

TRIBAL SPECIAL ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY (TSAUSA) PROGRAM



Program Overview

The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) provides national leadership on issues of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking, and stalking. Since its inception, OVW has supported a multifaceted approach to responding to these crimes through implementation of grant programs. OVW grants help victims by creating partnerships between police, judges, healthcare providers, and victim advocates, as well as state, local, and tribal governments, among others. Through these partnerships, victims receive various services, including but not limited to shelter, counseling, and legal advocacy, that enable them to pursue safe and healthy lives while improving justice for victims and offender accountability. 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 Department of Justice (DOJ) offices on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking, and stalking in tribal communities.

Through this program, OVW partners with the United States Attorneys' Offices (USAOs) and the Executive Office of United States Attorneys (EOUSA) to support tribes and USAOs in the investigation and prosecution of Indian country cases involving domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking, and stalking. Tribes receive funds to work with their USAO partner to hire or retain a mutually agreed upon attorney to be cross-designated as both a Special Assistant United States Attorney (SAUSA) and a tribal prosecutor. Appointed Tribal SAUSAs, after completing training as a federal prosecutor, serve concurrently in both the USAO and tribal prosecutor's office as agreed upon by the USAO and tribe. In this role, Tribal SAUSAs maintain an active caseload while increasing the number of high quality investigations and improving inter-governmental communication.

Grant funding supports salary and fringe benefits for a Tribal SAUSA, as well as training, travel, and other resources needed to support the work of the SAUSA.

Program Eligibility

Eligibility for the Tribal SAUSA Program is by invitation only.

Requirements

Required Partnership

Recipients must enter into a memorandum of understanding with the USAO for their district. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) contains the terms of the partnership between the USAO and the tribe.

Training and Technical Assistance Participation

Recipients must participate in training offered by the United States Department of Justice National Indian Country Training Initiative at the National Advocacy Center in addition to other OVW training and technical assistance opportunities.

Additional Information

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

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