

Foraker Strategic Planning Service

Thank you for reaching out to Foraker. We are pleased to share information about our strategic planning service. We have been offering strategic planning since opening our doors in 2001. Our clients include nonprofits with missions spanning health and human services, arts and culture, education, tribal governments, coalitions, Native-focused organizations, and many others. We have worked with organizations in urban and rural Alaska with budgets ranging from under \$50,000 to over \$10 million. Some organizations have been serving Alaskans for decades and others are just getting started.

Wherever your organization fits within Alaska's nonprofit landscape, we are ready to partner with you to envision and plan for your future.

WHAT IS STRATEGIC PLANNING

Thoughtful strategic planning creates a framework for advancing your mission and achieving long-term success. Our process is deeply rooted in the Foraker Nonprofit Sustainability Model, which is inspired by the work of James Collins and Jim Porras, who have conducted years of research into what makes companies thrive in the marketplace. We, like Collins and Porras, view the strategic plan as a high-level compass that sets the direction for an organization's sustainability journey – not a detailed map showing every landmark along the way.

WHY FORAKER

Foraker is Alaska! We know Alaska's nonprofits and tribal organizations. As a capacity building organization, we are positioned to see the whole picture. Our team brings a broad range of skills and perspectives to help organizations plan their future. We have the tools in place and can be a neutral facilitator for your most important decisions. Working with us allows you to dive deeper and faster into charting your future.

Each facilitated planning session is designed with you to meet your group where you are. We look forward to talking with you early in the design of your planning session as an essential step in the process should Foraker be selected to engage.

OUR APPROACH – CUSTOMIZED FOR YOU

A strategic plan answers two questions “who are you” and “where are you going.” A Foraker planning session is divided into four basic steps:

1. **Defining your core purpose** – stating “what business we are in.”
2. **Defining your core values** – articulating values that capture the energy and motivation of your mission.
3. **Defining the long-term strategic direction** – looking far into the future to an achievable and meaningful outcome.

4. **Defining short-term strategic direction** – focusing on a handful of short-term goals and objectives.

Our time together is interactive, challenging, and fun. We strive to create a dynamic atmosphere that fosters a shared understanding of where your organization is today and where you want it to be in the future. Every engagement is unique. Importantly, we use different tools for online and in-person engagements, so we do not conduct planning in a hybrid format. Groups either need to be all online at their own computers or all in one location. **Let us help you design a process that is right for your organization.**

TIME AND COST

Pre-meeting and Preparation – We require a pre-meeting to ensure we are ready to meet expectations and to handle the logistics of our planning session(s). Other preparation is at the organization's choice given the needs of each group. Preparation can also include a stakeholder survey before our facilitated session to secure additional perspectives on future goals. **Estimate: 1-3 hours, with survey 8-10 hours**

Facilitated Strategic Planning Session: We ask that you set aside a minimum of 6-8 hours for the planning session, which can be divided into multiple sessions or can be accomplished in one day. Many variables can impact timing, so these sessions are subject to change based on the design. **Estimate: 6-8 hours**

Written Plan: We create a draft for your review that includes next steps to complete the process and arrive at a final plan. The next steps can often be done without Foraker support, but we are always available upon request. **Estimate: 3-4 hours, plus more if additional steps are requested.**

Six-Month Follow-up: We help you implement your plan as a living document, using it to guide meetings and decisions and build other key plans, e.g. budget, fund development, or technology. **Estimate: 1 hour or more if requested.**

While there is no “one size fits all” description of time required, it is safe to allocate a **minimum of 15 hours** for the strategic planning process. We're happy to discuss additional options to support a successful planning process.

Cost: Strategic planning is offered by our senior consultants. Please see our [Rates page](#) for the current fees for these consultants. Reduced rates are offered to Foraker Partners. Rates do not include travel expenses.

MOVING AHEAD

You can read more about our approach to strategic planning on our website. And we are available to answer your questions. Please call us at 907-743-1200 or send a note to info@forakergroup.org. We look forward to supporting you in achieving your mission.