

PRESS RELEASE

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Pride Foundation Awards More than Half a Million Dollars in Grants Bolstering LGBTQ Communities across the Northwest

Awards \$507,000 to organizations in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, & Washington

SEATTLE, WA— Today, Pride Foundation announced \$507,000 in grants to 81 organizations in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington—investing vital resources into local organizations working to ensure that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) people and their families can live fully and safely in their home communities.

This year's award amount is the highest Community Grants funding total in Pride Foundation history and comes at a time when LGBTQ communities are facing enormous challenges and opportunities at local, state, and federal levels.

Here in Alaska, two projects totaling \$27,000 were awarded grants. They include:

- **Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic R.E.C. Room** (Homer, Alaska): For addressing the needs of LGBTQ youth, adults, and families on the southern Kenai Peninsula, including strengthening their peer-taught sexual health and wellness programs for grades 7-12.
- **Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association** (Anchorage/Juneau, Alaska): For the organization's HIV prevention efforts in Southeast Alaska, including the Syringe Access Program with an emphasis on reaching men who have sex with men, a high-risk population for HIV infection.

Read a complete list of grantees [here](#).

“The number of organizations engaged in critical life-saving and life-affirming work is truly inspiring,” said Kris Hermanns, Pride Foundation Chief Executive Officer. “Today, and since 1985, Pride Foundation and its partners are committed to supporting and growing this movement—a grassroots movement based in love, courage, and empowering people to be their full selves.”

These grants come at a critical time. The State of Alaska is contracting much of their support of non-profit organizations, leaving funding gaps for important work. Additionally, in Anchorage, the first local LGBTQ-inclusive non-discrimination ordinance is being threatened by an anti-transgender ballot initiative.

“Pride Foundation is doing everything we can to support and bolster our communities during this uncertain time,” said Josh Hemsath Pride Foundation’s Regional Development Organizer in Alaska, who is based in Anchorage. “Pride Foundation has been an integral part of Alaska’s LGBTQ community since the 1990s.”

In addition to these community grants, Pride Foundation awarded a total of nearly \$850,000 to impactful organizations and student leaders in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington in 2017 through our scholarship program, sponsorships, Rapid Response Fund, and Donor Advised Grants.

Since the foundation began in 1985, Pride Foundation has awarded more than \$70 million to promote the safety, health, and well-being of LGBTQ individuals and families across the Northwest region—with a focus on those who are most impacted by disparities and inequities.

The press and members of the public can learn more about these remarkable grantee organizations at local [year-end events taking place around the region](#). We invite you to join us in celebrating their accomplishments and important work which is sparking lasting change across our communities.

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Founded in 1985, Pride Foundation is a regional community foundation serving Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. Its mission is to inspire giving to expand opportunities and advance full equality for LGBTQ people in the Northwest. Learn more at www.pridefoundation.org.