

TRIBAL SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES PROGRAM



OVW Overview

The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) provides federal leadership in developing the national capacity to reduce violence against women and administer justice for and strengthen services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. 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 sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, sex trafficking, and stalking in tribal communities.

Program Overview

The Tribal Sexual Assault Services Program (TSASP) was created by VAWA 2005, and is the first federal funding stream dedicated solely to developing culturally relevant services that are specifically responsive to sexual assault victims within tribal communities. Because tribes reflect great diversity of history, geographic location, language, socioeconomic conditions, and retention of traditional spiritual and cultural practices, the TSASP tribal grantees are strongly encouraged to incorporate cultural and traditional practices (e.g. talking circles, healing ceremonies, and sweat lodges) for those who have been sexually victimized.

The TSASP supports projects to create, maintain, and expand sustainable sexual assault services within Indian country and Alaska Native villages. TSASP supported projects provide intervention, advocacy, accompaniment (e.g., accompanying victims to court, medical facilities, or police departments), support services, and related assistance for adult, youth, and child victims of sexual assault, non-offending family and household members of victims, and those collaterally affected by the sexual assault.

Program Eligibility

Tribes, tribal consortiums, tribal organizations, and tribal non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for TSASP funding. Further, eligibility is limited to tribes, tribal consortiums, tribal organizations, and nonprofit tribal organizations with programs and activities within Indian country and Alaska Native villages.

This grant program is administered by the OVW Tribal Affairs Division and supports projects to create direct services for survivors of sexual assault – regardless of age, gender, relationship to the perpetrator, or when the sexual assault happened – and their family members or others affected by the sexual assault, except for the perpetrator of the sexual assault.

Purpose Area

TSASP has one purpose area: to support the establishment, maintenance, and expansion of programs and projects within Indian country and Alaska Native villages to provide intervention and related assistance to those victimized by sexual assault.

Intervention and related assistance includes:

- 24-hour hotline services providing crisis intervention services and referral;
- Accompaniment and advocacy through medical, criminal justice, and social support systems, including medical facilities, police, and court proceedings;
- Crisis intervention, short-term individual and group support services, direct payments, and comprehensive service coordination and supervision to assist sexual assault victims and family or household members;
- Information and referral to assist the sexual assault victim and family or household members;
- Community-based, culturally specific services and support mechanisms, including outreach activities for underserved communities; and,
- The development and distribution of materials on issues related to the services described above.

Note: Direct payments to victims and their family or household members must be for costs directly related to the sexual assault.