

Alaska State Council on the Arts: Arts, Health and Well-Being Framework Coordinator
Contract Available

Project Start Date: November 2025, TBD

Project End date: August 31, 2026

Total Compensation: \$30,000

DEADLINE TO RESPOND: Extended to Monday, October 27, 2025 by 4:30 pm AKT

Project Description

In 2025 - 2026, ASCA will develop an Arts, Health and Well-Being Framework for sub-granting, building on the Arts, Health and Well-Being Pilot Grant Program. Research, evaluation, including field scans, needs assessments, and learning communities are components of the framework development. In addition, ASCA will convene cohort participants virtually prior to meeting in person in coordination with ASCA's Statewide Arts and Culture Conference in Anchorage, April 16-17, 2026. This contract will support the Arts, Health and Well-Being Framework Development as the Project Coordinator.

The Coordinator will work with a project team that consists of ASCA staff, Council Trustees, an advisory working group and other stakeholders to increase connections and advance the Arts, Health and Well-Being Framework to:

1. Identify a statewide advisory working group of artists, culture bearers, educators, arts organizational representatives, health and well-being practitioners, representatives of community, health and social organizations, and invite them to participate in the Framework development.
2. Design the Arts, Health and Well-being Framework, in collaboration with the project team, to potentially include elements such as needs assessment, asset mapping, and learning communities.
3. Facilitate meetings of the project team to advance shared learning and the Framework development.
4. Document project learning and communicate regularly with the project team about trends and promising practice, with emphasis on the intersection of arts, culture, health and well-being systems in Alaska, in support of the project. This will include a final report on the Arts, Health and Well-Being Framework for publication, and any recommendations for implementation.

Required qualifications:

1. Knowledge of or familiarity with Alaskan arts and cultural sector; knowledge of or familiarity with Alaskan health and well-being systems.
2. Experience coordinating and facilitating conversations for the purpose of supporting collaborative planning processes.
3. Excellent communication skills, community outreach and engagement, and networking skills to make regional contacts and build statewide relationships in support of the Arts, Health and Well-Being Framework development.
4. General knowledge of processes such as strategic planning, research, evaluation, including field scans, needs assessments, and learning communities.
5. Ability to contract with the State of Alaska as a business owner/contractor.

Application

To apply for this opportunity, submit materials to ASCA Administrative and Finance Officer, Te'Shawn Anderson-Johnson, by email at teshawn.anderson-johnson@alaska.gov. Please copy Laura Forbes at laura.forbes@alaska.gov. Contact Te'Shawn Anderson-Johnson via this email, or by phone at 907-269-6603, with questions. During the week of October 21, you can also contact Laura Forbes at 907-269-6682. **To respond, applicants must provide a resume, three references including name, relationship, email and phone number information, and letter of interest of no more than two pages in length that addresses the required qualifications in addition to other experience relevant to the scope of work.** The deadline for submission of materials is Monday October 27, 2025 by 4:30 pm AKT. Candidates may be requested to interview in October or early November.

Background Information

Arts Health and Well-Being Framework Development and Asset Mapping began as a National Endowment for the Arts initiative; the arts' benefits for health and well-being are experienced at all stages of life and on multiple levels. Americans today are united in seeking a more expansive range of treatments and therapies to address various healthcare needs. To improve these options, the NEA is committed to grantmaking, strategic initiatives, and research supporting the arts and health.

Alaska State Council on the Arts (ASCA) will develop an Arts, Health and Well-Being Framework to guide future grant-making, fostering collaboration between arts, culture, and health sectors. An advisory committee and public call for participation will lead to a summit in 2026, where key partners and pilot grantees will help shape the framework. The summit will ensure the inclusion of diverse and cross-sector perspectives in developing the Arts, Health and Well-Being Framework. Follow-up work will refine these efforts, moving toward a demonstration project.

Alaska State Council on the Arts (ASCA) aims to deepen partnerships, expand capacity, and support research and learning activities. Community Arts Partnership Grants are already encouraging Arts, Health and Well-Being projects; in FY25 ASCA was able to award 19 individuals, and 23 organizations to pursue pilot projects. Organizations awarded include: tribes (4), Alaska Native nonprofits (2), schools and school districts (3), library association (1), social/community service organizations (2), local arts agencies (4), theatre and dance production companies (2), institute of higher education (1), performing arts presenters (2), media arts youth organization (1), arts and science residency (1). In Fall 2025, ASCA will highlight these efforts at the Statewide Arts and Culture Conference. National partners, including the NEA, will be invited to participate.

Focusing on shared risk and protective factors is gaining traction in public health, allowing for broader prevention efforts and efficient resource use. ASCA recognizes the arts' role in reducing risks and improving health by collaborating with the health sector to enhance well-being across communities.

The *Arts Health and Well-Being in Alaska* program pilot focused on exploration and expansion of efforts to support community in and through the arts. The pilot project grantees proposed activities that aligned with one or more of the following goals:

- To learn about the role of the arts in reducing risks to life and safety, and improving health and wellness, by collaborating with the health sector to enhance well-being across communities.
- To support existing and new efforts to connect partners in arts, health and well-being through the creation and presentation of art works.



- To engage citizens in conversations about social isolation and community connectedness in and through the arts.
- To adapt arts practice and publicly accessible arts spaces to serve individuals and communities experiencing disability or other health risks that make it challenging to participate with others.
- To explore the ways in which the arts have a role in implementing health and wellness knowledge. We seek to understand how the practice of the arts can reduce negative effects on health and safety (risk factors) and increase positive effects on health and safety (protective factors).

Recommended resources for exploring the underpinning of Arts, Health and Well-Being project development include:

- The National Endowment for the Arts | Arts and Health: <https://www.arts.gov/impact/arts-and-health>
- The National Endowment for the Arts Guide to Community-Engaged Research in the Arts and Health: <https://www.arts.gov/impact/research/publications/national-endowment-arts-guide-community-engaged-research-arts-and-health>
- Shared Risk and Protective Factors *Alaska* | Center for Safer Alaskans: <https://srpfalaska.org/>
- We-Making Resources | University of Florida – College of the Arts, Center for Arts in Medicine: <https://www.response.arts.ufl.edu/we-making-framework>
- Americans for the Arts | Arts & Healing: <https://www.americansforthearts.org/by-topic/arts-and-healing>
- The Kennedy Center LEAD (Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability): <https://www.kennedy-center.org/education/networks-conferences-and-research/research-and-resources/lead-research-and-resources/>