



UNITING THREE FIRES
AGAINST VIOLENCE

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June 7, 2019

Uniting Three Fires Against Violence Updates

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT
TRIBAL CONSULTATION

Violence Against Women Tribal Consultation – August 21-22 Registration/Hotel now OPEN

Registration and hotel room blocks are now OPEN for the 14th Annual Government-to-Government 2019 Tribal Consultation on Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women. The tribal consultation will take place at the Silver Creek Event Center, Four Winds Casino Resort in New Buffalo, Michigan, on August 21-22, 2019. The co-hosting Tribe this year is the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi. To receive the special discounted rate, you must CALL the Four Winds Casino Resort directly at 1-866-494-6371 and provide the special code "0819G2GTC" when making your reservation. Space is very limited and not guaranteed.

For more information about Tribal Consultation and to view a draft agenda, please visit www.ovwconsultation.org

Purpose of Tribal Consultation

Pursuant to 34 U.S.C. § 20126, the purpose of the violence against women tribal consultation is to solicit recommendations from tribal leaders on the following three topics:

- Enhancing the safety of American Indian and Alaska Native women from domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and sex trafficking;
- Strengthening the federal response to the crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and sex trafficking; and.
- Administering funds and programs for tribal governments established by the original Violence Against Women Act and subsequent legislation.

Other Events During Consultation

A Tribal Caucus Meeting hosted by the National Congress of American Indians and the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center is scheduled on the evening of Tuesday, August 20th.

Uniting Three Fires Against Violence is planning to host an evening event on Wednesday August 21st
Save The Date!

OVC Tribal Consultation Scheduled in Conjunction with 14th Annual 2019 Tribal Consultation!

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) is holding an additional Tribal Consultation on the Tribal Set-aside Services program funding through the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)/Crime Victims Fund (CVF) on the morning of Tuesday, August 20th and will be a full day of consultation.

Why is this an important opportunity?

An important part of OVC's mission is to administer grant award programs that are funded by the federal CVF. OVC held listening sessions in December 2018, in regards to the administration of the Tribal Set Aside CVF/VOCA Funds, if there were to be a set aside appropriated for FY19 (at this point, it hadn't been determined).

Three major themes emerged in the feedback OVC received:

1. OVC should do more to assist tribes who are not currently receiving funding to prepare and submit an application for funding;
2. OVC should solicit applications for the Victim Services Set-Aside Program through a stand-alone solicitation; and
3. Tribes need additional resources to address emergency and long-term housing and transportation needs of victims.

In February 2019, Congress authorized OVC to receive \$3.53 billion from the CVF to fund its programs, and designated a 5% tribal set-aside (\$167.65 million) to provide grants to tribes to improve services for victims of crime, consistent with the requirements of the Victims of Crime Act.

Subsequently, the Department determined that the CTAS solicitation (Purpose Area 7, the Tribal Victim Services Program) would be one way for tribes to access this funding. The maximum 3-year amount applicants could request was increased from OVC's usual \$450,000 cap to \$500,000

OVC acknowledges that tribes recommended that the program be administered through a stand-alone solicitation rather than through CTAS, however, they have not explained why they ignored this recommendation.

Choosing to administer the program through CTAS was problematic for a number of reasons. First, the FY 19 appropriations bill was signed on Feb. 15,, DOJ released its CTAS solicitation without knowing how much money would be available for crime victim services and thus lowered the cap to \$500,000. In addition, the deadline for CTAS applications was extended to March 12 (partly because of the government shutdown), which overlapped with Phase II of the FY 18 application process. Essentially, overlapping deadlines resulted in a great deal of confusion and many tribes report that they were given misinformation about their eligibility to apply. There were a significant amount of tribes that were not notified about awards until April 15, over a month after the application deadline expired for the second solicitation.

