The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BIA). Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, supports law enforcement, courts, corrections, treatment, victim services, technology, and prevention initiatives that strengthen the nation’s criminal justice system. BIA provides leadership, services, and funding to America’s communities by emphasizing local control; building relationships in the field, developing collaborations and partnerships; promoting capacity building through planning, strengthening the administration of grants; maximizing training and technical assistance; creating project accountability; encouraging innovation; and ultimately communicating the value of justice efforts to decision makers at every level.

BIA works with the Office of Tribal Justice, the Office of Justice Program’s American Indian and Alaska Native Affairs Desk, and other federal agencies, in addition to many culturally appropriate organizations, to maintain focus with the field and to ensure the program’s goals and objectives are achieved.

Established in 1988 through an amendment to the Victims of Crime Act (VCOA) of 1984, Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) is charged by Congress with administering the Crime Victims Fund (the Fund). Through OVC, the Fund supports a broad array of programs and services that focus on helping victims in the immediate aftermath of crime and continuing supports a broad array of programs and services that focus on helping victims in the immediate aftermath of crime and continuing to rebuild their lives. Millions of dollars are invested annually in victim compensation and assistance in every U.S. state and territory, as well as for training, technical assistance, and other capacity-building programs designed to enhance service providers’ ability to support victims of crime in communities across the Nation.

The Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) is 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.

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, polices, and practices aimed at ending domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act established OJJDP, a component of the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, 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 to support local programming.

The Comprehensive Tribal Justice Systems Strategic Planning (CTAS) initiative promotes and supports the 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 CTAS 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.

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) is a component of the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) that administers the Crime Victims Fund (the Fund), which provides grants to assist states, tribes, and organizations serving victims of crime. The Office also supports the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), and other components of the Department of Justice.

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 ever, 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. The first coordinated Tribal grant process launched in Fiscal Year 2010, through the collaborative efforts across many department components, bureaus, and offices, including:

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

In FY2012, the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) created a new funding purpose area as part of the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS). This purpose area was designed to support tribes requesting resources to develop a comprehensive Tribal justice system strategic plan. To provide training and technical assistance (T&TA) to the grantees funded through this purpose area, BJA released a competitive TTA solicitation as part of the FY2012 Tribal Justice Capacity Building request for proposals, category two.

In FY2013 a new cohort of grantees was funded and the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office and Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) joined BJA in this effort.

In FY2014, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) also joined this effort to provide funding under this purpose area. The National Criminal Justice Training Center (NCJTC) of Fox Valley Technical College, in partnership with the Tribal Justic Exchange at the Center for Court Innovation (CCI) and the Tribal Judicial Institute (TJI) at the University of North Dakota, School of Law were selected to provide support to the Tribes funded for these projects.

For additional information on the Comprehensive Tribal Justice Strategic Planning contact:

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To best meet the needs of the grantees as they develop their written strategic plans, the training and technical assistance (TTA) providers developed the Tribal Justice System Planning Process (TJSPP). This process was developed to be implemented in three phases as onsite training for the planning team. The TTA partners guide the grantee planning team through all three phases of training and work together throughout the project period with on-going office-based assistance. By the end of phase three, the grantee strategic planning team will have the building blocks of a comprehensive community justice strategic plan to propose at the end of their 18 month award. For tribes applying for but not receiving awards, NCJTC will provide services, as approved by BJA, through technical assistance.

Although the TJSPP includes the opportunity for peer-to-peer learning through regional and national trainings, the primary approach is through direct onsite and office-based assistance.

The three phases of training are as follows:

**Phase One: Working Together**
This phase involves a 2-day training to confirm the Action Planning Advisory Board Members; develop a strategy to gain support from the Tribal Council, develop a Resolution or Memorandum of Agreement (MOA); identify tools for working together and problem-solving; define quality of life, vision, and mission; and identify resources. Upon completion of Phase One, the tribal team will have a clear roadmap for working together throughout the planning process, a schedule for meeting times and dates, and a timeline for completion of the remaining phases of the project. Follow up and action items resulting from this training is anticipated to take approximately 6-12 months.

**Phase Two: Identifying Strengths/Needs**
This phase of training involves action planning to develop a strategy to conduct focus groups and stakeholder interviews, facilitate community meetings, and implement a written questionnaire/assessment that will build the tribe’s capacity to define their community, assess the current state of the justice system, and identify needs and gaps in services. Analysis of data from this assessment process provides the framework for development of a written response/plan, which is the focus of Phase Three. After this two-day training on the needs assessment process, the TTA providers will work one-on-one with the grantee through onsite visits, email, phone, and Go-To-Meeting/Skype to complete the assessments. Follow up and action items resulting from this training is anticipated to take approximately 5-6 months.

**Phase Three: Goals and Action Steps**
This two-day training assists grantees to analyze emerging themes, learn the fundamentals of writing effective goals, and outlining realistic, achievable, and measurable action steps. This phase of the training includes education and measures of success for the strategic plan. Follow up and action items resulting from this training is anticipated to take approximately 1-2 months.

**On-going Support**
Once the plan is complete, future support of the planning efforts may focus on resource development, capacity-building, or planning for implementation and sustainability of the project. NCJTC will provide services, as approved by BJA, through technical assistance.

**CURRENT GRANTEES**
Each grantee was funded up to $75,000 as part of the pilot project to enhance their Tribal Justice System. Each year additional grantees, funded under another CTAS Purpose Area, have been, or may be, incorporated into the respective cohorts groups when their project is in alignment with this Purpose Area for the purpose of receiving relevant training and technical assistance.

**STATEGIES**
With all of the grantees being at different levels of need and familiarity with strategic planning, the TA providers determined it would be in the best interest of the grantee to assign a single point of contact for each tribe – rather than providing a different training team for each phase of training. A Mentor Team is assigned to the grantee to guide them through the planning process as needed. This Mentorship concept has helped to gain trust with the grantees and provides an easier path for them to request and receive assistance and resources.

It is the Mentors’ role to ensure the grantee’s efforts are on task. To achieve this, on-site training, webinars and conference calls are used to maintain communication with the point of contact and, in some cases, the whole planning team. A series of planning-related benchmarks to help ensure the plans are moving along, based on an established timeline.