



## Children’s Justice Act Partnerships for Indian Communities

### CTAS PURPOSE AREAS

- 1 COPS Office’s Public Safety and Community Policing (COPS Office), CFDA #16.710
- 2 Comprehensive Tribal Justice Systems Strategic Planning (BJA, COPS Office, OJJDP, OVC), CFDA #16.608
- 3 BJA’s Tribal Justice Systems (BJA), CFDA #16.608
- 4 BJA’s Tribal Justice System Infrastructure Program (BJA), CFDA #16.596
- 6 OVC’s Children’s Justice Act Partnerships for Indian Communities (OVC), CFDA #16.583
- 8 OJJDP’s Youth Healing to Wellness Courts (OJJDP), CFDA #16.585
- 9 OJJDP’s Tribal Youth Program (OJJDP), CFDA #16.731

For additional info on the Children’s Justice Act Partnerships for Indian Communities Program, contact:

**Carmen Santiago Roberts**  
 Victim Justice Program Specialist  
 Office for Victims of Crime  
 Office of Justice Programs  
 U.S. Department of Justice  
 Carmen.SantiagoRoberts@ojp.usdoj.gov  
 (202) 598-3070

### HISTORY

#### CHILDREN’S JUSTICE ACT PARTNERSHIPS FOR INDIAN COMMUNITIES

The mission of the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) is to enhance the Nation’s capacity to assist crime victims and to provide leadership in changing attitudes, policies, and practices in ways that will promote justice and healing for all victims. OVC is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, within the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ).

Established in 1988 through an amendment to the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) of 1984, OVC is charged by Congress with administering the Crime Victims Fund, a major source of funding for victim services throughout the Nation. The Fund consists primarily of fines, special assessments, and bond forfeitures from convicted federal offenders. Without relying on American tax dollars, the Fund serves as a unique, self-sufficient source of support for thousands of programs annually that represent millions of dollars invested in victim compensation and assistance in every U.S. state and territory, as well as training and demonstration projects designed to enhance the skills of those who provide services to victims. The Fund provides state victim compensation and assistance formula grants; support for victim-witness coordinators in U.S. Attorneys’ Offices, FBI victim specialists, and the Federal Victim Notification System; formula grants to states through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, as mandated by the Children’s Justice Act; and discretionary grants, including the Children’s Justice Act Partnerships for Indian Communities Program.

### OVERVIEW

#### COORDINATED TRIBAL ASSISTANCE SOLICITATION

The Department of Justice (DOJ) launched its Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS) in Fiscal Year 2010 in direct response to concerns raised by Tribal leaders about the Department’s grant process that did not provide the flexibility Tribes needed to address their criminal justice and public safety needs.

Through CTAS, federally recognized Tribes and Tribal consortia were able, for the first time ever, to submit a single application for most of DOJ’s Tribal grant programs. DOJ designed this comprehensive approach to save time and resources and allow Tribes and DOJ to gain a better understanding of the Tribes’ overall public safety needs. CTAS is not a program but is the overarching structure, under which seven separate grant program applications are collected. CTAS is currently operated through collaborative efforts across many department components, bureaus, and offices, including:

- Executive Office for United States Attorney’s (EOUSA)
- Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)
- Office of Justice Programs (OJP) *including:*
  - Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)
  - Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)
  - Office for Victims of Crime (OVC)
- Office of Tribal Justice (OTJ)

## PURPOSE AREA PROVIDERS



**Bureau of Justice Assistance  
Office of Justice Programs  
U.S. Department of Justice**

810 Seventh Street NW, 4th Floor  
Washington, DC 20531  
(202) 616-6500 | [www.bja.gov](http://www.bja.gov)

Email [tribalgrants@usdoj.gov](mailto:tribalgrants@usdoj.gov) for questions regarding the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitations.



**U.S. Department of Justice  
Office of Community Oriented  
Policing Services**

145 N Street NE  
Washington, DC 20530  
(800) 421-6770 | [www.cops.usdoj.gov](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov)



**Office of Juvenile Justice and  
Delinquency Prevention**

810 Seventh Street NW  
Washington, DC 20531  
(202) 307-5911 | [www.ojjdp.gov](http://www.ojjdp.gov)



**Office for Victims of Crime**

810 Seventh Street NW, Second Floor  
Washington, DC 20531  
(202) 307-5983 | [www.ovc.gov](http://www.ovc.gov)

## OVERVIEW

### CHILDREN'S JUSTICE ACT PARTNERSHIP FOR INDIAN COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

The Children's Justice and Assistance Act (CJA) of 1986 provided states funding to establish programs to effectively handle child abuse cases. In 1988, the Anti-Drug Abuse Act amended the VOCA of 1984, authorizing the use of a portion of the state CJA funds to help Tribal communities develop and establish programs to improve the investigation, prosecution, and case management of child sexual abuse cases. Since 1989, OVC has worked to enhance the capacity of Tribal communities to address the needs of child abuse victims by providing funding through the CJA Partnerships for Indian Communities Program (CJA Program). The CJA Program was integrated into the CTAS as Purpose Area 6 in 2012. Since that time, OVC has awarded over 60 CJA Program grant awards to Tribes, totaling over \$26 million.

