



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Tribal Justice

Room 2318, RFK Main Justice Building
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September 22, 2014

Dear Tribal Leader:

On June 13, 2014, you received a letter from then-Associate Attorney General Tony West inviting your participation in the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) 9th Annual Government-to-Government Violence Against Women Tribal Consultation on October 15, 2014 in Rapid City, South Dakota. The DOJ will be joined by colleagues from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The purpose of the tribal consultation is to solicit recommendations from tribal leaders on the following three topics:

- Enhancing the safety of American Indian and Alaska Native women from domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and sex trafficking;
- Strengthening the Federal response to the crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking; and sex trafficking; and
- Administering grant funds appropriated for tribal governments and programs created to benefit tribal governments by the original Violence Against Women Act and subsequent legislation.

In the next few days, tribal leaders who have registered to participate in the Government-to-Government Violence Against Women Tribal Consultation will receive a 2014 Update on the Status of Tribal Consultation Recommendations and three framing papers posing suggested consultation questions.

In addition, the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) is hosting a training session on federal criminal databases and information sharing on October 14, 2014 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. This free training will provide information about the various federal criminal databases, requirements for accessing and submitting information to the databases, considerations for tribal leaders as they work to implement the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 (TLOA) and the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA 2013), current DOJ efforts to increase Tribal access to federal criminal databases, and an update on implementation of Section 905(b) of VAWA 2005.

For more information, including briefing materials, OVW's 2013 Tribal Consultation Report, and to register, please visit www.ovwconsultation.org.

If you have questions about the 2014 Government-to-Government Violence Against Women Tribal Consultation, the 2013 Government-to-Government Violence Against Women Tribal Consultation Report, or the training session, please contact OVW's Deputy Director for Tribal Affairs, Lorraine P. Edmo, at Lorraine.Edmo@usdoj.gov or (202) 307-6026.

Preceding and following the government-to-government violence against women tribal consultation, the Department of Justice will hold several listening sessions in order to:

- Improve the existing discretionary competitive grant-making process for tribal specific awards funded under the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS).
- Gather the views of American Indian and Alaska Native young adults from age 18-25 on public safety and justice matters.
- Solicit your views on the tribal infrastructure for detention and alternatives supported by the Correctional Facilities and Alternatives to Detention Program administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. This session will include representatives from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.
- The Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Family and Youth Services Bureau will host a session regarding the Family Violence and Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) to solicit tribal views on modifying the current tribal funding formula.

Attached please find framing papers for the listening sessions; additional questions and materials may be found on the Tribal Justice and Safety web site at <http://www.justice.gov/tribal>. If you have questions about the listening sessions, please contact Eugenia Tyner-Dawson at eugenia.tyner-dawson@usdoj.gov or Eileen Garry at eileen.garry@usdoj.gov, or (202) 307-5933.

Sincerely,



Tracy Toulou
Director, Office of Tribal Justice
U.S. Department of Justice

Attachments

Department of Justice Tribal Listening Session DOJ Tribal CTAS Grants Policy Framing Paper

September 22, 2014

Overview

The three major grant-making components at the Department of Justice (DOJ)—the Office for Justice Programs (OJP), the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), and the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)—play an important role in supporting tribal governments. In addition to providing grants to tribal governments to support public safety efforts, OJP, COPS, and OVW provide training and technical assistance (TTA) to tribal governments, translate evidence- and research-based practices, and support research, statistical gathering, analysis, and reporting. In keeping with DOJ’s commitment to work with Tribes on a government-to-government basis, we actively solicit your input on how we can make our grant funding more accessible and improve our processes to better serve you.

DOJ administers formula and competitive grants, some available only to tribal governments and some also open to non-tribal applicants. In seeking input from tribal leaders, we are particularly interested in receiving input on the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS), which is now entering its sixth year.

For Fiscal Years (FY) 2010 through 2014, an average of 238 applications were submitted for 685 individual Purpose Areas. There have been 1,186 awards made for over \$524 million since 2010. The Tribes are using these funds to enhance law enforcement; bolster justice systems; prevent youth substance abuse; serve sexual assault, domestic violence, and elder victims; renovate and construct tribal justice facilities; support other efforts to combat crime; support the successful reentry of tribal members; and assist with implementation of the Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA) and the Violence Against Women Act.

