

The Alaska Federation for Community Self Reliance
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AFCSR'S EDUCATIONAL MISSION
AND EDUCATION OBJECTIVES

The Alaska Federation for Community Self Reliance (AFCSR) is a nonprofit organization established in 1978 to help individuals, non profits and communities develop self-sustaining social and economic programs. We were granted our tax-exempt 501 (c) (3) status from the IRS in 1979. A board of directors elected every five years by members governs the AFCSR.

Membership in AFCSR is comprised of persons supporting different educational and charitable projects. AFCSR has created and been involved in numerous community support projects. We highlight here the educational programs and the educational goals that AFCSR would advance as a community radio licensee.

Education Programs 1980 - present

The AFCSR began its educational and charitable services by offering assistance and help in writing energy efficiency grants starting in 1980. An additional program in 1980 provided employment training and was incorporated as the Private Industry Council in 1985. This program is now a formal state agency with the Department of Labor.

The Youth Leadership Foundation of North Pole, Alaska was initiated by the AFCSR.

In 2001, the AFCSR started the Fairbanks Clemente Project helping low income adults earn college credits.

The AFCSR has administered six learning disabled youth grants and successfully developed an Interior village rural youth suicide prevention program with a local volunteer organization Walking Strong.

As a result of State of Alaska cutbacks to rural Alaska beginning in the winter of 2002, AFCSR began directing efforts toward rural Alaska to assist communities in establishing self-sufficient enterprises. Work was begun with Birch Creek Tribal Council in the summer of 2003 to develop a self-sustaining rural justice camp program. The focus of this camp is Alaskan Natives who become ensnared in the Alaska Court System due to alcohol or drug use. The plan is to enable Alaska Natives who qualify to

have a chance of rehabilitation at Birch Creek through education rather than incarceration. The work on this camp continues to date.

AFCSR's Educational Goals for the Proposed Station

As explained above, AFCSR often works with governmental entities and other nonprofits to help AFCSR achieve the social, cultural and educational goals which AFCSR seeks to advance. The station proposed by AFCSR grew out of discussions with another local nonprofit group, Fairbanks Open Radio (FOR). In the fall of 2006, AFCSR met with FOR to discuss the establishment of a community radio station in Fairbanks. AFCSR agreed to take on the project by becoming the applicant for a noncommercial station to serve Fairbanks. FOR agreed to serve in an advisory capacity to AFCSR as an AFCSR subcommittee.

With advice from FOR, AFCSR will use the radio broadcast medium to maximize outreach for the services AFCSR provides to Fairbanks and Interior Alaskan communities. The proposed station will highlight community progress and in turn generate dialogue, discussion and enthusiasm for the creation of new community-based educational and outreach programs.

The following are specific educational programs that AFCSR will undertake if its application is granted:

- (1) The creation of a Media Quality Board the purpose of which will be to educate the public about media responsibility, accuracy and ethics.
- (2) Training in citizen journalism.
- (3) Broadcasts in the Native languages of Alaska, using local community members to translate and broadcast news and information, and science and technology programs relevant to local issues, such as climate change, seasonal changes in health, and computer use.
- (4) Fairbanks Youth Radio will function as a forum for educating young people about the background to community issues. It will allow them to express their ideas in public and learn about the production of radio programming.
- (5) Raising awareness of the arts through supporting and promoting local musicians, artists and writers.