



OVC Fact Sheet

JUNE 2008

CHILDREN'S JUSTICE ACT PARTNERSHIPS FOR INDIAN COMMUNITIES

Background

Since 1989, the Federal Assistance Division of the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) has used the Children's Justice Act Partnerships for Indian Communities (CJA) grant program to provide funding to American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities to improve their ability to manage serious child abuse cases.

The CJA grant program's goals are twofold: To help AI/AN communities develop strategies to handle cases of child sexual abuse from initial disclosure through investigation to prosecution and case resolution, and to assist in the creation of specialized services and child-friendly procedures to reduce further trauma to AI/AN child victims.

Funding

OVC provides ongoing funding to support CJA initiatives. During a competitive award cycle, potential grantees submit applications for peer

review and award consideration. During a noncompetitive cycle, continuation funding is made available to award recipients for program implementation. All funding for the CJA program is based on an applicant's submission and performance and is contingent on the availability of funding for the fiscal year. Each grant award includes a requirement that the grantee match the award by either a cash or in-kind contribution.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants are federally recognized Indian tribes and nonprofit tribal organizations. The recipients will be limited to tribal organizations as defined in the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, Public Law 93-638, 25 U.S.C., § 450(b). Under this provision, the definition of "tribal organization" is the recognized governing body of any Indian tribe, to include any legally established organization of Indians that is controlled, sanctioned, or chartered by such governing body, or that is democratically elected

by the adult members of the Indian community to be served by such organization, and that includes the maximum participation of Indians in all phases of its activities.

Training and Technical Assistance

To ensure that all tribal programs receive the training and technical assistance (TTA) necessary to implement successful programs, OVC provides funding for a TTA component. The recipient of the TTA award provides comprehensive, culturally appropriate training designed to aid CJA grantees with program development and foster skill building. These skills enhance the grantee's ability to develop, establish, and operate grant programs specifically designed to improve the investigation, prosecution, and overall handling of severe physical and sexual child abuse cases. The TTA provider will conduct a needs assessment to identify, categorize, and prioritize training delivery for all CJA grantees. In-depth

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Office of Justice Programs
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expert advice and training will be provided to all CJA grantees through onsite program reviews and/or regional training sessions. In addition, the TTA provider and the OVC program manager will provide ongoing technical assistance, resource materials, and specialized cluster meetings as needed.

Activities Funded Through CJA

- Establishment or expansion of multidisciplinary teams and training for team members.
- Revision of tribal codes to address child sexual abuse.
- Provision of child advocacy services for children involved in court proceedings.
- Development of protocols and procedures for reporting, investigating, and prosecuting child sexual abuse cases.
- Improved coordination that minimizes the number of child interviews.
- Enhanced case management and treatment services.
- Specialized training for prosecutors, judges, investigators, and other professionals who handle child sexual abuse cases.

- Development of procedures for establishing and managing child-centered interview rooms.

For More Information

For more information on this topic, contact:

Office for Victims of Crime
U.S. Department of Justice
810 Seventh Street NW., Eighth Floor
Washington, DC 20531
202-307-5983
Fax: 202-514-6383
Web site: www.ovc.gov

For copies of this fact sheet and other OVC publications or information on additional victim-related resources, please contact:

OVC Resource Center
P.O. Box 6000
Rockville, MD 20849-6000
1-800-851-3420 or 301-519-5500
(TTY 1-877-712-9279)
Ask OVC: <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/askovc>
Web site: www.ovc.gov/ovcres/welcome.html

Or order OVC publications online at www.ncjrs.gov/App/Publications/AlphaList.aspx.

For more information on training and technical assistance available from OVC, please contact:

OVC Training and Technical Assistance Center
10530 Rosehaven Street, Suite 400
Fairfax, VA 22030
1-866-OVC-TTAC (1-866-682-8822) or 703-385-3200
(TTY 1-866-682-8880)
Fax: 703-279-4673
E-mail: TTAC@ovcttac.org
Web site: www.ovcttac.gov

The Office for Victims of Crime is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

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