Fiscal Year	Applicants	Applications	Amount Requested	Applicants Awarded	Awards Made	Total Award Amount
2014	231	585	\$291,019,934	115	169	\$87,094,540
2013	237	678	\$345,642,953	111	220	\$90,825,645
2012	249	735	\$401,052,622	112	211	\$101,472,754
2011	235	710	\$349,043,727	146	286	\$118,395,208

Since FY 2011, DOJ has worked closely with tribal leaders and tribal organizations to determine how the CTAS application process could be improved. We held a CTAS consultation in October 2012 and conducted a survey of CTAS applicants. This feedback was critical in developing the FY 2013 solicitation. For FY 2014 CTAS, we were not able to conduct a tribal consultation; however, we did conduct another survey of CTAS applicants and non-applicants to solicit feedback.

DOJ is now seeking input from tribal leaders about how to improve CTAS for FY 2015. The FY 2015 survey about past experiences applying for CTAS is available at

<https://survey.vovici.com/se.ashx?s=7197C6317C9799BD>. We will continue to seek input at a listening session that we will host on October 14, 2014, at the Ramkota Hotel in Rapid City, South Dakota. More information about this session can be found on the Tribal Justice and Safety web site at <http://justice.gov/tribal>.

Background

Prior to FY 2010, Tribes seeking tribal-specific DOJ funding from multiple sources were required to submit multiple grant applications. Since the implementation of CTAS, Tribes have been able to submit a single application to address multiple Purpose Areas, ranging from juvenile justice to violence against women. CTAS is not just about offering a more streamlined process; it is part of DOJ's broader strategy of increased engagement with tribal communities across a wide range of areas. CTAS encourages tribal nations to take a comprehensive look at the public safety challenges their communities are facing and to work with DOJ to find ways to address them.

The following DOJ bureaus and offices offer tribal government-specific grant resources through the nine Purpose Areas identified in the CTAS:

Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)
Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)
Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA-OJP)
Office for Victims of Crime (OVC-OJP)
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP-OJP)

CTAS Enhancements

FY 2011 Changes

- Additional time to work on the application was added (90 days v. 60 days in FY 2010).
- Multiple Purpose Areas were merged from 10 to 8 to allow for more flexibility in funding requests.
- Matching funds were eliminated for all Purpose Areas except one where it was required by statute (OJJDP's Tribal Juvenile Accountability Discretionary Program).
- Only one tribal resolution was required for multiple purpose areas, and it was no longer required at the time of application to permit more time to gain tribal government authorization for application submission. It was, however, required before a grantee could draw down funds.
- A standardized 3-year award period was initiated across Purpose Areas.
- Strategic planning opportunities were made available under all Purpose Areas.
- All Tribes were eligible to apply, regardless of whether they had an existing grant from DOJ, so long as they did not duplicate projects that were currently underway and supported by DOJ funding.
- In reviewing and scoring applications, more weight was assigned to "need" by increasing the value of the narrative portion describing the applicant's need.
- A consolidated budget template was introduced to increase information sharing through the DOJ Tribal Website (www.justice.gov/tribal).

- Coordinated post-award CTAS orientation sessions were initiated.
- Coordinated annual consultation and assessment were implemented.

FY2012 Changes

- A new strategic planning pilot program was added.
- A question-and-answer template option was created to assist Tribes in compiling their project narratives.
- Purpose Areas were adjusted to allow for greater flexibility in funding requests.
- A request for data on the demographics of the applicant Tribe was included to better capture and describe the unique characteristics of each Tribe.

FY 2013 Changes

- The individual Purpose Area templates were redesigned using a more standardized approach in an effort to ensure consistency and create more user-friendly documents.
- Purpose Areas were adjusted to address the Tribes' feedback and concerns.
- Purpose Area #2 Comprehensive Tribal Justice System Strategic Planning was updated to allow it to serve as a mechanism for Tribes to more effectively access comprehensive funding.

FY 2014 Changes

- The solicitation and application process began earlier in the funding cycle by opening in mid-December 2013.
- The question-and-answer templates were coordinated across Purpose Areas to ensure more uniformity and cohesiveness.
- The strategic planning program was expanded to allow for all CTAS grant-making bureaus and offices to participate.
- Purpose Area #4 funding was limited to the renovation of a facility or the completion of existing construction projects. Applicants interested in justice system planning efforts were encouraged to apply under Purpose Area #2.
- DOJ piloted a coordinated review process to be more comprehensive in funding applications that scored high in at least two of the OJP-related Purpose Areas.
- Applicable Purpose Areas were updated to allow activities related to tribal jurisdiction over non-Indian perpetrators of domestic violence on tribal lands, as authorized through the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013.

CTAS Strengths and Challenges

Strengths

- Streamlines the application process, allowing Tribes to apply through one vehicle.
- Requires only one community and justice profile narrative and one budget workbook.
- Enables Tribes to approach their justice needs in a comprehensive manner, and enables DOJ to review proposals comprehensively.
- CTAS infrastructure supports more coordinated approaches with TTA, including a DOJ CTAS orientation meeting, consolidated information about TTA resources and providers, and the ability for Tribes to access information about DOJ tribal resources.

