

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE - TRIBAL CONSOLIDATED GRANTS INITIATIVE
TRIBAL LEADERS CONSULTATION TELECONFERENCE CALL
DECEMBER 18, 2009
4:00 – 6:00 P.M. (EST)**

DOJ Attendance:

Karol Mason, Deputy Associate Attorney General

Mary Lou Leary, Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, OJP

Beth McGarry, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, OJP

Eugenia Tyner-Dawson, Senior Advisor for Tribal Affairs, OJP

Scott McNichol, Supervisory Senior Policy Analyst, Grants Administration Division, COPS

Anna Martinez, OVW

I. DOJ INTRODUCTIONS

Eugenia Tyner-Dawson, Senior Tribal Advisor to Assistant Attorney General Laurie Robinson began by addressing and welcoming Distinguished Tribal Leaders and Tribal Policy Expert Designees, noting that both she and Tracy Toulou, Director for the Office of Tribal Justice, would be facilitating the U.S. Department of Justice, Tribal Consolidated Grants Initiative – National Tribal Consultation Teleconference Call.

Ms. Tyner-Dawson continued with an introduction of Department of Justice representation on the call. These people included: Deputy Associate Attorney General Karol Mason, Deputy Assistant Attorney General Mary Lou Leary, Office of Justice Programs, Deputy Assistant Attorney General Beth McGarry, Office of Justice Programs, Scott McNichol, Supervisory Senior Policy Analyst, Grants Administration Division, Community Oriented Policing Services, and Anna Martinez, Office for Violence Against Women. Ms. Tyner-Dawson mentioned that other Department representatives from the various grant components were on the call to listen and address questions if necessary.

After the brief introduction, Ms. Tyner-Dawson summarized the main topics proposed on the agenda, which are as follows:

II. Tribal consultation call purpose

- III. Tribal Leaders/Designees Introductions & Call Protocols
- IV. Tribal Consolidated Grants Initiative Goals
- V. Tribal Grants Initiative Proposal
- VI. DOJ Education and Outreach
- VII. Tribal Action Readiness
- VIII. Next Steps
- IX. Adjourn

Ms. Tyner-Dawson then gave a brief background on the dialogue, listening sessions and consultation provided to date.

She noted that the DOJ received tribal recommendations from the Office of Justice Programs Tribal Justice Advisory Group that developed a Tribal Policy paper for the Obama Administration, and worked with the National Congress of American Indians to develop a Consultation Matrix detailing tribal priorities.

In August and September 2009, DOJ traveled to Seattle, WA and Albuquerque, NM, where they engaged tribal policy experts and Tribal leaders from these areas to solicit their views for public safety and tribal justice issues.

In October, 2009 noted Ms. Tyner-Dawson, the Department's leadership, Attorney General Holder, Deputy Attorney Ogden, and Associate Attorney General Thomas Perrelli, met with Tribal leaders and their tribal designees to discuss tribal law enforcement and public safety issues at a two-day listening session held in St. Paul, Minnesota.

On October 30, 2009, the Department held the Annual Violence Against Women Tribal Consultation in St. Paul, Minnesota to hear the tribal views in accordance with our statutory requirements to consult with tribal leaders.

As the Executive Director for the Tribal Justice Advisory Group, Ms. Tyner-Dawson coordinated closely with the National Congress of American Indians throughout their development of the Tribal Consultation Matrix.

Without any question, noted Ms. Tyner-Dawson, tribal leaders have asked for the DOJ to improve the tribal grants process, increase tribal access to DOJ resources, and simplify the funding streams for tribes.

She described the teleconference call as a reflection of the Department's desire to be responsive to tribes to take action and not simply talk about it; and, to develop a process that will work for everyone affected. She noted the importance of involving the tribes as early as possible in this FY2010 process.

Ms. Tyner-Dawson focused on the significance of the Consolidated Grants Initiative. As the proposal develops from consulting to working in partnership with the tribes, the DOJ's hope is to achieve safer Native communities.

Ms. Tyner-Dawson then asked the callers to please bear with her as she covered a few protocols with everyone for the call, before turning the call over to Deputy Associate Attorney General Karol Mason.

