

Department of Justice Tribal Consultation

DOJ Tribal Grants Policy

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 Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office, 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 to tribal governments, and support research, statistical gathering, analysis and reporting. In keeping with the Department's commitment to work with tribes on a government-to-government basis, we actively solicit your input on how we can improve our processes to better serve you. We want to hear your priorities.

The Department administers formula and competitive grants, some available only to tribal governments and some also open to non-tribal applicants. We are seeking input from tribal leaders about tribal access to both these non-tribal specific funds and tribal-specific funds. We are particularly interested in receiving input on the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS), which is now in its third year.

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2010, DOJ launched CTAS, which encompassed most of the Department's available tribal government-specific grant programs. Through CTAS, DOJ awarded nearly \$127 million in FY 2010, \$118 million in FY 2011, and \$101million in FY 2012 to American Indian and Alaska Native tribes. 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, support other efforts to combat crime, and assist with Tribal Law and Order Act implementation.

For FY 2012, DOJ worked closely with tribal leaders and tribal organizations to determine how the CTAS application process could be improved. We held a CTAS consultation in December 2011 and conducted a survey of CTAS applicants. This feedback was critical in developing the FY 2012 solicitation.

DOJ is now seeking input from tribal leaders about how the grant-making process, including CTAS, can be further improved for FY 2013. We have circulated a survey to tribes about their experience applying for CTAS and will host a consultation session on October 3, 2012, at the Hyatt Regency in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Background

Prior to FY 2010, tribes seeking DOJ tribal-specific funding from multiple sources were required to submit multiple grant applications. Since CTAS was implemented, tribes have been able to submit a single application while selecting multiple purpose areas, ranging from juvenile justice to violence against women. CTAS is not just about 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 the Department to find ways to address them.

In FY 2010, 237 applications were submitted under CTAS with 164 applications approved for grant awards. The awards covered ten Purpose Areas, totaling almost \$127 million. In FY 2011, in a reduced budget environment, nearly 150 applications were approved for grant awards. The awards covered eight Purpose Areas, totaling over \$118 million. In FY 2012, 249 applications were submitted under CTAS. The awards will cover ten Purpose Areas, totaling over \$100 million.

In an effort to build on CTAS in FY 2010, DOJ worked with tribes to further refine and improve CTAS for FY 2011 and 2012. In addition to formal consultation and listening sessions, we sought feedback through OJP's Tribal Justice Advisory Group, the OJP Assistant Attorney General's interdepartmental training and technical assistance sessions, DOJ conferences, and other tribal meetings. The Department also solicited and received written comments from tribes. We incorporated feedback from the tribal meetings and consultations and made a number of changes to the FY 2011 and FY 2012 CTAS.

The following DOJ components offer tribal government-specific grant resources through the eight 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)

The FY 2012 CTAS Purpose Areas were:

1. Public Safety and Community Policing (COPS) - \$27 million
2. Comprehensive Planning Demonstration Program (BJA) - \$375,000
3. Justice Systems and Alcohol and Substance Abuse (BJA) - \$16.8 million
4. Corrections and Correctional Alternatives (BJA) - \$7.5 million
5. Tribal Sexual Assault Services Program (OVW) - \$3.8 million
6. Violence Against Women Tribal Governments Program (OVW) - \$32 million
7. Children's Justice Act Partnerships for Indian Communities (OVC) - \$1.5 million
8. Comprehensive Tribal Victim Assistance Program (OVC) - \$3.6 million
9. Juvenile Justice (OJJDP) - less than \$1 million
10. Tribal Youth Program (OJJDP) - \$8 million

FY 2012 CTAS Changes to Address Tribal Concerns

- Added a new strategic planning pilot program.
- Created a question and answer template option to assist tribes in compiling their project narratives.
- Adjusted Purpose Areas to allow greater flexibility in funding requests. We included a request for data on the demographics of the applicant tribe to better capture and describe the unique characteristics of each tribe.
- Allowed types of proof for tribal authority other than tribal resolutions to be submitted with the application.

Potential Areas for Tribal Consultation Input

The Department is very interested in learning what worked and did not work for tribes or tribal consortia to enhance DOJ services such as grant policies, especially the CTAS initiative. DOJ wishes to maximize the limited resources available to address the justice and public safety resource needs for tribal nations.

