HISTORY

OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act of 1974 established the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to support local and state efforts to prevent delinquency and improve the juvenile justice system. OJJDP collaborates with professionals from diverse disciplines to improve juvenile justice policies and practices by supporting states, local communities, and tribal jurisdictions in their efforts to develop and implement effective programs for juveniles. The Office strives to strengthen the juvenile justice system’s efforts to protect public safety, hold offenders accountable, and provide services that address the needs of youth and their families.

OJJDP sponsors research, program, and training initiatives; develops priorities and goals and sets policies to guide federal juvenile justice issues; disseminates information about juvenile justice issues; and awards funds to states, tribes and communities to support local programming.

OVERVIEW

COORDINATED TRIBAL ASSISTANCE SOLICITATION

The Department of Justice (DOJ) launched its Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS) in Fiscal Year 2010 in direct response to concerns raised by tribal leaders about the Department’s grant process that did not provide the flexibility tribes needed to address their criminal justice and public safety needs.

Through CTAS, federally recognized tribes and tribal consortia were able, for the first time, to submit a single application for most of DOJ’s tribal grant programs. DOJ designed this comprehensive approach to save time and resources and allow tribes and DOJ to gain a better understanding of the tribes’ overall public safety needs. CTAS is currently operated through collaborative efforts across many department components, bureaus, and offices, including:

- Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)
- Executive Office for United States Attorney’s (EOUSA)
- Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)
- Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison (OIPL)
- Office of Justice Programs (OJP)
- Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)
- Office of Tribal Justice (OTJ)
- Office for Victims of Crime (OVC)
- Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)

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OVERVIEW

TRIBAL YOUTH PROGRAM

OJJDP’s Tribal Youth Program (TYP) is Purpose Area 9 under the CTAS. OJJDP’s Tribal Youth Program (TYP) seeks to support and enhance tribal efforts to prevent and reduce juvenile delinquency and strengthen a fair and beneficial juvenile justice system response for American Indian/Alaska Native youth. OJJDP understands that Tribal Nations have widely varying circumstances, challenges, strengths, and needs that impact their ability to prevent delinquency or to intervene and treat Tribal youth when necessary. The funding in this Purpose area is available to create, expand or strengthen tribally driven approaches along the juvenile justice continuum which can range from prevention to intervention and treatment. We recommend that Tribes propose a comprehensive project designed to have an impact in one, as opposed to multiple, areas. OJJDP also recommends that the selection of program design align with planning efforts and with community support which will be critically important in sustaining efforts beyond the grant award period.

In addition, applicants should be aware that OJJDP envisions a transformed juvenile justice system that recognizes and builds upon the strengths, values, and diversity of families and communities to best serve the children and youth who come into contact with the system and to improve both safety and quality of life for all. To support and sustain this vision, OJJDP is elevating family and youth engagement as a principle and practice through its policy and funding decisions, the development and support of related practice models, and the collection of data to ensure that effective, intentional, and systematic family and youth engagement is implemented and sustained across the nation. Note: The population of youth served under this grant must not include youth who are age 18 or older.

Priority areas eligible for funding include the areas below.

1. Prevention services to impact risk factors for delinquency and promote protective factors. This may include mentoring, youth development, anti-gang education, truancy and school dropout prevention programs, afterschool programs, anti-bullying and parenting education programs.

2. Prevention, intervention and/or treatment for children exposed to violence. This includes development and implementation of trauma-informed practices in programs and services that address child abuse and neglect and the effects and issues of childhood trauma or exposure to violence. Applicants should familiarize themselves with the Attorney General’s Advisory Committee on American Indian/Alaska Native Children Exposed to Violence report www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/defendingchildhood/pages/attachments/2015/03/23/ending_violence_so_children_can_thrive.pdf

3. Interventions for court-involved tribal youth. This may include graduated sanctions, mentoring, restitution, diversion, home detention, foster and shelter care, and other alternatives to detention.

4. Treatment services for at-risk and high-risk youth. This may include alcohol and drug abuse treatment and prevention programs; mental health treatment, development of comprehensive screening tools, crisis intervention, intake assessments, treatment team planning, therapeutic services for co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders, drug testing, fetal alcohol syndrome screening, counseling, referral services, and placement services.

5. Prevention and intervention services for native girls. This may include programs that focus on teaching skills needed to resist substance abuse, prevent teen pregnancy, build self-esteem, foster positive relationships with peers and adults, learn self-advocacy, and build pro-social skills. Please review: www.ojjdp.gov/policyguidance/girls-juvenile-justice-system/#nav
6. Services for youth in detention or out-of-home placement. This may include green/sustainable tribal traditions, risk and needs assessments, educational and vocational programming, mental health and substance abuse services, family strengthening, recreational activities, and aftercare/re-entry services to help successfully reintegrate the youth into the tribal community.

7. Improvement or establishment of data collection systems. This may include efforts to create or improve abilities to track youth in detention, placement or community-based programs, the goal being to improve understanding of youth and community needs.

