



# TRIBAL ACCESS PROGRAM

FOR NATIONAL CRIME INFORMATION  
ENSURING THE EXCHANGE OF CRITICAL DATA

## OVERVIEW

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) launched the Tribal Access Program for National Crime Information (TAP) in August 2015 to provide selected federally recognized Tribes access to national crime information systems for federally authorized criminal and non-criminal purposes. TAP allows Tribes to more effectively serve and protect their nation's citizens by ensuring the exchange of critical data across the Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) systems and other national crime information systems.

## FUNCTIONS

### DOJ SERVES AS THE CJIS SYSTEMS AGENCY (CSA) FOR SELECTED FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES

DOJ assumes responsibility for granting network access, extending the model used by federal agencies to Tribes. DOJ ensures personnel, IT, and physical security; vetting and on-boarding; testing; training; and auditing.

### DOJ PROVIDES TWO SOLUTIONS: TAP-LIGHT AND TAP-FULL

TAP-LIGHT provides agencies with the ability to conduct name-based record checks and enter person and property information, while TAP-FULL also provides the additional hardware necessary to conduct fingerprint-based criminal and non-criminal justice transactions.

### DOJ PROVIDES ENHANCED TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE

TAP provides online and on-site training and assists Tribes in analyzing needs and identifying/providing appropriate solutions to maximize the value of national crime information.

## NATIONAL CRIME INFORMATION SYSTEMS

**National Crime Information Center (NCIC)** – a criminal records database allowing criminal justice agencies to enter or search for information about stolen property, missing or wanted persons, and domestic violence protection orders; to get criminal histories; and to access the National Sex Offender Registry.

**Next Generation Identification (NGI)** – formerly known as the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS) – a database of palm and fingerprints and mugshots, allowing verification of identity, submissions of arrest information, and access to fingerprint-based criminal histories.

**National Data Exchange (N-DEx)** – a national investigative information sharing system giving access to records from across the nation to aid in criminal investigations. Investigators can review criminal justice data from state, local, Tribal, regional, and federal agencies, 24/7, from any secure Internet-capable device. Data includes incident reports, arrest reports, booking and incarceration reports, pre-trial investigations, and probation and parole records.

**National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS)** – a system used by Federal Firearms Licensees (FFLs) to determine a

person's eligibility to buy firearms or explosives, helping to ensure prohibited persons are prevented from purchasing firearms, and to issue firearms-related permits, and manage seized firearms.

**Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP)** – a gateway for criminal justice agencies to access unclassified law enforcement intelligence products, as well as systems or services such as N-DEx, Intelink, the Regional Information Sharing Systems Network (RISSNET), National Gang Intelligence Center, eGuardian, Virtual Command Center, and others.

**International Justice and Public Safety Network (Nlets)** – an interstate justice and public safety network owned by the states supporting inquiry into state systems for criminal history, driver's license and motor vehicle registration, as well as supporting inquiry into federal systems, such as the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Law Enforcement Support Center, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) National Drug Pointer Index (NDPIX), and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Aircraft Registry, as well as the Government of Canada's Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC).

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## BENEFITS OF TAP FOR TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

Tribes may use TAP for all purposes authorized by federal law.

The criminal justice agencies eligible to participate in TAP are:

- Law Enforcement Agencies
- Prosecutor's Offices
- Corrections and Detention
- Criminal Courts
- Pretrial Services
- Probation and Parole

The non-criminal justice agencies eligible to participate in TAP are:

- Agencies with Sex Offender Registration responsibilities
- Agencies whose staff/volunteers have contact with or control over Indian children
- Public Housing
- Child Support Enforcement
- Head Start
- Agencies investigating allegations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of children
- Civil Courts issuing orders of protection, injunctions, restraining orders, or other keep away orders

TAP helps Tribes as they protect their communities in a variety of ways. Among other things, Tribes can:

- Enter orders of protection making them accessible for enforcement both on and off Tribal land
- Register sex offenders in compliance with the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act
- Enter information to prevent illegal gun purchases
- Enter arrest warrants for on and off reservation awareness and enforcement
- Perform record checks on employees and volunteers who have contact with or control over Indian children
- Perform record checks of housing applicants and tenants
- Document arrest and conviction data
- Access investigative records of other law enforcement agencies
- Locate absent parents to enforce child support orders
- Search for and enter information about persons and property
- Conduct name-based criminal history checks to determine if supervised individuals have new charges
- Obtain complete criminal histories to make release recommendations in criminal court cases

## REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN TAP

To participate in TAP, federally recognized Tribes must apply and be selected. TAP usually accepts applications once a year; please check the TAP website for current information on the application dates. Tribes must agree to comply with and adhere to auditing and policy requirements, personnel and physical requirements, and technical security requirements applied to all agencies when accessing nation crime information systems. Tribes decide which agencies will participate in TAP and must designate a Terminal Agency Coordinator (TAC) for each participating agency who is responsible for pre-deployment and post-deployment activities. Participation in TAP also requires the approval of Tribal leadership.

Tribes must provide high-speed Internet access and pay any FBI CJIS User Fees associated with fingerprint-based and name-based checks for noncriminal justice purposes, executing a user fee Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with FBI CJIS to pay those fees. Additionally, Tribal governments must make legislative or policy determinations that provide guidance to courts and law enforcement about what Tribal data is shared.

### LEARN MORE ABOUT TAP

**WEBSITE:** [WWW.USDOJ.GOV/TRIBAL/TAP](http://WWW.USDOJ.GOV/TRIBAL/TAP)  
**EMAIL:** [TRIBALACCESS@USDOJ.GOV](mailto:TRIBALACCESS@USDOJ.GOV)

DOJ recognizes that some Tribes have access to certain CJIS systems through state CSA networks. In that instance, DOJ encourages a three-way discussion with the Tribe and the state CSA about their information needs.