Proposed Questions for Consultation:

1. What are your tribe's justice and public safety funding priorities? Are these priorities included in the CTAS?
2. What can DOJ do to support your tribe in comprehensive planning around justice and public safety issues for your tribal justice system?
3. How can DOJ improve the competitive grants process to assist with Tribal Law and Order Act implementation?
4. Based on feedback from last year's CTAS Assessment, the process for tribal resolutions was modified to allow other documentation illustrating authority to apply to be submitted. However, numerous applications the last two years have not included resolutions or other authorizing documentation, thereby limiting tribal access to grant funds until the documentation is provided. Resolutions or authorizing documentation are not typically required from non-tribal applicants. Rather the Department relies on the signature of the authorized representative applying for the grant. Given the challenges tribes have experienced submitting tribal resolutions the past two years, is a tribal resolution or equivalent authority necessary for tribal authorization to submit a CTAS application or should DOJ rely on the same process as it does for state and local governments?
5. Are you aware that regardless of who submits a grant application on behalf of a tribe, the tribal government is responsible for the funding and project completion, any issues, extensions, modifications, and related activities?
6. The CTAS has typically opened in mid-January and closed in mid-April after 90 days, the timing of which can delay the clearing of grant budgets and access to

grant funds. In the past two years, many tribes have had to wait several months to have access to their grant funds. Would a shorter open period for the grant be preferable if it meant that tribes would have access to their grant funds at the time the awards are made?

7. Was your tribe aware of the FY2012 DOJ grants and CTAS opportunities? How can DOJ improve communications regarding funding training, technical assistance and services opportunities to tribes and designees?
8. Budget restrictions limit DOJ's ability to conduct field training and site specific technical assistance. What is your capacity and accessibility to receive training via webinars, video conferencing and teleconference calls? What is your training preference?
9. DOJ TTA providers and components are interested in developing an electronic information sharing system to: 1) reduce duplication of DOJ training and technical assistance (TTA) resources; 2) improve the delivery of TTA services to Indian Country; and 3) provide a centralized repository for tribes to review DOJ menu of TTA services and request TTA. Does your tribe support the proposed information sharing system/portal? Is your tribe willing to be included as part of this information sharing system? Is your tribe opposed to having general information regarding TTA services specific to the tribe viewable by other TTA providers and federal agencies?
10. DOJ continues to explore ways to improve consultation, communication, coordination on policy issues and TTA resources within the Department, other federal agencies, and with tribal governments. Efforts focus on the coordination of consultation such as today's session, regional sessions, one-on-one site visits, training workshops, webinars, teleconferences, and other events. Does your tribe have any recommendations for DOJ to consider as we continue to enhance our strategy?

Listed below are questions we want to ask tribal practitioners, sub-agencies, program offices, policy staff, justice officials and other representatives. We appreciate tribal leader input on these questions as well should you wish to offer comment.

1. Compared to FY 2011 CTAS applications, was the FY 2012 CTAS application easier, about the same, or more difficult? What changes would you recommend for FY 2013?
2. Based on feedback from last year's CTAS Assessment, an updated semi-automated budget detail worksheet was created. Were the instructions for the worksheet and the embedded help functions clear and concise? Was the budget detail worksheet helpful?
3. In response to feedback we have received from tribes regarding CTAS and in order to make it easier for all tribes to apply for CTAS, a question and answer fillable format for the Tribal Community and Justice Profile and the Purpose Area

sections of the application was utilized. Did this allow for a clearer and simpler application process while still allowing each tribe to write a narrative that fully describes their unique community project(s)?

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 **October 31, 2012**.

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

To participate in the TJSW consultation and listening sessions, please register to attend at www.justice.gov/tribal.

For further inquiry or to submit written comments via regular mail, contact the Office of Tribal Justice at 202-514-8812. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Tribal Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20530.

Other Helpful Links:

DOJ's Tribal Justice and Safety Website
www.justice.gov/tribal

FY 2012 Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation
<http://www.justice.gov/tribal/ctas2012/ctas-solicitation.pdf>