

# **Department of Justice Tribal Listening Session Maximizing Resources for Tribal Justice Systems Tribal Framing Paper**

**September 19, 2014**

## **Overview**

The Department of Justice (DOJ) is seeking input from Tribal leaders about how to improve tribal justice systems. We will continue to seek input at a listening session we will host on October 16, 2014, at the Ramkota Hotel in Rapid City, South Dakota. More information about this session can be found at the Tribal Justice and Safety web site at <http://justice.gov/tribal>.

## **Background**

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) at the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) has a long history of consultation and listening session with tribal leaders and practitioners. We continue to seek input via the CTAS Assessment process and the Tribal, Justice, Safety, and Wellness consultations. BJA remains committed to working to prevent and control crime, violence, and substance abuse, as well as improving the functioning of criminal justice systems in American Indian and Alaska Native communities. We work with Tribes to provide leadership and quality services in grant and contract administration to ensure that limited Federal funds are used to achieve maximum results.

BJA is interested in setting and refining priorities for our tribal justice portfolio. To date, these priorities have been informed, first and foremost, by consultation and feedback from Tribal leaders and justice officials. They have also been shaped by Administration priorities, BJA Strategic priorities, tribal feedback during project implementation, and the collaborative work engaged in during training and technical assistance.

Some of the specific priorities in the area of corrections and alternatives to detention include:

Helping to build capacity through strategic planning.

Integrating research and evidence into our work.

Building physical infrastructure with key partners including alternatives to incarceration.

Fostering communication and developing viable partnerships among Tribal, Federal, State, and local units of government.

Addressing implications of new authorities under the Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA) including enhanced sentencing authority and tribal jurisdiction over perpetrators of domestic violence.

Addressing tribal re-entry issues.

Ensuring training and technical assistance is accessible and relevant.

In recognition of some growing potential for ways to enhance the services provided by BJA, we are conducting a listening session to provide an opportunity for dialogue on BJA - program specific questions.

### **Proposed Questions for Listening Session**

1. Should resources be added to build research knowledge about what is working in the field of corrections and reentry?
2. Should BJA work to enhance the management of areas where funding is split between agencies? For example, should we explore options to shift or share some of the renovation and construction management tasks with CTAS Purpose Area 4 to the Department of the Interior?
3. Are there approaches BJA should take to support the implementation of the new TLOA authorities referenced above?

### **Tribal Views Requested**

The Department looks forward to receiving tribal views on the grant-making process for federally-recognized tribes, tribal consortia and tribal coalitions. The deadline for submitting all comments is **November 15, 2014**.

To participate in the DOJ listening session, please register to attend at [www.justice.gov/tribal](http://www.justice.gov/tribal).

To provide views via email, please send comments to [tribalgrants@usdoj.gov](mailto:tribalgrants@usdoj.gov).

To submit written comments via regular mail or overnight mail, contact the Office of Tribal Justice at U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Tribal Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20530.

Tribal correspondence may be faxed to the Office of Tribal Justice at 202-514-9078.

For telephone inquiry contact:

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