



Building a Foundation for All

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Pride Foundation Awards Grants to 56 Organizations Supporting LGBTQ Community in the Northwest** *Three Alaska Organizations among Grantees*

*Seattle, WA*—Pride Foundation announced today that it has awarded \$303,775 to 56 organizations that support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) youth, adults, and families in the Northwest.

In Alaska, three organizations received grants—Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association, Identity, Inc., and Southeast Alaska Gay and Lesbian Alliance (SEAGLA).

Despite the recent marriage equality victory in Alaska, residents can still be fired or denied housing because of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. In addition to lacking statewide legal protections, LGBTQ people also face heightened risks of hate crimes, poverty, homelessness, discrimination, bullying, HIV infection, and mistreatment in social and human services.

By directing resources to those who remain most invisible and vulnerable despite recent progress, Pride Foundation's community grants program is making an important statement about the work that lies ahead and the continued need in the LGBTQ community.

"Our grantees reflect the diversity of our community, and the breadth of issues affecting LGBTQ people throughout their lives," said Kris Hermanns, Executive Director of Pride Foundation. "When viewed collectively, these investments paint a comprehensive picture of the road ahead—from safe schools, to workplace equality, to culturally-competent healthcare and social services, to food and housing security, to elder care."

Given Alaska's expansive geography, there is a lack of services and structured support for the LGBTQ community. Pride Foundation's grants in Alaska are all focused on increasing organizational capacity to serve LGBTQ people—with a focus on those living in more rural, remote communities.

Pride Foundation's 2014 Grants in Alaska include:

**Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association (Anchorage):** \$5,000 to support Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association (Four A's) HIV Prevention Project staff in Southeast Alaska to reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS among those living in Southeast Alaska.

**Identity, Inc (Anchorage):** \$5,000 to support Identity's LGBTQ statewide Youth Leadership Summit, which aims to bridge disenfranchised and underrepresented youth sub-communities that identify as LGBTQ.

**Southeast Alaska Gay and Lesbian Alliance (Juneau):** \$5,000 to support Southeast Alaska Gay and Lesbian Alliance (SEAGLA) in providing leadership and support to the LGBTQ community—with a focus on engaging in outreach to more remote areas of Southeast Alaska including Haines, Skagway, Sitka, and Ketchikan.

LGBTQ issues only receive [0.26% of total foundation dollars](#) (26 cents for every 100 dollars), making Pride Foundation's work even more critical.

In addition to their community grants program, Pride Foundation also makes investments in LGBTQ youth, adults, and families through a scholarship program, donor-advised, and donor-designated funds. In total, the foundation has invested nearly \$7.1 million this year to support LGBTQ people in their home communities.

"In all that we do, we are focusing our resources and grant dollars on bridging the gap between legal victories and the ability for all LGBTQ people to be who they are, where they are," said Hermanns. "We are honored to partner with wonderful organizations and individuals throughout our region and country that share our values and hopes for our community."

The full list of Pride Foundation grantees and project descriptions is available at [www.pridefoundation.org/grantees](http://www.pridefoundation.org/grantees).

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*Pride Foundation is a regional community foundation that inspires giving to expand opportunities and advance full equality for LGBTQ people across the Northwest. Learn more at [www.pridefoundation.org](http://www.pridefoundation.org).*