



Department of Justice

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Southern District of Mississippi

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**JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AWARDS \$642,780 TO ENHANCE, SUPPORT
TRIBAL JUSTICE AND SAFETY IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI**

Streamlined grant program offers financial assistance with Indian tribes' prevention and law enforcement efforts, victim services and youth programs

Jackson, Miss – The U.S. Department of Justice has awarded a grant in the amount of \$642,780 to the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians to enhance law enforcement practices and sustain crime prevention and intervention efforts in eight purpose areas: public safety and community policing; methamphetamine enforcement; justice systems and alcohol and substance abuse; corrections and correctional alternatives; violence against women; elder abuse; juvenile justice; and tribal youth programs, U.S. Attorney John Dowdy announced today.

The award was made under the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS), a single application for tribal-specific grant programs offered by the Justice Department. Overall, the department today announced grants of \$118.4 million to nearly 150 American Indian and Alaskan Native nations across the country.

“The grant awarded today to the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians will significantly enhance the social services response in all of the Mississippi Choctaw communities to Native American women who are the victims of sexual assaults,” said U.S. Attorney John Dowdy. “This will give the Choctaws major tools to address these painful issues and speed the healing of those who have been victimized in these reprehensible crimes”

Associate Attorney General Tom Perrelli announced this funding during the department’s 19th annual Four Corners Indian Country Conference in Ignacio, Colo., underscoring the Justice Department’s commitment to enhancing public safety in Indian Country and the importance of a streamlined grant application process for federal funding.

“I am pleased today to announce the Justice Department’s continued investment in programs that offer innovative and comprehensive approaches to public safety and justice in Indian Country,” said Associate Attorney General Perrelli. “Our government-to-government consultations have been critical to our understanding of how to better serve and support our tribal partners. By deepening our engagement with tribal governments, we have sought to help put an end to the unacceptable and sobering crime rates witnessed in Indian Country.”

The department developed CTAS and administered the first round of consolidated grants in September 2010 in response to shared views of tribal leaders that the department’s grant-making process was too cumbersome and needed increased flexibility. Today, tribes seeking

funding for more than one purpose area can submit a single grant application, instead of multiple applications.

The grants are administered by the Office of Community Oriented Policing (COPS), Office of Justice Programs (OJP) and the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW). The complete list of the Fiscal Year 2011 CTAS grantees, a CTAS Fact Sheet and other information about the consolidated solicitation is also available at www.tribaljusticeandsafety.gov.

Soon after he came into office, Attorney General Holder identified building and sustaining safe and secure tribal nations as one of the Department of Justice's top priorities. In June of 2009, the department launched a wide-ranging initiative to strengthen public safety in Indian Country. Since that time, the department has taken a number of steps to deepen its commitment to Indian nations and to develop more effective partnership with tribal leaders, police, prosecutors, courts and advocates to address and combat crime.

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