Tyonek Tribal Conservation District
101 Benson Blvd, Ste 501
Anchorage, AK 99503

Request for Proposal

The Tyonek Tribal Conservation District is seeking an education project evaluator to assess TTCD's effectiveness in delivering year-round, place-based, educational programs that are culturally relevant and which increase STEM-aptitude and interest or participation in STEM careers or post-secondary education among students at the Tebughna School in Tyonek, AK.

Timeline:

- RFP Sent: December 3, 2024
- Responses Due: January 6, 2025
- Chosen Agency Contacted: January 13, 2025
- Project Start: Week of January 20, 2025
- Project End: September 29, 2025, with possible extension

Organizational Overview:

Tyonek Tribal Conservation District [TTCD] is a 501c3 nonprofit that supports local conservation and resource management projects in the Tyonek, Alaska area. Our tagline is "Subsistence is our Agriculture." TTCD was founded in 2004 as the first tribal conservation district in Alaska. Our district boundaries mirror Alaska Fish & Game Management Unit 16B, covering nearly 6.6 million acres of habitat and multiple communities. Our four focus areas are: habitat restoration, landowner technical assistance, Tyonek Grown community garden and Tyonek Youth Conservation Science. We partner with numerous tribal organizations, state and federal agencies and fellow nonprofits to achieve our goals.

Project Overview:

TTCD has been funded by the Alaska Native Education Program (ANEP) to implement educational programming that fosters a sense of community self-determination in natural resource management and conservation through hands-on STEM curriculum, trainings, and internship opportunities for Alaska Native youth.

Objective 1: Increase STEM-aptitude among Tyonek students.

Objective 2: Increase interest and participation in post-secondary education and/or jobs in STEM-based fields for Tyonek students.

Associated Activities:

- Develop hands-on, place-based STEM curriculum for grades K-12.
- Develop alternative lesson delivery methods for resilience to in-person restrictions.
- Implement bi-monthly hands-on, place-based, and culturally appropriate science lessons.
- Develop and implement continuing education courses on Tyonek-based curriculum.
- Provide Conservation Youth Internships at the Tyonek Garden and with TTCD's conservation programs.
- Expand the hydroponics systems and marketing strategies at the Tyonek school.
- Integrate place-based connections to the curriculum through culture and language.
- Create an Education Center in the Tyonek Garden for additional place-based STEM and agriculture activities out of the weather.

Evaluation Scope:

The educational program evaluator will measure the effectiveness of educational programming in achieving outcomes related to project objectives.

Objective 1: Increase STEM-aptitude among Tyonek students.

Outcome 1.1: An average increase in student grades of 5% annually in STEM subjects.

Measurable Outcome/Performance Measure 1.1:

- Year 1: 5% increase in grade percentage (from baseline GPA)
- Year 2: 10% increase in grade percentage (from baseline GPA)
- Year 3: 15% increase in grade percentage (from baseline GPA)

Metric for Outcome 1.1 – Evaluator will need to request STEM subject grades from the end of the school year previous to when this project began from the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District in order to establish a baseline. Student grades in STEM subjects at the end of Year 3 should then be compared to the baseline, with change over time calculated as a percentage annually.

Outcome 1.2: 75% of students will demonstrate an increase in positive attitudes towards STEM classes, education, and careers by end of Project Year 3.

Measurable Outcome/Performance Measure 1.2:

- Year 1: 25% increase in positive attitudes (from baseline attitudes)
- Year 2: 50% increase in positive attitudes (from baseline attitudes)
- Year 3: 75% increase in positive attitudes (from baseline attitudes)

Metric for Outcome 1.2 Evaluator will determine an appropriate strategy to measure change in attitudes toward STEM classes, education, and careers over time among students. Results from a survey measuring change in attitude in are available from a previous project period ending in 2022.

Objective 2: Increase interest and participation in post-secondary education and/or jobs in STEM-based fields for Tyonek students.

Outcome 2.1: 10% increase in graduation rate for Tyonek students by the end of Project Year 3.

Measurable Outcome/Performance Measure 2.1:

- Year 1: 3% increase in graduation rate (from baseline graduation rate)
- Year 2: 5% increase in graduation rate (from baseline graduation rate)
- Year 3: 10% increase in graduation rate (from baseline graduation rate)

Metric for Outcome 2.1 – Graduation rates from Project Years 1-3 will be compared to the student graduation rate from the end of the school year previous to when this project began. Change over time is calculated as a percentage annually. Evaluator will need to request graduation rate information for Project Years 0-3 from the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. Please note that this school has a small student body.

Outcome 2.2: 50% of students demonstrate an increase in motivation/interest toward attending a postsecondary institution, training, or internship in a STEM field by the end of Project Year 3.

