

**Anchorage East Rotary Club
Small Grants Application**

Agency Name & Address

**Catholic Social Services
4600 Debarr Ave,
Suite 201,
Anchorage, AK 99508**

Contact Person

Keenan Plate

Title

Program Director

Contact Phone (not for publication)

907-222-7313

Contact email (not for publication)

Kplate@cssalaska.org

1. What is the dollar amount of your request?

\$2,000

2. Please tell us a little about your organization and service mission to the community. You may attach additional sheets or material you have readily available.

Refugee Assistance & Immigration Services (RAIS) provides a bridge for refugees (individuals who have had to flee their countries of origin due to the tragedies of persecution and war) and other new arrivals from their former life experiences to the new skills required for success in the United States. Through a focus on economic self-sufficiency, community integration, and a respect for unique cultures, history and traditions, RAIS creates an environment of compassion and encouragement for refugees to flourish.

Fresh International Gardens and Grow North Farm are agricultural programs that encourage wellbeing, expand food-access, and support small-business development in refugee communities. New arrivals to Alaska are welcome to participate in the Fresh International Gardens co-op to earn supplemental income, practice English-language skills, and access fresh vegetables, and Grow North Farm provides a space for agricultural entrepreneurs with a refugee background to launch or support their agriculture and food-based business.

3. What will the grant funds be used for? Please be as specific as possible (attach extra sheets if necessary)

This funding will be used to improve wash station infrastructure in our growing spaces. We have scaled up our operations in recent years and need to improve our systems to keep up with increased demand. These improved wash stations will improve water efficiency and save money over time. The wash stations improvements will directly benefit the refugee agriculture program and all the clients that use the space.

4. Exactly who will be served by this grant? How many people will benefit?

Last year, our refugee agriculture program served 75 clients and those clients collectively earned \$47,000 through their participation in the FIG program. An upgraded wash station at our sites will improve our operations and allow us to operate more efficiently and comfortably. Aside from RAIS clients, this will also benefit the broader Anchorage community. Our agriculture program is the largest urban farming program in Anchorage, and we are committed to making our crops available to everyone in the community. Our partnership with the St. Francis House food pantry at Catholic Social Services distributes our produce to people in need. We also sell our vegetables at a weekly market at Grow North Farm where we provide half-priced vegetables for anyone receiving SNAP benefits.

5. Will you be billing anyone for the use of the assets purchased with the grant funds? If so, who?

No

6. Why is this money not available or budgeted in your normal annual budget process?

Our program operates mainly on federal grant dollars, and we commit those funds for staffing that allows our program to function. Our main grants that staff our program provide limited funding for important infrastructure improvements.

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7. If this is a capital item, how are you going to provide ongoing maintenance?

The wash station will be a basic structure that requires minimal maintenance. We have a dedicated maintenance team for any major issues that may arise.

8. What effort is the agency putting forth, or willing to put forth, to accomplish this project? Are there "sweat equity" contributions, volunteer contributions or matching funds available?

Our program will coordinate other volunteer groups and staff as needed to complete this project.

9. Is this grant sufficient to complete the project? If not, what are your plans to secure the necessary funding?

The grant would not be enough to fund our project completely, however we do have funds set aside to accompany the funds for this project.

10. Are you an "Exempt Organization" as defined by the Internal Revenue Service? If so, under which Code Section?

Yes

11. If you are an IRS defined "Exempt Organization", when was the last time your organization had an audit? Please attach copy of most current audit.

12. If you are an IRS defined "Exempt Organization", and do not have audited financial statements: Please attach a copy of the organization's financial statements for the most recent year-end, and a copy of the most recently filed Form 990 (or 990EZ).

CERTIFICATION:

I certify that the attached grant application and all attachments are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have the authority to bind the organization to the Rotary Small Grant rules and, if funded, will do so.

Kim Isley

Signature

3/6/2025 | 3:06 PM AKST

Date

Chief operating officer

Title