



U. S. Department of Justice

Office of the Associate Attorney General

The Associate Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

October 11, 2013

Dear Tribal Leaders,

As you know, as of October 1, 2013, a lapse in appropriations caused much of our federal government to shut down. With very few exceptions many federal agencies, including the Department of Justice, have been forced to cease operations. Using prior year funding sources, the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), and the Office of Community Oriented Policing, were able to temporarily remain fully operational through Friday, October 4, 2013. However, as of 5:00 p.m. EDT on Friday, October 4, 2013, OJP ran out of prior year funding and was forced to cease operations. As a result of OJP closing, access to the Grants Payment Request System and the Grants Management System ended. Since last Friday, OJP and OVW grantees have been unable to request payment or drawdown funds for reimbursement of grant related expenditures. We understand this is causing financial uncertainty for many tribes.

Over the past week, we have heard from DOJ tribal grantees about the devastating impact the federal government shutdown is having on tribes across the country. Many tribes have been forced to furlough staff, including those working in health care clinics and domestic violence shelters. And as we end the second week of this crisis, the Department remains particularly concerned about the impact the shutdown continues to have on all of you and your communities.

Regrettably, as a result, the Department is forced to postpone the federally mandated Government-to-Government Violence Against Women Tribal Consultation on October 31, 2013, in Bismarck, North Dakota. I was very much looking forward to joining you at this important gathering. But, notwithstanding this setback, the Department remains committed to convening the annual Violence Against Women Tribal consultation before the end of this year, and we will update you when a new date is set.

We realize the inconvenience this may cause and will do everything we can to be responsive under these difficult circumstances. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding. Thank you for your continued leadership during this challenging time.

Respectfully,



Tony West