Ms. Tyner-Dawson announced the established agenda for the session to conclude at 4:30 p.m. and notified the callers of the utilization of a note taker in order to capture issues and challenges. She then asked the representatives to state their name, title and Tribal affiliation when speaking.

Ms. Tyner-Dawson directed her attention to the press, informing those on the call that the call was primarily for tribal leaders and asked that comments be held and directed to Sheila Jerusalem at 202-616-3227 or written to Sheila.jerusalem@usdoj.gov.

Ms. Tyner-Dawson said that the DOJ representatives on the call were available to respond to requests for specific responses; otherwise, they remained active listeners.

Ms. Tyner-Dawson stated that the goal of the DOJ was to present the proposal, and to have a dialogue; not just listen, without giving comment where appropriate.

Finally, Ms. Tyner-Dawson asked the callers to please afford speakers the full opportunity to be heard. She asked callers to mute their telephones unless speaking and avoid all background conversations that could interfere with the teleconference conversations.

Next, Deputy Associate Attorney General Karol Mason began her remarks about the grant initiatives and objectives. She noted that upon consideration of the comments at the October Listening Sessions in St. Paul, the planning sessions in Seattle and Albuquerque and the Consultation on Violence Against Native Women held on October 30, 2009, the Department of Justice began implementing a new approach to Tribal specific grants solicitations and applications.

In response to concerns, Ms. Mason noted the consideration of developing a single solicitation and application form for all of the Department's Tribal specific discretionary grant programs.

She noted the goal of implementing this new approach for the fiscal year which began on October 1, 2009, and which will end on September 30, 2010. Ms. Mason informed callers that the purpose of conducting the consultation by conference call was to enable the DOJ to implement the new approach this current fiscal year.

Ms. Mason clarified that the new approach will NOT apply to any existing/continuing grants and will NOT apply to requests for supplemental funding for existing grants. This new approach will NOT apply to training and technical assistance grant programs. The new approach will apply only to new requests for grant funding, for grant programs specifically for Tribal governments and Tribal coalitions. Furthermore, there will be no change in the OVW eligibility for Tribal coalition's grants.

Ms. Mason encouraged Tribal Leaders to continue to apply for all other non-Tribal specific grant programs offered by the Department, such as the Bureau of Justice Assistance's Drug Court Grants Program, the Office on Violence against Women's Legal Assistance to Victim's Grant Program, and COPS general Hiring Grants Program.

She stated that the DOJ was consulting with Tribal Leaders at the beginning of the process, prior to developing the solicitation form.

Ms. Mason cited the Department's goal as one intended to design a single solicitation and application, to eliminate the need for Tribes to become familiar with multiple solicitations and to submit multiple applications.

The combined solicitation is to be comprehensive, noted Ms. Mason, so that all the Tribes are educated about all of the Tribal specific grant programs available to Tribal governments. Each Tribal government will be required to submit a single application for all grants that it would like to receive.

All of the Department's Tribal specific discretionary grant programs will be described in a single solicitation, and will provide a single application form. Each Tribe will select the grant programs the Tribe needs to address its criminal justice issues.

Ms. Mason noted the Department is in the process of developing a single budget form, which will require a budget for each grant selected by the Tribe.

Ms. Mason continued by stating that grants will continue to be awarded separately by each component. If a Tribe applies for multiple grants, the grants will be awarded separately by component. The grants will be managed by the awarding component in the same manner grants are currently managed. Tribes will be required to file the reports required for each specific grant awarded. Ms. Mason said that applications will be accepted electronically, using GMS, and by Fax and by overnight courier, postmarked no later than the date the solicitation is due.

She encouraged Tribes to begin community assessment and planning efforts now, so that they can begin the process of developing a single grant proposal.

Ms. Mason notified the callers of an education and outreach committee that will work closely with the Tribes, before the solicitation is released, to educate them about this new approach.

Ms. Mason reached out to leaders to enlist their help in identifying conferences and other gatherings which will give the DOJ the opportunity to explain this new approach.

She stated the overall goal of working in partnership with Tribes as the DOJ works to simplify the grant application process.

