

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



Program Overview

The Office on Violence Against Women provides national leadership on issues of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. Since its inception, OVW has supported a multifaceted approach to responding to these crimes through implementation of grant programs. By forging state, local and tribal partnerships among police, prosecutors, judges, victim advocates, health care providers, faith leaders, organizations that serve culturally specific and underserved communities, and others, OVW grants help provide victims, across their life span, with the protection and services they need to pursue safe and healthy lives, while improving communities' capacity to provide justice for victims and hold offenders accountable. 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.

Through this Initiative, OVW partners with the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), 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, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking and other types of criminal cases the tribe and USAO agree are a priority for this position to combat, address, or otherwise respond to precipitous or extraordinary increases in crime, or in a type or types of crime. Tribes receive funds to work with their USAO partner to hire or retain a mutually agreed upon attorney to be cross-deputized as both a Special Assistant United States Attorney (SAUSA) and a tribal prosecutor. The Tribal SAUSAs are appointed to a three-year fellowship position to be divided between the USAO and the tribal prosecutor's office, as agreed between the USAO and the tribe, provided that the SAUSA spends sufficient time at the beginning of the award period at the USAO to be trained as a federal prosecutor. The cross-designated prosecutors maintain an active caseload, while also helping to promote higher quality investigations and better 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 Initiative is by invitation only.

Requirements

Required Partnership

Recipients must enter into a memorandum of understanding with the USAO for their district. The 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 Resources

Department of Justice – National Advocacy Center

The National Advocacy Center (NAC) is operated by the Department of Justice, Executive Office for United States Attorneys and houses the National Indian Country Training Initiative. The facility is located on the campus of the University of South Carolina. Courses are offered free of charge including travel for course participants.
<https://www.justice.gov/usao/training>

OVW Technical Assistance Providers

<https://ta2ta.org/>

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