

TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS PROGRAM



Funding Agency Overview

The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) is a component of the United States Department of Justice (DOJ). OVW administers grant programs authorized by the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and subsequent legislation and provides national leadership on issues of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. OVW grants support coordinated community responses to hold offenders accountable and serve victims. The Tribal Affairs Division (TAD) within OVW is responsible for the administration of tribal-specific grant programs and initiatives, management of tribal-specific training and technical assistance, and coordination with other federal departments and DOJ offices on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking, and stalking (“the five crimes”) in tribal communities.

Overview: OVW Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program

The OVW Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program (Tribal Governments Program) is focused on decreasing the incidence of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking, and stalking in tribal communities; strengthening the capacity of tribal governments to exercise their sovereign authority to respond to these crimes; and ensuring that perpetrators are held accountable for their criminal behavior.

Tribes use this funding to support a broad range of activities to help victims find safety, justice, and healing, and ensure offenders are held accountable for their crimes. With this funding, tribes develop and operate culturally based responses including, but not limited to:

- Shelter programs
- Dedicated law enforcement, courts, probation, or prosecution positions
- Legal services for victims
- Abuser intervention programming
- Community or system-based victim advocates

- Supervised visitation and exchange programs.
- Prevention and community education campaigns.
- Development and implementation of Tribal codes and policies.
- SANE/SART programs.
- Law enforcement response protocols and training for missing or murdered indigenous persons cases.

Some grantees choose to focus their grant project efforts in one specific area of their tribal government response and others include activities in multiple parts of their tribal government structure to strategically build capacity to address the five crimes.

Program Eligibility

Eligibility for this program is limited to: federally recognized Indian Tribes; authorized designees of federally recognized Indian Tribes; or Tribal consortiums. All applicants must demonstrate that their proposal was developed in collaboration with either: 1) a non-profit, nongovernmental Indian victim services program; 2) a non-profit, nongovernmental tribal domestic violence or sexual assault coalition; or 3) an advisory committee comprised of women/survivors from the community that will be served by the project.

Additional Information

For additional information on the OVW Tribal Governments Program, contact:

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