



TRIBAL REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

OVW Overview

The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) is a component of the U.S. 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, sex assault, sex trafficking, and stalking in tribal communities.

Program Overview

The OVW Tribal Reimbursement Program (TRP), reimburses tribes for expenses incurred in their exercise of Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction (STCJ) over non-Indians who commit “covered crimes” (assault of Tribal justice personnel; child, dating, sexual and/or domestic violence; obstruction of justice; sex trafficking; stalking; and protection order violations) within the Tribe’s jurisdictional boundaries.

Structure of the Reimbursement Program

Prior to the beginning of the calendar year, OVW will release a “Notice of Reimbursement Opportunity.” Any Tribe that is interested in seeking reimbursement during that calendar year may opt into the program. Each eligible Tribe that responds to the “Notice of Reimbursement Opportunity” will receive an initial allocation available for reimbursement (“maximum allowable reimbursement”).

All Tribes will get the same initial amount unless this amount is greater than a Tribe’s previous year’s expenses. Tribes without a track record of STCJ expenses may submit an estimate of costs.

Tribes can reimburse their expenses in exercising STCJ up to their initial allocation throughout the year.

Under the program regulation (28 CFR Part 90, Subpart C) this initial allocation is the “maximum allowable reimbursement.”

At the end of the calendar year, Tribes will submit a summary of their actual expenses in exercising STCJ for the year and can request a waiver of the maximum allowable reimbursement if expenses have exceeded their initial allocation.

If there is sufficient funding available, all tribes will receive full reimbursement. If there is not sufficient funding for full reimbursement, each Tribe will be reimbursed for the same percentage of their remaining expenses.

How Tribes Get Reimbursed as Expenses Occur

Tribes participating in the program will be able to draw down for reimbursable expenses up to the amount of their initial allocation in the Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) system. No specific documentation of individual expenses needs to be submitted in JustGrants or ASAP, but documentation sufficient to support each claimed expense must be kept on file and a summary of expenses must be provided to OVW at the end of each year. If a Tribe’s expenses exceed their initial allocation and initial allocation has been drawn down, it cannot seek reimbursement until the end of the year.

Examples of Reimbursement

Tribes can submit expenses under the TRP such as:

- Law enforcement
- Prosecution
- Defense counsel
- Court
- Incarceration
- Indirect costs
- Community supervision
- Victim services
- Offender medical and dental
- Offender treatment

Estimated Timeline for Year One

- **Fall/Winter 2023** – OVW posts “Notice of Reimbursement Opportunity” with deadline or Tribal submissions of reimbursement requests.
- **January 2024** – OVW makes initial allocation to eligible Tribes. Each Tribe may be allocated the same amount not to exceed the previous year’s expenses for that Tribe.
- **Winter 2025** – Tribes submit their summary of eligible expenses for Calendar Year 2024 and request funds for their remaining expenses (assuming they had expenses beyond the initial allocation).

Program Eligibility

OVW will accept applications from Indian Tribes **that are** exercising Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction (STCJ). All applicants must exercise jurisdiction over at least one of the covered crimes. Exercise of jurisdiction over all the covered crimes is not required.

Additional Information

When available, the Notice of Reimbursement Opportunity to apply for this program can be found on OVW’s website: www.justice.gov/ovw/open-solicitations

Members of the public can also sign up for notifications on this webpage.

Contact:

Email: OVW.TribalJurisdiction@usdoj.gov

Phone: (202) 307-6026

OVW Tribal Affairs website:

www.justice.gov/ovw/tribal-affairs