The combined single solicitation will help educate the Department as a whole about the needs in Native communities, Ms. Mason noted. It will also help continue to improve the grant process and will help identify gaps to create better funding models in the future.

Ms. Mason said that the Department was to hold another consultation call next Wednesday at 2:30 EASTERN TIME.

Tracy Toulou, OTJ, Opened the Floor by Region: Tracy asked all of the tribal representatives to identify issues on a region-by-region basis, rotating speakers one-by-one to give everyone an opportunity to speak for their tribal/regional concerns. The conversation would rotate with each regional speaker of the 12 BIA regions until everyone had an opportunity to speak.

Alaska Region:

- Brian, Alaska Intertribal Council

- Cynthia Torch, Tribe UNK
- Lee Melissa, Candinger: Alaska Heritage Institute
- Cook Inlet Tribes
- Jeff Lamon: Traditional Council
- Elise Laopo: Tribal Liaison, Alaska Intertribal Council
- Mr. Spencer: Alaska Dept of Public Safety
- Jan Hill, Chillkoot Indian Association

Eastern Oklahoma Region:

- Deborah Gee, TJAG Member, Chickasaw Nation
- Margaret Murray, Iowa Tribe
- Julie Moss, Oklahoma
- Muscogee Creek Nation

Eastern Region; – None.

Great Plains Region:

- Steve, Great Plains Tribal Chairmen’s Association

Midwest Region:

- Larry Romanelli, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians,
- Pres. of United Tribes of Michigan
- Sault Ste. Marie Band of Chippewa Indians of MI
- Sarah Curtis
- Representative, Chippewa Indian Tribe

Northwest Region:

- Tulalip Tribes
- Washington State Native American Coalition against Violence/Sexual Assault
- Misti, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
- Janet Healy, Grant Writer

- Tiffany Thomasepke: Washington Tribe
- Gary James: Chief of Police of Lummi Nation
- Josephine Ralph, National Women's Coalition, ID

Pacific Region:

- Juana Majel/Dixon, NCAI Vice President and Pauma Band of Mission Indians
- April, Karuk Tribe
- Laura Wressler, Washoe Tribe

Rocky Mountain Region:

- Jenny Counselor: Washington Tribe of CA
- South Native Coalition ?? County
- Patty?? Fort Peck
- Carol Justice: Grant Asst Planner, Northern Arapaho

Southern Plains Region:

- Ted Moore, Pawnee Nation, OK
- Barbara Murray, Iowa Tribe of OK
- Dawn Sover, OK Regional Community Policing Institute Director

Southwest Region:

- Rose, Cheryl Cohen: Southwest Indian Women's Coalition

Western Region: – None.

National Tribal Organizations

- John Dossett, National Congress of American Indians
- Katy Jackman, National Congress of American Indians

Tracy Toulou opened the floor for one comment from each region, with the intention of looping back through until everyone had a chance to voice their opinions.

Alaska Regional Representation:

- Alaska Intertribal voiced a concern about the fact that there was little ability to communicate giving the opportunities. The language in the funding opportunities is inclusive, and it is important that everyone understands Alaska doesn't have "Indian Country," so that's an exclusionary item.

Eastern Oklahoma Region: – None.

Eastern Regional Representation – None.

Great Plains Region: – None.

Midwest Region:

- Larry Romanelli made the suggestion that there is a need to identify a conference where the DOJ might explain new funding methods and be willing to put on an agenda.

Navajo Region: – None.

Northwest Region:

- WA State Native American Coalition against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault posed a concern about including the tribal coalitions in that they are different types, not all tribal coalitions are sponsored by a tribe. They wanted to make sure that the language in the solicitation was clear.

Pacific Region:

- Juana Majel-Dixon noted that listening sessions were not enough to move the grants process forward and that there is a need to refer to OVW consultations. She argued that the consolidated grant process cannot occur in Fiscal Year 2010 and would have a more likely implementation in Fiscal Year 2011. Karol Mason responded that Anna

Martinez from OVW was present on the call for consultation and stressed the importance of understanding that this is just the first step in the desire to respond to the things the Department has been hearing about the grants process. She noted that the Department will be consulting with Tribes further as both parties work to improve grant process together.