FY 2019 Tribal Set Aside (CVF/VOCA) Funding Available

This is the tribal setaside of VOCA/CVF Funds (the 5% that Congress appropriated within the FY19 Appropriations) resulting in approximately \$168M intended for Tribal Victim Services. Originally, DOJ put these funds into CTAS Purpose Area 7; however, only received 59 applications for \$24.8M dollars. As a result of concerns brought forward by tribal leaders during OVC's Alaska consultation, **DOJ decided to re-announce through a new solicitation.**

Through the FY 2019 Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside Program solicitation, OVC seeks to provide support to tribal communities to improve services for victims of crime. This program will support a comprehensive range of activities including needs assessment, strategic planning, program development and implementation, and other activities needed to address the needs of a wide variety of crime victims in tribal communities.

Apply under one of the following purpose areas:

Purpose Area 1: Establishment of a New Victim Service Program

Applicants that have no existing victim services program, including applicants that do not have programs and are going to coordinate with others to provide services to them.

Purpose Area 2: Coordination and Expansion of Existing Victim Service Program

The goal under this purpose area is for existing victim service programs to expand and enhance their services so that they can become more victim-centered, culturally competent, and provide more services, better services, serve more victims, and provide services to crime victims for whom there were no services available previously.

Pre-Application Webinars: OVC will conduct two pre-application webinars to review the solicitation requirements and conduct a question and answer session.

The first webinar will be held on Thursday, June 20, 2019, from 1–2 p.m. eastern time
An additional webinar will be held on Thursday, June 27, 2019, from 1–2 p.m. eastern time.

Register for the webinars at: <https://go.usa.gov/xmsFH>

*****Applications are due July 29, 2019.**

*****Apply at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=316491>**

Some examples of projects for serving Native victims of crime include (provided by NIWRC):

- Tribal Shelters for victims of Domestic Violence, and Sexual Violence, including sex trafficking. There are currently fewer than 50 tribal domestic violence shelters in operation (and only 2 in Michigan).
- Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners. The rate of sexual violence in Indian Country far exceeds rates of sexual violence in other communities in the United States. More than two-thirds of tribal lands, however, are more than 60 minutes away from the nearest sexual assault forensic examiner.
- Services for sex trafficking victims. Sex trafficking victims need specially designed services, including navigators to connect sexually exploited youth throughout the state with the shelter, support and services they need; shelters and housing; and training for criminal justice and child protective services professionals who come into contact with such victims.

- Children’s Advocacy Centers provide a child-focused, multidisciplinary response to child abuse, especially child sexual abuse. Native American children are at increased risk for victimization, but very few CACs exist on tribal lands. While some tribal communities may be served by CACs off the reservation, the average driving distance to a CAC from tribal lands is 62 miles. For over 100 tribal communities, the driving distance is between 100 and 300 miles.
- Services for the survivors of homicide victims are rarely funded but sorely needed, for surviving spouses, children, and other affected family members and partners. Needed services include criminal justice advocacy, assistance in applying for victim compensation, funding to travel to trials that are out of state, legal assistance, financial counseling if the murdered victim was the breadwinner, mental health counseling or other therapy, and similar services.
- Legal assistance for victims
Victims’ rights clinics. Victims’ rights clinics represent the rights and interests of victims in the criminal case. They ensure that rights will be honored in practice, not just in statute. To date, only a few clinics have been created, though the need has been recognized.
- Civil and family law assistance for victims. Legal services are second only to medical services as the most-requested need of victims. Legal services can help victims with practical matters, including seeking protective orders, custody and child support issues, breaking a lease to regain safety, and so forth. Very few tribes currently operate legal services programs. There are currently 25 Indian legal services programs affiliated with the Legal Services Corporation. These programs have been very successful and report a high demand for services.
- Victim services in tribal prosecutor offices. Every prosecutor’s office should have at least one victim assistant, who can link victims to community services, assist them in filing an application for victim compensation, provide notice of events and proceedings, assist victims in exercising their rights to make an impact statement or request restitution, and provide additional support.

Reach out to UTFAV for any support or assistance in applying for these funds!



Upcoming Events

UTFAV Tribal Youth Summit – July 29-31

OVC Tribal Consultation – August 20

Violence Against Women Tribal Consultation – August 21-22

UTFAV Tribal Leadership Summit – October 1-2

For more information, reach out to UTFAV Training Coordinator at vpatzwald@utfav.org



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