The goal of the Children's Justice Act Partnerships for Indian Communities (CJA) program is to provide funding to help American Indian and Alaska Native communities develop, establish, and operate programs designed to improve the investigation, prosecution, and handling of cases of criminal child abuse and neglect, particularly child sexual abuse cases, in a manner which lessens trauma for child victims.

Funds may be used for the following:

**Personnel:** Funding may support the salary and fringe benefits for personnel involved in investigation, prosecution, and victim services focused on cases of criminal child abuse and neglect. Staffing may include dedicated prosecutors, law enforcement investigators, child protection services personnel, forensic interviewers, case managers, clinical mental health professionals, pediatric sexual assault nurse examiners (SANEs), and other victim assistance and allied professionals.

**Victim Assistance:** Services must be linked to the child's victimization. Victim assistance may include developmentally appropriate, trauma-informed counseling for primary victims and secondary victims (such as siblings or grandparents); family therapy; group therapy; assistance for emergency/short-term needs, and case management services.

**Coordination, Outreach, Awareness:** Funding may support multidisciplinary team meetings, community forums, and the development, production, and distribution of awareness materials such as public service announcements, posters, brochures, fact sheets, etc., designed to increase the public's awareness and understanding of child abuse and neglect and the availability of grant-funded services.

**Development of policies/procedures/protocols:** Funding may support the development and distribution of written response protocols, policies, and standard operating procedures manuals that promote trauma-informed approaches to the delivery of services to victims of child abuse and neglect and their family members. Funds may also be used to develop or update tribal codes related to defining and expanding victims' rights and crimes against children.

**Cultural and Traditional Practices:** Funding may be used to incorporate cultural and traditional practices in proposed activities for example, smudging, sweat lodges or other traditional healing ceremonies, for victims of child abuse and neglect and their family members.

**Expanding services:** Funding may support expanding existing victim service programming to provide a more comprehensive array of services to child victims and their families. Funds may also be used to support outreach and education activities that educate the community about child abuse and neglect and how to access the services that are available.

**Travel:** DOJ-required trainings. Funding may support airfare, lodging, per diem, and other allowable incidental costs for meetings or trainings related to purpose area activities, including costs associated with travel for at least two appropriate staff to attend DOJ-required trainings (i.e., one CTAS grantee orientation, one OVC mandatory training, and the biennial OVC- sponsored National Indian Nations Conference) using Washington, D.C. as the destination location. Please see the GSA web site for determining allowable per diem travel costs [www.gsa.gov/travel/plan-book/per-diem-rates](http://www.gsa.gov/travel/plan-book/per-diem-rates).

**Training:** Funding may be used for costs associated with developing and conducting local in-service trainings relevant to the investigation and prosecution of criminal child abuse and neglect cases. Funding may also be used to send grant-funded staff and staff who work closely with the program to program-related training events.

**Equipment:** Funding may be used for equipment and technology expenses that meet the federal equipment cost threshold. Examples might include program vehicles, forensic interviewing recording equipment, and medical equipment for a pediatric SANE program.

**Supplies:** Costs may include supplies for digital cameras, rape kits, office furniture, consumable office supplies, printers, scanners, etc.

**Procurement contracts:** Funding can be used for contracted services or consultants to carry out program activities to include, but are not limited to: telemedicine/telemental health access; cell phone service; or leasing a vehicle, photocopier, or other equipment essential to the operation of the project.

## ONGOING SUPPORT

Upon award, OVC will provide access to two types of training and technical assistance (TTA) at no cost to grantees: (1) programmatic, to build grantee's capacity to develop and implement their grant funded project; and (2) financial, to build grantee capacity to administer federal grant funds. TTA may include professional development training, specific training for project staff and staff members from collaborative partner agencies and organizations or experts on how to serve victims of crime; assistance with establishing mechanisms to capture required performance measurement data; development of project deliverables; or other training and technical assistance needs that may be identified. OVC expects all awardees to actively participate in activities and services offered through OVC and to use the OVC-designated training and technical assistance providers as their primary training and technical assistance resource.