- Debbie, Counselor, WA tribes of NV & CA voiced a concern about the funds for current OVW grants not yet being released because there is such a back up in the finance office. Ms. Mason responded that the Department has people who are responsible for processing of grants and will look into this issue, thanking the caller for their concern.

Rocky Mountain Regional Representation:

- Patty McGewsha described the need to put out a consolidated grants memo to all tribes. She said there is an issue with grants in that a lot of tribes would have to go by population. She then asked if this population-based issue would be suggestive criteria for this process. Ms. Mason replied that this new approach will only apply to tribal-specific discretionary awards, no other DOJ programs. By offering a single solicitation, the Department will not be changing the amount available for each grant program in the FY 2010 budget, and will indicate which money is available by grant program.

Southern Plains Region:

- Ted Miller, Pawnee Nation, voiced his concern about the need for a speedier process to actually get the funding to Tribes from OVW, as he is still waiting for funding from OVW.

Southwest Region – None.

Western Region:

- Josephine Haphite, Native Women's Coalition, Boise, Idaho noted that there was a need for a new coalition with the purpose of addressing the needs of AI/AN urban natives of Southern Idaho. He wondered if the change would eliminate his coalition from getting funding in an urban region.

[REGIONAL ROLL CALL REVISITED]

Alaska Region:

- Cynthia Topas asked if, once the solicitation was developed, it would be available for review, comments, or a trial run. Ms. Mason responded that the Department will look at it again for next year as they work through the process for this year, but that given the time constraints to implement this new approach this year, we won't be able to provide time for comments on the solicitation form. She noted that DOJ will have a solicitation to use in training before officially released, utilizing education and outreach to help tribes prepare for new approach.

Eastern Oklahoma Region:

- Julie Moss, OK Misobi Creek Nation, spoke about DOJ grant notices. She said that people need the notices to determine whether or not to apply and where. She also said it would be helpful if the Department could post the training on DOJ and NCAI websites. Ms. Mason responded that the DOJ will make sure that the solicitation is posted on all of the components' websites, noting that the Department is also working on the process to make sure there is an adequate helpdesk avenue for questions.

Eastern Region – None.

Great Plains Region:

- Steve Gunn, GPTCA, asked when the solicitation will be put in effect. Ms. Mason responded that the DOJ hopes to have it available to officially release mid-March, and will keep solicitation open for a minimum of 60 days. She also responded that the education process will begin before the solicitation is officially released. Steve Gunn

then asked, in regard to tribes with various coalitions, will tribes be able to submit applications with more than one coalition? Ms. Mason responded that for non-OVW tribal coalition grants, DOJ expects one single application.

Midwest Region:

- Laurie Jump voiced her fear that the dollar amount that tribes are eligible to apply for will reduce as a result of grants combination.

Navajo Region – None.

Northwest Region – None.

Pacific Region:

- Juana Majel-Dixon urged the DOJ not to go ahead with the combined solicitation process, saying that it could not start in March, noting there may not be enough administrative relief people to carry this out to make it doable. She said that the plan is very extensive and takes time to implement. Ms. Mason said that this is just a process to streamline the application process, the grant awards will still be made by the grant program. Juana Majel-Dixon suggested a meeting to sit down and create a design. Ms. Mason replied that this is just a first step in the longer term process to improve the grant making process. The only change the Department is hoping to accomplish is to present a single application; grants will still be administered by component. Majel-Dixon then asked about the peer review process. Karol Mason said that by consolidating the grant announcements into a single menu, underlying grants will not change. She agreed that there is a need to have a full discussion, but right now the DOJ is attempting to make it easier for Tribes, so they have one place to go to in order to apply for all the Department's Tribal specific discretionary grants.

