commission and USFS are together committing between \$700,000 and \$900,000 to a joint funding opportunity for biomass systems and intend to fund 3-6 projects. Grantees will be required to submit quarterly progress and financial reports.

Eligibility

Projects eligible for funding include:

1. Projects currently underway to construct a new wood heating system for a community facility or facilities that face a funding gap of twenty percent or less of the total project cost.
2. Existing wood-heating systems in a community facility or facilities that require critical repairs or improvements.

Please note, the Denali Commission can only fund a maximum of 80% of the total project cost. Please take this into consideration when determining your funding request and be sure to account for any previously received Denali Commission funding for the project.

Eligible applicants include Indian Tribes (as defined in 25 U.S.C. 5304(e)), Tribal organizations (as defined in 25 U.S.C. 5304(l)), and Inter-Tribal consortia (as defined in 25 U.S.C. 3202(11)). Eligible applicants also include organizations acting as the authorized designees of eligible Tribal entities. Eligible applicants

include municipal, borough, state, and Tribal governments; regional housing authorities; universities; regional tribal non-profit organizations; and non-profit organizations. For-profit Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) entities may apply; however, grant income is considered income and, therefore, taxable.

Review and Evaluation Process

A review committee of staff and subject matter experts from USFS, Denali Commission, and Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) will evaluate Statements of Interest based on the criteria listed below using a ten-point system. Applications receiving 8 points or more will be invited to submit a full application. The Commission reserves the right to partially fund projects, subject to the availability of funds, the quality of funding assistance requests received, and other relevant considerations.

Evaluation Criteria

Statements of Interest will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Completeness of the required information (incomplete submissions may not be considered)
- Reasonableness of the project scope, schedule, and budget

Instructions for Submitting a Statement of Interest

Provide the information listed below in a Word document that is no longer than two pages total, with one-inch margins and minimum font size 11. The document may be single spaced.

Please save a copy of the completed Statement of Interest for your records and send a copy to the Commission via email at kconway@denali.gov with “Biomass Gap Funding Statement of Interest” in the email subject line. You should receive a receipt confirmation. If you do not, please call Katie Conway to confirm receipt.

Applicant Information

1. Applicant (organization/entity full legal name)
2. Applicant’s Unique Entity Identifier. A Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) is a number issued by the System for Award Management (SAM) to identify businesses and other entities that do business with the federal government. You can register or find your UEI at <https://sam.gov/content/home>
3. First and last name of the applicant’s project representative (the person we should communicate with about the application), their email address, and their phone number
4. First and last name of the applicant’s authorized representative (the person who can sign on behalf of the applicant), their email address, and their phone number

Project and Community Description

5. Project description: What is the project scope? What problem is it intending to solve? Why does that problem exist? Over what period of time will this project be completed?
6. Community context: Where is the project? What is the community population and relevant demographic information? How will/does this project serve the community?

Project Budget and Funding Needs

7. What is the total project cost?
8. How much funding are you requesting?
9. Why is this funding request important (i.e., please provide a compelling justification for why

your project should be selected over others competing for the limited funding)?

Acknowledgements and Signature (Items #10 and #11 should be restated with a signature and date line beneath, and signed by your authorized representative.)

10. I acknowledge that I am duly authorized to represent my organization
11. I certify that my organization is in good standing with the Internal Revenue Service
12. Printed name and signature of authorized representative
13. Date of signature

Deadlines and Application Process Timeline

Statement of Interest Due	5:00 p.m. AKDT on Friday, 20 October 2023
Selected applications invited to submit full applications	3 November 2023
Full Applications Due	5:00 p.m. AKST 1 December 2023
Application Review and Award Determination	8 December 2023
Applicant Notification of Outcome	21 December 2023
Award Negotiation	5 February 2024
Award Execution and availability of funding for project activity	1 March 2024 – 30 June 2024

Please note that the Commission typically operates on a reimbursement basis. Payments will be made in accordance with [2 CFR 200.305](#) by electronic transfer in response to a Standard Form 270 (SF-270). Requests for reimbursements are processed as needed.

What to Expect for Submitting a Full Application (upon invitation)

The full application will require more detailed descriptions about the project scope, schedule, and budget, and evaluation criteria will include assessments of technical and economic feasibility. Before completing your Statement of Interest, you should be able to describe your project scope and need, break down the work by discrete task, list a schedule of anticipated milestones and deliverables, and summarize the project budget (by category and task) and funding. Instructions for submitting the full application will be distributed with the invitations to apply on or by Friday, 3 November 2023.