8. Development and implementation of tribal best practices and traditional healing methods to support tribal youth. This may include engaging tribal youth in activities centered on cultural preservation, land reclamation, green/sustainable tribal traditions, language preservation.

9. Programs designed to meet the needs of underserved or vulnerable groups of youth such as LGBT-2S (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and/or two-spirit) youth. Please review: www.ojjdp.gov/pubs/245321.pdf

Ongoing Support

OJJDP’s Tribal Youth training and technical assistance (TTA) center assists selected project sites as they work to achieve their goals and objectives under each of these programs. Through this TTA, OJJDP assists tribal grantees to increase their skills, knowledge and capabilities in developing effective and sustainable programs for reducing juvenile crime and increasing youth potential in tribal communities. The TTA provided to the OJJDP CTAS grantees includes both onsite visits and long-distance support consisting of email, phone and online meetings. It also includes the opportunity for peer-to-peer learning through a new grantee orientation webinar and a required initial Strategic Planning meeting (i.e., Strat Pak).

Strategic Planning

The Strategic Planning phase was created to support OJJDP CTAS grantees through a strategic planning process that includes developing a mission and vision statement, developing an advisory board, creating a logic model, action planning, and communications and sustainability planning. The strategic planning process helps to identify program challenges and strategies to address them and to create partnerships that are important for implementation and sustainability. The Strategic Plan is required by OJJDP as a special condition of the tribal grant. All awardees will be required to travel to a strategic planning training and submit a comprehensive plan for implementation of their program.

Tribal New Grantee Orientation

OJJDP CTAS grantees are required to participate in a web-based new grantee orientation. This training provides all new grantees an opportunity to meet the OJJDP leadership and program management team. The orientation gives grantees to gain a greater understanding of key grant administration resources (such as the OJP post-award Instructions, Financial Management Guide, and reporting requirements) as well as a greater awareness of common shortfall in grant administration. Finally, this training offers an opportunity for grantees to ask any questions about the goals, objectives, and key upcoming activities of the Juvenile Healing to Wellness Courts program.

OJJDP’s Tribal Youth Program TTA center is also available to provide assistance to all federally recognized tribes and can be accessed at www.tribalyouthprogram.org.

Funding & Eligibility

Only federally recognized tribes are eligible to apply for funding under Purpose Area 9 (Tribal Youth Program). This includes Alaska Native Villages and tribal consortia consisting of two or more federally recognized Indian tribes. This includes Alaska Native Villages and tribal consortia consisting of two or more federally recognized Indian tribes. Please see the CTAS solicitation document for more information on funding amounts.

Benefits

The Purpose Area 9 funding provides support for tribes to develop and implement culturally sensitive programs for tribal youth focused on prevention services to impact risk factors for delinquency; interventions for court-involved youth; improvements to the juvenile justice system; alcohol and substance abuse prevention programs; and mental health program services. The need for culturally-based prevention, intervention and treatment programs for at-risk American Indian and Alaska Native youth is well documented. The Tribal Youth Program supports the goals of preventing and reducing juvenile delinquency and strengthening the juvenile justice system for American Indian and Alaska Native youth.

Other benefits reported by grantees are the increased collaboration with other jurisdictions that results from development of Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs). This can include partnerships between tribal and non-tribal organizations.

Strategies

Some examples of programs for tribal youth funded by OJJDP include the community-driven Comprehensive Truancy Prevention Project created by key partners in the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe and Hayward communities, a Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians’ Creating Restitution and Following Tradition (CRAFT) program, which is designed to divert first-time offenders and youth who have committed minor offenses away from the court system and connect them to their cultural heritage; programs created by the Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians to provide youth with academic, cultural, and professional opportunities; and a tribal court created by the Klamath Tribes of Oregon to manage juvenile cases and create alternative options for youth who commit non-felony crimes, working in coordination with local social services agencies.
Community policing is a philosophy that promotes organizational strategies which support the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques, to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder, and fear of crime. The COPS Office has also produced and compiled a broad range of information resources that can help law enforcement better address specific crime and operational issues, and help community leaders better understand how to work cooperatively with their law enforcement agency to reduce crime.

OVW was created specifically to implement VAWA and subsequent legislation. OVW administers financial and technical assistance to communities around the country to facilitate the creation of programs, policies, and practices aimed at ending domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) is a component of the United States Department of Justice. In recognition of the severity of the crimes associated with domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, Congress passed the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (VAWA 1994) as part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. VAWA is a comprehensive legislative package designed to end violence against women and was reauthorized in both 2000 and 2005. The legislative history of VAWA indicates that Congress seeks to remedy the legacy of laws and social norms that serve to justify violence against women. Since the passage of VAWA, there has been a paradigm shift in how the issue of violence against women is addressed nationwide.

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This project was supported by Grant No. 2014-IC-BX-K004 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the SMART Office. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.