



Request for Proposal

Haa Kusteeyí Initiative: Building a Culture, Leadership, Ecological Knowledge, and Indigenous STEM Pathway to Post-Secondary Education & Career in Southeast Alaska

Sealaska Heritage Institute is a private nonprofit founded in 1980 to perpetuate and enhance Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian cultures of Southeast Alaska. Its goal is to promote cultural diversity and cross-cultural understanding through public services and events. Sealaska also conducts social, scientific and public policy research and advocacy that promote Alaska Native arts, cultures, history and education statewide. The institute is governed by a Board of Trustees and guided by a Council of Traditional Scholars, a Native Artist Committee and a Southeast Regional Language Committee.

SHI is requesting proposals from a qualified consultant or consultants interested in evaluating the Haa Kusteeyí Initiative.

Evaluations will need to be designed based on valid and reliable measurements tools as well as collecting and analyzing qualitative and quantitative data. Evaluators are expected to participate as members of the leadership team and attend relevant program meetings and events.

Program Overview

The Haa Kusteeyí (*Our Way of Life*) Initiative draws from – and immerses our Alaska Native young men in – applying our region’s four core cultural values: Haa Latseen (*Our Strength, Leadership*), Haa Aaní (*Our Land*), Haa Shuká (*Our Past, Present, Future*), and Woch Yax (*Balance, Reciprocity, Respect*). SHI’s Haa Latseen committee, comprised of Southeast Alaska tribal leaders and traditional food harvesters, will co-design the program’s curriculum.

Program Goal and Objectives

Over three years, develop a culturally responsive pathway for our Southeast Alaska Native young men to pursue education and career opportunities in natural resource management and support 60 young Native men, ages 16-24, to embark on that pathway and earn dual credits or six college credits.

Objective	Outcome
<p>1. Restore and revitalize our pedagogy for educating Southeast Alaska Native young men, ages 16-24, by co-designing curricular resources with tribal stakeholders that support acquisition of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), I-STEM, Western science Knowledge (WSK), and six college credits.</p>	<p>1.1 - Years 2 & 3: 80% of participants increase their TEK from a baseline of 0, measured using pre/post <i>Haa Kusteeyi Assessments</i> (developed using a TEK rubric created with tribal stakeholders co-designing the project's curricular resources)</p> <p>1.2 -Years 2 & 3: 30% of participants increase their science self-efficacy from baseline of 0, measured using culturally tailored pre/post: <i>Science Identities, Expectation of Success in Science, Values of Science, and Environmental Attitudes Survey</i></p>
<p>2. Enhance 60 Native young men's cultural resiliency and agency for pursuing their educational/career goals through their engagement in mental wellbeing supports, cultural events, and natural resource-related career exploration.</p>	<p>2.1-In Years 2 & 3: 70% of participants increase their cultural resiliency from a baseline of 0, measured using pre/post: <i>Child and Youth Resiliency Measure</i></p> <p>2.2 -Years 2 & 3: 60% of participants increase their agency to identify and pursue pathways to set and achieve their goals from a baseline of 0, measured using pre/post: <i>Children's Scale of Hope</i></p>



Project Timeline

The grant is a three-year award. The selected evaluator is expected to commit the Project evaluation for three years, but the contract will be reviewed and renewed at the end of each year. This consultancy should begin as soon as possible and be completed no later than September 30, 2027.

Required Qualifications

- Experience as program evaluator and author of evaluation reports necessary for grant reporting as well as internal evaluation for program effectiveness and impacts.
- Demonstrated knowledge and use of appropriate evaluation tools, best practices for evaluation implementation and analysis and reporting of collected data.
- Knowledge of Indigenous evaluation methodologies
- Knowledge of Alaska Native culture and education

Preferred Qualifications

- Background in secondary education and/or post-secondary education
- Understanding of UAS and SHI programs
- Understanding of STEM programs

To Submit Proposal

- Proposal (2 page limit) outlining how the above tasks would be performed and qualifications
- Estimate of fees to perform services
- Resume of all consultants who would be involved in the project
- Contact information for 3 organizations you've evaluated projects

Please send proposals to Kristy Ford, Education Director – Kristy.ford@sealaska.com by August 15, 2024.

