

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.