Rocky Mountain Region:

- Carol Justice, Northern Arapaho Tribe, noted that the grants consolidation plan seemed very ambitious. She discussed its pros and cons and compared this grant

process to HUD and OVW. She voiced that she found that the consolidated grant application results in more confusion, not less. She requested that in the grant, more instructions not be added. She also said that the process involves doing the same amount of work, but packaging it differently. She then voiced a concern about the peer review process, pointing out that unless grant peer review people are divided into specific programs it will be hard to cut and dice for various panels. Finally, she said that advisory council, coalition, and comprehensive planning are defined slightly differently, as some have threshold requirements. She suggested that the Department let the Tribes define these things because they have so many. Ms. Mason said that some things that were described are longer term but this current Fiscal Year there is a limit as to what the Department can accomplish. The DOJ's goal is to simplify the process so that there is one single application. She noted that with regard to peer review process, the DOJ has had extended discussions and for this year, the peer review will be conducted by each of the grant components for the specific grants, by the people who are familiar with each grant program.

- Patty wondered if the benefit of this application was for the Tribes, DOJ, or both. She said that various tribes do not have grant writers, mainly program people who know their communities and needs. Karol Mason responded that the DOJ thinks the new approach will be beneficial to native and indigenous communities as well as DOJ. The goal is to make sure that each of the communities is aware of all of the Department's Tribal-specific grant programs. This helps the Department because as they receive information back from applicants, it helps DOJ understand more holistically the needs of the applicants. Patty said that her tribe would like to apply for all grants but is afraid they can only get one or two out of them. Tracy Toulou responded that the reason the DOJ is going through this process is in response to comments heard at listening sessions in St. Paul: streamlining the grant process.

Southern Plains Region – None.

Southwest Region – None.

Western Region:

- AITC noted that a state court is a different jurisdiction, not necessarily peers. Native women do not want to report to the state because of treatment. Alaskan Native women are harmed; they're overrepresented. Tracy Toulou responded that he understood Senator Stevens' amendments restricting access to Alaskans. There is legislation now to repeal those restrictions, as tribes should have the ability to deal with their own issues, and not have to go through the state. However, he did not think it was going to be impacted by action the DOJ is talking about now.

Eastern Oklahoma Region – None.

Eastern Region – None.

Great Plains Region – None.

Midwest Region:

- Alyse asked that the Department put information on their website. Ms. Mason replied that this information most certainly would be made available.

Southwest Region – None.

Navajo Region – None.

Northwest Region – None.

Pacific Region:

- Juana Majel-Dixon asked if in the proposal for a single award these multiple projects would have their own application, or would it be streamlined? She requested that the guidelines be made simple, with a clear, comprehensive plan. She asked if it were possible to make this an option for the tribes and noted that she could voice a better

opinion on an actual document; if it were in writing, some proposed guideline, that way she could start to get an idea of what is going on. Gena Tyner-Dawson responded that it is just the consolidated solicitation that is occurring, and multiple awards will still be made and the programs will still be individually responsible for working with Tribes on the programs they apply for.

Rocky Mountain Region:

- Carol Justice, Northern Arapaho voiced her concern about the lack of technology on the Reservations, hoping that the new process would not be too electronically compound for those Tribes to submit.

Southern Plains Region – None.

Southwest Region – None.

Western Region- None.

Alaska Region:

Northwest Region:

- Brian asked if minutes were being taken and Ms. Tyner-Dawson responded yes, that someone at DOJ was taking notes.

Pacific Region – None.

Rocky Mountain:

- A representative wondered how to get the Tribes to a place to develop a comprehensive plan, noting the need for a wide breadth of education and outreach.

- Debbie Carlson voiced concerns about consolidation from the standpoint of how many proposals one or two grants people can get ready at one time and the capacity of different departments to deal with it.
- Patty was concerned that the single application would create issues for tribes with no grant writers and the necessity of the DOJ to understand how different things are set-up on each individual tribe.

Southern Plains – None.

Southwest Region – None.

Western Region – None.

- Suggestion with regard to the need for uncompetitive, well-funded block grants in Indian Country.

VIII. NEXT STEPS

Tracy Toulou explained the instructions for the upcoming conference call:

DATE: Wednesday, December 23, 2009
TIME: 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. (EST)
NUM: 1-800-521-6079 Toll Free
NUM: 202-353-0878 WDC Local
CODE: 9595 #

IX. ADJOURN

Tracy Toulou adjourned the call at 5:50 p.m., (EST).