- The CTAS infrastructure has also supported coordinated TTA through joint meetings, coordinated TTA in programs, and the capacity to work together to support new TLOA authorities such as intergovernmental collaboration and the new pilot of special domestic violence jurisdiction.
- Increases flexibility of funding for Tribes in some Purpose Areas. For example, Purpose Area #3 expanded from funding only tribal courts and strategies that address drug-involved crime to also funding that supports programming across the adult tribal justice system.

Challenges Expressed by Tribes at Consultations and Listening Sessions

- Tribal leaders expressed dislike for the competitive discretionary grants that pit Tribe against Tribe to “win” an award over another Tribe.
- Tribes expressed concerns that the government announces many grant opportunities at the same time of year instead of spreading grant announcements across the calendar year. This forces Tribes to pick and choose the grants they will apply for because they do not have the capacity to apply for all of them at the same time.

Because funding is still through various appropriations to each DOJ component, Tribes may receive multiple grants through CTAS that are managed through the individual DOJ components with separate progress reports, TTA, and other programmatic requirements.

Proposed Questions for the Listening Session

- In FY 2016, should DOJ fund unsuccessful, but high-scoring CTAS applications from FY 2015 in Purpose Areas where numerous quality applications were unfunded due to limited availability of funds? In other words, in FY 2016, should DOJ carry over unfunded high-scoring FY 2015 applications and not solicit for new applications for the designated Purpose Area?
- In FY 2015, should DOJ provide priority consideration for Purpose Area #2 awardees that have completed strategic plans approved by DOJ?
- What are your thoughts on the following, which outlines a proposed process for the “priority consideration” of CTAS applicants who were Purpose Area #2 awardees that have a completed and approved strategic plan on file with DOJ at the time that the FY 2015 CTAS solicitation closes?
 - Applicants would apply for FY 2015 CTAS Purpose Areas and identify those that link to the implementation of their strategic plan.
 - DOJ staff would review the CTAS application and ensure the request aligns with the approved strategic plan.
 - If the request aligns with the strategic plan, DOJ would fund the application within reasonable available funding for that Purpose Area.

Tribal Views Requested

DOJ 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.

To provide input via e-mail, please send comments to tribalgrants@usdoj.gov.

To submit written comments via regular mail or overnight mail:

Office of Justice Programs
U.S. Department of Justice
810 7th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20531

Tribal correspondence may be faxed to the Office of Justice Programs at (202) 514-7805.

For telephone inquiry contact:

COPS – Matthew Lysakowski; (202) 514-9362
OJP – Eugenia Tyner-Dawson; (202) 353-3442
OVW – Lorraine Edmo; (202) 514-8804

**Department of Justice Tribal Listening Session
American Indian and Alaska Native Young Adults
Tribal Framing Paper
September 22, 2014**

Overview

The Department of Justice (DOJ) is seeking input from tribal leaders and young adults about how to improve services to American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) youth and young adults. We will continue to seek input at a listening session we will host on October 14, 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

As part of this year of action to expand opportunity for all Americans, the Administration is taking new steps focused on two of Indian Country's most pressing challenges: education and economic development. Greater engagement and collaboration with tribes has led to substantial advances in tribal self-determination. DOJ is specifically interested in speaking with young adults (18-25), as they are uniquely positioned to offer insight into their own experiences and those of youth in the community. Young adulthood is a critical period of maturation and development, during which people often seek to continue their education or pursue economic mobility. In addition, young adults have had time to reflect on their own childhood experiences, and therefore offer a valuable perspective and insight not found among other age groups. Young adults often serve as role models to younger community members, and may understand the challenges that youth encounter better than older adults. Having recently graduated from adolescence, DOJ seeks the input of young adults in identifying the public safety and justice challenges faced by youth and young adults, as well as the corresponding solutions so that we can continue to partner together for the current and future generations.

Proposed Questions for Listening Session

1. What safety issues affect your ability to learn?
2. Do you feel safe in school? In your community?
3. How do you avoid involvement in the justice system?
4. What is your role or what can be your role in helping younger youth stay out of the justice system?

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. To provide views via email, please send comments to tribalgrants@usdoj.gov.

To submit written comments via regular mail or overnight mail:

Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, 810 7th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20531.

Tribal correspondence may be faxed to the Office of Justice Programs at 202-514-7805.

For telephone inquiry contact: Eileen Garry at (202) 307-6226 or Eugenia Tyner-Dawson; (202) 353-3442.

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

September 22, 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**.

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