

Department of Justice Tribal Consultation

DOJ Tribal Grants Policy

Overview

In Fiscal Year 2010, the Department of Justice (DOJ) launched the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS), which encompassed most of the Department's available Tribal government-specific grant programs. Through CTAS, the DOJ awarded nearly \$127 million in FY 2010 and \$118 million in FY 2011 to American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes. The Tribes' communities are using these funds to enhance law enforcement, bolster justice systems, prevent youth substance abuse, serve sexual assault and elder victims, and support other efforts to combat crime.

For Fiscal Year 2011, DOJ worked closely with Tribal leaders and tribal organizations to determine how the application process could be improved. A CTAS consultation was held in early October 2010, and DOJ conducted a survey of CTAS applicants. This feedback was critical in developing the FY 2011 solicitation.

DOJ is now seeking input from Tribal leaders about how the CTAS process can be further improved for FY 2012. DOJ has circulated a survey to Tribes about their experience applying for CTAS and is hosting a consultation session on Dec. 16th at the Santa Ana Pueblo in New Mexico. It is also being coordinated with feedback being sought on the implementation of the Long Term Plan to Build and Enhance Tribal Justice Systems (Tribal Justice Plan), which offers action steps by the Federal agency partners and recommendations to collaborate with tribal justice systems in using resources like the funding in CTAS and OVW to develop community-based and detention based strategies to prevent crime and improve safety in Indian country.

The Department also administers other grants that are non-tribal specific, for which federally-recognized Indian Tribes are eligible. Tribes may compete for many DOJ grants on a competitive basis with other eligible applicants. DOJ is seeking input from Tribal leaders about tribal access to these non-tribal specific funds on December 16th as well.

Background

Prior to Fiscal Year 2010, Tribes seeking DOJ tribal-specific funding were required to submit multiple grant applications. With CTAS, Tribes were able to submit a single application while selecting multiple purpose areas, ranging from juvenile justice to violence against women. CTAS was not just about a more streamlined process. It was part of the DOJ's broader strategy of increased engagement with tribal communities across a broad range of areas. CTAS is designed to reach Tribes' communities.

In FY 2010, 237 applications were submitted under CTAS with 164 applications approved for grant awards. The awards covered ten Purpose Areas, totaling almost \$127 million. In Fiscal Year 2011, in a reduced budget environment, nearly 150 applications were approved for grant awards. The awards covered eight Purpose Areas, totaling over \$118 million. CTAS encourages Tribal Nations to take a comprehensive look at the public safety challenges their communities are facing and to work with the Department to find ways to address them.

In an effort to build on CTAS in FY 2010, DOJ worked with Tribes to further refine and improve CTAS for FY 2011. In addition to formal consultation and listening sessions, feedback was sought in part through the Office of Justice Programs' (OJP) Tribal Justice Advisory Group, the OJP Assistant Attorney General's interdepartmental training and technical assistance sessions, DOJ conferences, and other tribal meetings. The Department also solicited and received written comments from Tribes. DOJ incorporated feedback from the tribal meetings and consultations and made a number of changes to the FY 2011 CTAS. The FY 2010 CTAS Consultation Report can be found at (www.ovwtribalconsultation.com).

As in FY 2010, hard copy applications were accepted in addition to electronic submittal if an applicant could not access the grants management electronic system. The FY 2011 solicitation referred to DOJ's tribal government-specific competitive grant programs as "Purpose Areas." Applicants selected the Purpose Area(s) that best address their public safety, criminal and juvenile justice, and victimization needs. In response to a single Tribe or tribal consortium application requesting funds from multiple Purpose Areas, multiple awards could be made. Purpose Areas would then be funded and administered by different DOJ program offices in the same manner as grants were previously managed. In some cases, Tribes received

two separate awards under a single Purpose Area application for activities that fall under different funding streams that were combined for the purpose of the application. Tribes or tribal consortia that received grants from multiple funding streams must maintain the grant funds separately and file all required reports for each grant awarded with the applicable DOJ component.

Changes to DOJ grant programs enacted with the passage of the Tribal Law and Order Act were also incorporated into the FY 2011 solicitation.

The DOJ components offering Tribal government-specific grant resources through the eight “Purpose Areas” identified in the CTAS are listed below.

Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)
Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)
Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA-OJP)
Office for Victims of Crime (OVC-OJP)
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP-OJP)

The FY 2011 CTAS Purpose Areas were:

1. Public safety and community policing (COPS)
2. Methamphetamine enforcement (COPS)
3. Justice systems, and alcohol and substance abuse (BJA)
4. Corrections and correctional alternatives (BJA)
5. Violence against women (OVW)
6. Elder abuse (OVC)
7. Juvenile justice (OJJDP)
8. Tribal youth program (OJJDP)

FY 2011 CTAS Changes to Address Tribal Concerns

- The FY 2011 CTAS solicitation was posted on January 20, 2011. As recommended by tribal representatives, there was a 90-day application period, longer than in FY 2010.
- Multiple Purpose Areas were merged from 10 to 8 to allow for more flexibility in funding requests.

- Matching funds were eliminated for all Purpose Areas except one where it was required by statute.
- Only one tribal resolution was required for multiple purpose areas and it was no longer required at the time of application to permit more time to gain tribal government authorization for application submission. It was, however, required before a grantee could draw down funds.
- The award period was standardized to 3 years across all grants Purpose Areas.
- Strategic planning opportunities were made available under all Purpose Areas.
- All Tribes were eligible to apply, regardless of whether they had an existing grant from the Department, so long as they did not duplicate projects that were currently underway and supported by DOJ funding.
- In reviewing and scoring applications, more weight was assigned to “need.”
- Concerns raised about the complex budget instruction were addressed through a consolidated template.
- Information was posted on the DOJ Tribal Website (www.justice.gov/tribal). Tribes were encouraged to continue their community justice strategic planning process to identify criminal justice needs, and to take advantage of the training and technical assistance opportunities offered by the Department.

Areas for Tribal Consultation Input

The Department is very interested in learning what worked and did not work for Tribes or Tribal consortia to help enhance DOJ grant policies, especially the CTAS initiative. DOJ wishes to maximize the limited resources available to address the public safety resource needs for Tribal Nations.

Proposed Questions for Consultation:

1. Were you or your tribal agency aware of the FY2011 CTAS opportunity? How can DOJ best communicate funding opportunities to your tribe?
2. The FY2011 CTAS solicitation timeframe, from announcement to the submission, was increased to 90 days. What is a preferred timeframe from the announcement to submission date?
3. Compared to last year’s FY2010 CTAS application, was the FY2011 CTAS application simpler, about the same or more difficult? What changes would you recommend for FY 2012?

4. Based on feedback from last year's CTAS Assessment, the time period for tribal resolution submission was extended until after the award announcement. Was this helpful? Should Tribes be required to submit a resolution or other form of legal enactment?
5. Based on feedback from last year's CTAS Assessment, a semi-automated budget detail worksheet was created. Were the instructions for the worksheet and the embedded help functions clear and concise? What other options would you include?
6. In response to feedback we have received from tribes regarding CTAS and in order to make it easier for all tribes to apply for CTAS, a question and answer fillable format is being considered for the Tribal Community and Justice Profile and the Purpose Area sections of the application to be clearer and simpler while still allowing each Tribe to write a narrative that fully describes their unique community project(s). Would this question and answer format be desirable?
7. What can DOJ do to support your tribe in comprehensive planning around public safety issues?
8. What are your Tribes' public safety funding priorities? Are these priorities included in the CTAS?

Tribal Views Requested

The Department looks forward to receiving tribal views on the grant-making process for federally-recognized Tribes, tribal consortia and tribal coalitions. The deadline for submitting all comments is **December 23, 2011**.

To participate in the November 30th National Tribal Leader Scoping call to complete the Tribal consultation planning for December 15 and 16, 2011, please dial (800) 201-2375 or (469) 759-7753; passcode 109205.

To provide views via email, please send comments to tribalgrants@usdoj.gov.

To participate in the TJSW consultation and listening sessions, please register to attend at www.justice.gov/tribal or www.tribaljusticesafetywellness.org.

For further inquiry or to submit written comments via regular mail, contact the Office of Tribal Justice at 202-514-8812. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Tribal Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20530.

Other Helpful Links:

DOJ's Tribal Justice and Safety Website

www.justice.gov/tribal

Interdepartmental Tribal Justice, Safety and Wellness Consultation and Listening Sessions Registration

www.tribaljusticesafetywellness.org

FY 2011 Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation

www.justice.gov/tribal.docs/ctas-application-guide.pdf

FY 2010 Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation Consultation Report

www.ovwtribalconsultation.com

Long Term Plan to Build and Enhance Tribal Justice Systems

www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/pdf/FinalTLOATribalJusticePlan.pdf