

# VAWA 2022 Alaska Pilot Program

## OVW Tribal Affairs Division



U.S. Department of Justice

# OVW

Office on Violence Against Women  
Working Together to End the Violence

In October 2023, the Department of Justice (DOJ) announced the launch of a pilot program under the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022 (VAWA 2022) that will enable Alaska Tribes designated by the Attorney General to exercise special Tribal criminal jurisdiction (STCJ) over non-Indian offenders for certain crimes, including crimes of sexual and domestic violence, that occur in the Village of the participating Tribe. DOJ has outlined three tracks for interested tribes:

Track 1	Track 2	Track 3
<p>All Alaska Tribes are invited to join an Alaska-specific Inter-Tribal Technical Assistance Working Group (ITWG) on STCJ to receive technical assistance and peer-to-peer support.</p> <p>The Alaska Native Justice Center (ANJC) has been funded by DOJ to be the Alaska ITWG technical assistance provider.</p> <p>Tribes that wish to formally join the Alaska ITWG should submit a preliminary expression of interest to: <a href="mailto:VAWA.AlaskaPilot@usdoj.gov">VAWA.AlaskaPilot@usdoj.gov</a></p>	<p>Alaska Tribes may opt to become a Preliminary Pilot Program Tribe by completing a questionnaire to assess their readiness to exercise STCJ and identify any gaps in meeting the statutory requirements for exercising the jurisdiction.</p> <p>Each Preliminary Pilot Program Tribe will be assigned a Federal Liaison, who will work alongside the Alaska ITWG TA provider and the Tribe to develop a Readiness Plan for filling the identified gaps.</p> <p>Tribes interested in Track Two should start by submitting a questionnaire available at: <a href="https://www.justice.gov/d9/2023-10/questionnaire-statutory-requirements-for-exercising-stcj-over-non-indians.pdf">https://www.justice.gov/d9/2023-10/questionnaire-statutory-requirements-for-exercising-stcj-over-non-indians.pdf</a>.</p>	<p>Alaska Tribes may seek Attorney General designation to exercise STCJ as a Participating Pilot Program Tribe by completing the same questionnaire used for Track Two.</p> <p>DOJ staff who review the questionnaire will either recommend Attorney General designation or invite the Tribe to participate (or continue to participate) in readiness activities under Track Two.</p> <p>Tribes Interested in Track Three should submit a "Request for Designation" (see <a href="https://www.justice.gov/tribal/vawa-2022-alaska-pilot-program#request">https://www.justice.gov/tribal/vawa-2022-alaska-pilot-program#request</a>) and completed questionnaire to DOJ at <a href="mailto:VAWA.AlaskaPilot@usdoj.gov">VAWA.AlaskaPilot@usdoj.gov</a>.</p>

Two or more Tribes (or a Tribal organization exercising delegated authority from a participating Tribe) may elect to participate jointly in the Alaska Pilot Program. More information about the program is available at: <https://www.justice.gov/tribal/vawa-2022-alaska-pilot-program#request>.

### Tribes Interested in Funding to Plan for Exercising STCJ

OVW has STCJ grant funding available under a special solicitation for Alaska Tribes, including a Tribe participating in any of the three tracks of the Alaska Pilot Program.



**Sign up** for OVW grant announcements



When open for applications, the solicitation for this program can be found at: **[Justice.gov/OVW/Open-Solicitations](https://www.justice.gov/OVW/Open-Solicitations)**



Contact us at **[OVW.TribalAffairs@usdoj.gov](mailto:OVW.TribalAffairs@usdoj.gov)**



Visit [Justice.gov/OVW/Tribal-Affairs](https://www.justice.gov/OVW/Tribal-Affairs)