## FUNDING & ELIGIBILITY

A federally recognized Tribe or an organization that is acting as the authorized designee of a federally recognized Indian Tribe may apply. If the applicant is a Tribal designee under Purpose Area 6, OVC Children's Justice Act Partnerships for Indian Communities (CJA) program, the applicant will need a Tribal resolution or equivalent legal enactment from the Tribe as part of the application. See the solicitation for more information about the required content for the resolution or equivalent legal enactment (<https://www.justice.gov/tribal/open-solicitations>). Eligible applicants can request up to \$450,000 to support a CJA Program project. All award periods for CJA Program grants are 36 months. The funds for this program are authorized by the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) of 1984. VOCA states that the funds are available for award recipients to use during the Federal Fiscal Year that the award is made, plus three additional Federal Fiscal Years (e.g. VOCA funds awarded in Fiscal Year 2024 are available for use through the end of Fiscal Year 2027.)

**NOTE:** No applicant is eligible to apply for grant funding under Purpose Area 6 who received funding in that purpose area the prior two fiscal years. [For example: If an applicant received Purpose Area 6 funding in FY 2022 or FY 2023, then the applicant cannot apply for Purpose Area 6 funding in FY 2024. FY 2021 award recipients would be eligible to apply in FY 2024.]

## BENEFITS

In a 2014 report, the U.S. Attorney General's Advisory Committee on American Indian and Alaska Native Children Exposed to Violence, noted that Native children are exposed to violence at rates higher than children of any other racial or ethnic group, which places Native children at a high-risk for poor developmental outcomes, poor academic achievement, drug addiction and alcoholism, and helps to explain their disproportionate contact with the juvenile justice system. Tribes that receive funding from the CJA Program have an opportunity to intervene in the cycle of abuse and trauma that keeps so many Native children from thriving.

---

<sup>1</sup>Attorney General's Advisory Committee on American Indian and Alaska Native Children Exposed to Violence, Ending Violence So Children Can Thrive, Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, November 2014.

## FUNDING AGENCY OVERVIEW

BJA | OVC | COPS | OJJDP



The **Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)**, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, supports law enforcement, courts, corrections, treatment, victim services, technology, and prevention initiatives that strengthen the nation's criminal justice system. BJA provides leadership, services, and funding to America's communities by emphasizing local control; building relationships in the field; developing collaborations and partnerships; promoting capacity building through planning; streamlining the administration of grants; increasing training and technical assistance; creating project accountability; encouraging innovation; and ultimately communicating the value of justice efforts to decision makers at every level.

BJA works with the Office of Tribal Justice, the Office of Justice Program's American Indian and Alaska Native Affairs Desk, and other federal agencies, in addition to many culturally appropriate organizations, to maintain focus with the field and to ensure the program's goals and objectives are achieved.



Established in 1988 through an amendment to the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) of 1984, **Office for Victims of Crime (OVC)** is charged by Congress with administering the Crime Victims Fund (the Fund). Through OVC, the Fund supports a broad array of programs and services that focus on helping victims in the immediate aftermath of crime and continuing to support them as they rebuild their lives. Millions of dollars are invested annually in victim compensation and assistance in every U.S. state and territory, as well as for training, technical assistance, and other capacity-building programs designed to enhance service providers' ability to support victims of crime in communities across the Nation.



The **Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)** was created through the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. The COPS Office is the component of the U.S. Department of Justice responsible for advancing the practice of community policing by the nation's state, local, territory, and Tribal law enforcement agencies through information and grant resources.

Community policing is a philosophy that promotes organizational strategies which support the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques, to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder, and fear of crime. The COPS Office has also produced and compiled a broad range of information resources that can help law enforcement better address specific crime and operational issues, and help community leaders better understand how to work cooperatively with their law enforcement agency to reduce crime.



The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, Public Law 93-415, as amended, established the **Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)** to support local and state efforts to prevent delinquency and improve juvenile justice systems.

A component of the Office of Justice Programs within the U.S. Department of Justice, OJJDP works to prevent and respond to youth delinquency and protect children.

Through its divisions, OJJDP sponsors research, program, and training initiatives; develops priorities and goals and sets policies to guide federal juvenile justice issues; disseminates information about juvenile justice issues; and awards funds to states to support local programming.

OJJDP envisions a nation where all children are free from crime and violence. Youth contact with the justice system should be rare, fair, and beneficial.

OJJDP provides national leadership, coordination, and resources to prevent and respond to youth delinquency and victimization. The Office helps states, localities, and tribes develop effective and equitable juvenile justice systems that create safer communities and empower youth to lead productive lives.

REV. 11/13/2023



This project was supported by Grant No. 2019-IC-BX-K002 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the SMART Office. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.