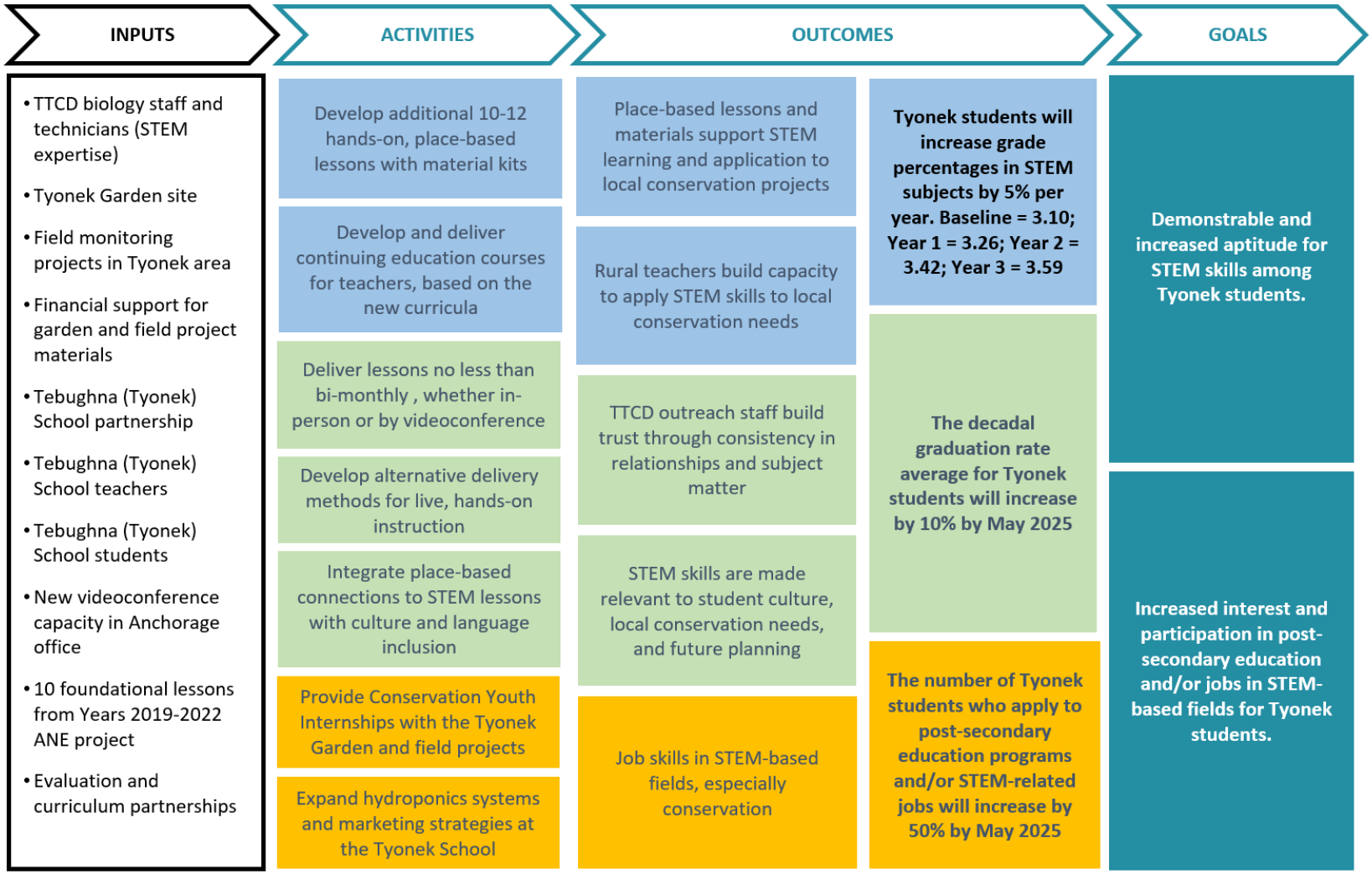
Measurable Outcome/Performance Measure 2.2:

- Year 1: 15% increase in motivation/interest (from baseline)
- Year 2: 25% increase in motivation/interest (from baseline)
- Year 3: 50% increase in motivation/interest (from baseline).

Metric for Outcome 2.2 – Evaluator will determine an appropriate strategy to measure change in motivation/interest toward attending a postsecondary institution, training, or internship in a STEM field. Results from a survey measuring change in attitude in are available from a previous project period ending in 2022.

LOGIC MODEL: Tyonek Youth Conservation Science (TYCS) Program for Alaska Native Students, 2022-2025

VISION: To foster community self-determination in natural resources management and conservation through hands-on education, trainings and career opportunities for Alaska Native youth.



Budget: Up to $60,000

Proposal Requirements:

- Overview of your company or organization.
- Description of your company or organization's past evaluation experience, evaluation approach and timeline.
    - Evaluator must have a minimum of 3 years' experience in research and evaluation.
- Demonstration of qualifications and experience for key personnel, such as a resume or curriculum vitae.
    - Experience working with rural schools and/or school districts on projects that involve data sharing agreements between schools and community organizations is required.
- A general budget for project evaluation. Meetings for this project will largely occur in Anchorage with occasional travel to Tyonek. Travel budget will be negotiated separately as workplan is finalized.
- A successful bid will require an Alaska business license, IRS W-9 Form, and proof of insurance including worker's compensation if required by the state. A contract cannot be awarded to a business/entity that has been suspended or barred from doing business with the US Government. Proposals should acknowledge this requirement, but documentation will only be required of a successful bid prior to executing a contract.

Scoring Criteria:

Experience with appropriate evaluation techniques and/or description of anticipated methodologies	50 points
Professional qualifications	15 points
Cost (proposed budget expenses appear reasonable and justified given project scope and duration)	35 points

Please submit questions and proposals to Erica Lujan at elujan@ttcd.org