



## U.S. Department of Justice FY 2015 Budget Request

### PUBLIC SAFETY IN INDIAN COUNTRY

**\$395.4 Million in Total Resources**

#### FY 2015 Overview

##### PUBLIC SAFETY IN INDIAN COUNTRY

The United States has a unique legal and political relationship with Indian tribes and Alaska Native communities as provided by the Constitution, treaties, court decisions, and federal statutes. The Department of Justice in particular has an important legal and moral responsibility to prosecute violent crime in Indian Country because under current law, in much of Indian Country, the Department alone has the authority to seek an appropriate sentence when a major crime has been committed. Federal investigation and prosecution of serious violent crime in Indian Country cannot be deferred to a local jurisdiction, and, therefore, federal law enforcement is both the first and only avenue of protection for the victims of these crimes.

The FY 2015 President's Budget requests \$395.4 million in total resources for public safety initiatives in Indian Country. Investments include significant and versatile grant funding for addressing a range of criminal justice issues and additional resources (\$530,000) for the Office of Tribal Justice (OTJ). OTJ is the primary point of contact in the Department for federally recognized tribes and advises the Department on legal and policy matters pertaining to Native Americans.

#### Key DOJ Resources

##### Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)

- COPS requests **\$35.0 million in total resources** for Indian Country in FY 2015 to fund tribal law enforcement expenses, including the hiring of police officers, training, and purchasing new equipment, technology, and vehicles.

##### Office of Justice Programs (OJP)

- OJP requests total discretionary resources of **\$102.8 million** for Indian Country in FY 2015. This funding comes via the Flexible Tribal Grant 7 percent Set-Aside from all OJP programs (excepting the Crime Victims Fund and the Public Safety Officers' Benefits programs).
- OJP also requests **\$20.0 million** to support Tribal Assistance for Victims of Violence from the Crime Victims Fund. This funding is requested as part of Vision 21, a strategic planning initiative based on an 18-month national assessment by OJP that systematically engaged the crime victim advocacy field and other stakeholder groups in assessing current and emerging challenges—and opportunities—facing the field. The initiative is designed to address identified needs including the need for more victim-related data, research and program evaluation; holistic legal assistance for crime victims; resources for

tribal victims; and capacity building to provide technology- and evidence-based training and technical assistance.

### **Office of Tribal Justice (OTJ)**

- OTJ requests total resources of **\$1.6 million and 8 positions (6 attorneys)** for FY 2015.
- The request includes a program increase of **\$530,000 for 3 attorney positions**. This increase in staffing is in recognition of the workload and duties of OTJ. Hundreds of federal cases, in addition to other conflicts needing resolution are generated in Indian Country each year. The Office of Tribal Justice (OTJ) is responsible for serving as the primary point of contact between the 566 federally recognized tribes and the Department in these matters. OTJ coordinates these complex matters, the underlying policy, and emerging legislation between more than a dozen DOJ components active in Indian country. External coordination with the Departments of Interior, Health and Human Services, and Homeland Security, as well as the Congress is another of OTJ's duties. OTJ also provides legal expertise in Indian law to the Department in those matters that progress to the appellate level, or issues being considered for legislation.

### **Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)**

- OVW requests total resources of **\$46.1 million** for Indian Country in FY 2015. Included in this amount is **\$35.7 million** for the Tribal Governments program, **\$6.2 million** for the Tribal Coalitions program, **\$2.7 million** for the Sexual Assault Services Program, **\$1.0 million** for Analysis and Research on Violence Against Indian Women, and **\$500,000** for a Sexual Assault Clearinghouse.
- OVW sets aside a percentage of funding from many of its programs for tribal governments and coalitions. The Tribal Governments Program is designed to enhance the ability of tribes to respond to violent crimes against American Indian women, enhance victim safety, and develop education and prevention strategies. The Tribal Coalitions Program builds the capacity of survivors, advocates, Indian women's organizations, and victim service providers to form nonprofit, nongovernmental tribal domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions to end violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women.
- On March 7, 2013, President Obama signed into law the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (VAWA 2013). The law contains provisions that significantly improve the safety of Native women and which allow federal and tribal law enforcement agencies to hold more perpetrators of domestic violence accountable for their crimes. The Department continues to implement these tribal provisions. Following consultation with Tribes, the Department published the Final Notice on the Pilot Project on November 29, 2013, establishing the process by which Tribes can apply for special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction over certain defendants, regardless of their Indian or non-Indian status, who commit acts of domestic violence or dating violence or violate certain protection orders in Indian Country. The following Tribes' Pilot Project applications were granted by the Department of Justice on February 6, 2014: the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, and the

Tulalip Tribes of Washington. The Department is currently reviewing 3 additional applications from interested tribes. All Tribes will be able exercise special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction beginning in March of 2015.

**Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation**

- In FY 2010, the Department launched the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS), a streamlined solicitation process which encompasses most of DOJ’s available Tribal government-specific grant programs. Through CTAS, the Department has awarded \$437.5 million to hundreds of American Indian and Alaskan Native Communities. The Tribes are using these funds to enhance law enforcement; bolster adult and juvenile justice systems; prevent and control juvenile delinquency; serve sexual assault, domestic violence, and elder victims; and support other efforts to combat crime. The FY 2014 solicitation opened in December of 2013, and the application deadline is March 24, 2014.

**FY 2015 Indian Country Funding Totals  
(Amount in \$000s)**

Component	FY 2014 Enacted			FY 2015 President’s Budget		
	Pos	Agents/ Attorneys	Amount	Pos	Agents/ Attorneys	Amount
Bureau of Prisons	883	442	117,662	883	442	118,839
Civil Division	3	1	271	3	1	274
Community Oriented Policing Services*	0	0	33,000	0	0	35,000
Community Relations Service	0	0	25	0	0	26
Criminal Division	3	2	699	3	2	715
Environment and Natural Resources Division	29	24	6,994	29	24	7,309
Federal Bureau of Investigation	134	125	27,455	134	125	26,906
Office of Justice Programs*	0	0	35,000	0	0	102,844
Office of Justice Programs, Crime Victims Fund**	0	0	6,300	0	0	20,000

Office of Tribal Justice	5	3	1,100	8	6	1,630
Office on Violence Against Women*	0	0	45,881	0	0	46,091
United States Attorneys	199	136	33,361	199	136	35,750
<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>1,256</b>	<b>733</b>	<b>\$ 307,748</b>	<b>1,259</b>	<b>736</b>	<b>\$ 395,384</b>

\* In FY 2014 and the FY 2015 President's Budget request, OJP, COPS, and OVW salaries and expenses are derived from within grant program funding. Therefore, the actual amount provided for grants to Indian country will be slightly less than the amounts displayed.

\*\* The \$20 million is proposed to be funded from the Crime Victims Fund, a mandatory account.