UAA Center for Community Engagement and Learning
University of Alaska Anchorage

ENGAGE. CO-CREATE. TRANSFORM.

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Community Engaged Student Assistantship (CESA) Program Information 2026–2027

Important Dates and Deadlines

Fall CESA Projects		Spring CESA Projects	
Call for Proposals:	Opens in Summer 2026	Call for Proposals:	Opens in Fall 2026
Application Due:	Aug 19, 2026 5:00 PM AKDT	Application Due:	Dec 11, 2026 5:00 PM AKST
Agreement Form Due:	Sep 4, 2026 5:00 PM AKDT	Agreement Form Due:	Jan 22, 2027 5:00 PM AKST
Poster Due:	Dec 4, 2026 5:00 PM AKST	Poster Due:	Apr 9, 2027 5:00 PM AKDT
Poster Presentation:	Apr 23, 2027 2:00 PM AKDT	Poster Presentation:	Apr 23, 2027 2:00 PM AKDT

What is the CESA program?

Undergraduate and graduate students support faculty and staff in their community-engaged activities. They are awarded **UAA Administration Scholarships** for their work, ranging from $500 to $1500, depending on the number of hours and student level.

What is the purpose of the CESA program?

CESAs are designed to help students develop their leadership and commitment to civic engagement on campus and in the community, and support students, faculty, and community partners in four key areas:

- Developing community partnerships with faculty
- Recruiting, placing, training, and coordinating service-learners for courses
- Developing creative projects, applying technical expertise, and collecting research data
- Providing direct service/research to the community partner

What is required of CESAs?

The activities a CESA participates in vary by project. At a minimum, CESAs are required to:

- Complete the activities set by their sponsor within the hours allotted
- Attend monthly CESA meetings via Zoom (or submit a check-in form in case of time conflicts).
- Complete a poster of their activities, due at the end of the semester
- Attend the Community Engagement Forum: Friday, Apr 23, 2027 2 - 5 p.m.

- Communicate proactively with the CCEL directors about any changes or difficulties that may arise on their projects via phone (**907-786-4062**) or email (**uaa.ccel@alaska.edu**)

Students who do not fulfill CESA requirements will not be eligible for another assistantship for one year.

What does UAA CCEL mean by "community engagement"?

We follow the Carnegie Foundation's definition:

> *"Community engagement describes **collaboration** between institutions of higher education and their larger communities (local, regional/state, national, global) for the **mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources** in a context of **partnership** and **reciprocity**. The purpose of community engagement is the partnership of college and university knowledge and resources with those of the public and private sectors to enrich scholarship, research, and creative activity; enhance curriculum, teaching, and learning; prepare educated, engaged citizens; strengthen democratic values and civic responsibility; address critical societal issues; and contribute to the public good."*

Proposed projects must align with this definition to be funded through the CESA program.

Who is eligible to be a CESA?

Undergraduate and graduate students across all UAA campuses are eligible. Students must be:

- Enrolled in 1+ credits for the semester in which they are a CESA
- Admitted into a UAA degree or certificate program
- Making satisfactory academic progress
- Have a minimum GPA of 3.0 for graduate students and 2.0 for undergraduate students

Combinations of UAA Administration Scholarship funds and other financial aid must not exceed the student's total cost of attendance. CESAs may check with **Financial Aid** to confirm eligibility.

What is the CESA application process?

Faculty and staff apply for CESA(s) via **InfoReady** before the Fall and Spring semesters. Requests for Proposals (RFPs) are announced via our **CCEL newsletter** and on our **website**.

- See the top of this information sheet for these deadlines.

Required proposal information includes:

- Project name and description
- Community partner(s) name(s) and contact information
- Expected CESA activities and alignment of proposal with the four key areas described above
- Plan for mentoring and supporting CESAs in the project
- CESAs requested (up to 2), hours requested (3-7 hours/week), and level (undergrad or graduate)

Once awarded, faculty and staff sponsors must identify their CESA and work with the student to fill out a CESA agreement form. These forms are due by the add/drop deadline each semester. If not submitted on time, the award is forfeited due to financial aid and project hour timelines.

- See the top of this information sheet for these deadlines.

Can faculty and staff apply for a CESA for a full academic year?

Sponsors may apply to have CESAs for the same project over multiple semesters; however, applications are still due each semester. CCEL cannot guarantee ongoing funding across semesters due to budget constraints.

What is required of faculty and staff sponsors?

Sponsors must provide CESA mentorship and project oversight. At a minimum, sponsors are required to:

- Provide mentorship in community engagement and learning to their CESA
- Actively work with the CESA to complete the agreed upon activities
- Work with their CESA to complete a poster of the activities, due at the end of the semester
    - See the top of this information sheet for these deadlines.
- Attend the Community Engagement Forum: Friday, Apr 23, 2027 2 - 5 p.m.
- Communicate proactively with the CCEL directors about any changes or difficulties that may arise on their projects via phone (**907-786-4062**) or email (**uaa.ccel@alaska.edu**)

Faculty and staff who do not fulfill sponsor requirements will not be eligible for any additional CESAs for one year.