

FY 2026 U.S. Department of Justice Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What's New in FY 26?

- The following Purpose Areas (PA) are being funded this year: PA #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 9.
- Applicants will continue answering the JustGrants questionnaires that capture data reported in the Tribal Community and Justice Profile and Purpose Area Narrative documents.
 - **PA #8: Enhancing Youth Healing to Wellness Courts** (OJJDP) has one category focusing on the continuation, enhancement, or expansion of YHWCs.
 - Applicants must attach a copy of their most recent OJJDP Youth Healing to Wellness Court strategic plan or sustainability plan to the application.
 - **PA #9: Tribal Youth Justice Program** streamlined the categories from three to two:
 - Category 1: Seeding Change Planning Grant
 - Category 2: Harvesting Change Implementation and Expansion Grant
 - Category 2 applicants must attach a copy of their most recent OJJDP Tribal Youth Program strategic plan to the application.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. What is the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS)?

The Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) responds to Tribal leaders' requests to improve and simplify the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) grant-making process. Since Fiscal Year (FY) 2010, DOJ has combined existing Tribal Government-specific competitive funding opportunities into one notice of funding opportunity and required only one application from each Tribe or Tribal consortium under CTAS. This approach provides federally recognized Tribes and Tribal consortia the opportunity to develop a comprehensive approach to public safety and victimization issues.

As in prior years, the FY 2026 CTAS refers to the DOJ's Tribal Government-specific competitive grant programs as purpose areas (PA). Applicants will select the PA(s) that best address(es) Tribes' concerns related to public safety; criminal and juvenile justice; and the needs of victims of child abuse and neglect and may apply to as many purpose areas as needed (of those purpose areas for which they are eligible to apply).

In response to a single Tribal or Tribal consortium application requesting funds from multiple PAs, multiple awards may be made. PAs may be funded and administered by different DOJ program offices (see part C "Purpose Areas—Snapshot" in the [FY 2026 CTAS NOFO](#), which identifies the DOJ program office that manages each PA). DOJ anticipates that awards will be managed by the awarding DOJ program office. Information about the DOJ program offices involved in CTAS can be found by visiting the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) website at <https://www.ojp.gov/> and the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) at <https://cops.usdoj.gov>.

This coordinated approach will apply only to requests for grant funding made in response to this NOFO, which is for FY 2026 grant funding specifically for federally recognized Tribes and Tribal consortia. Tribes and Tribal consortia may be eligible for and are encouraged to submit separate applications to any non-Tribal Government-specific DOJ grant programs for which they may be eligible. For information on additional funding sources, please go to <https://www.grants.gov> and the websites of individual federal agencies.

The DOJ components offering Tribal Government-specific grant resources through the eight PAs identified in the FY 2026 CTAS are listed here. For more information on each component, please see <https://www.justice.gov/tribal>.

- Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) (PA 1): <https://cops.usdoj.gov>
- Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA-OJP) (PA 2, PA 3, PA 4, and PA 5): <https://bja.ojp.gov>
- Office for Victims of Crime (OVC-OJP) (PA 6): <https://ovc.ojp.gov>
- Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP-OJP) (PA 8 and PA 9): <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov>

2. What are the CTAS purpose areas?

DOJ's Tribal Government-specific competitive grant programs outlined in the FY 2026 CTAS are referred to as purpose areas (PA). Applicants may apply for funding under the PA(s) presented here that best address Tribes' concerns related to public safety; criminal and juvenile justice; and the needs of victims of child abuse and neglect. The FY 2026 CTAS PAs are as follows:

1. Public Safety and Community Policing (COPS Office)
2. Comprehensive Tribal Justice Systems Strategic Planning (BJA, COPS Office, OJJDP, and OVC)
3. Tribal Justice Systems (BJA)
4. Tribal Justice System Infrastructure Program (BJA)

5. Adult Tribal Treatment Courts (BJA)
6. Children's Justice Act Partnerships for Indian Communities (OVC)
7. N/A
8. Youth Healing to Wellness Courts (OJJDP)
9. Tribal Youth Justice Program (OJJDP)

3. Does this single application process apply only to federally recognized Tribal Governments?

Yes. In general, only federally recognized Indian Tribes are eligible to apply. Applicants are limited to federally recognized Indian Tribes, as determined by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior, and Tribal consortia consisting of two or more federally recognized Indian Tribes. Under the eligibility exception for PA 6, an organization acting as the authorized designee of a federally recognized Indian Tribe may apply. However, applicants should also review the general eligibility exception relating to political subunits at question #22 on page 8 and the specific eligibility exceptions for PAs 6, 8, and 9, which are set forth in the NOFO. To access a recently published list of federally recognized Tribes, please refer to the Federal Register notice published on January 30, 2026, by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2026-01-30/pdf/2026-01899.pdf>.

4. Does a Tribe or Tribal consortium have to submit an authorizing resolution?

For FY 2026 CTAS, only Tribal consortia applying on behalf of multiple Tribes or designees applying on behalf of a Tribe, where allowable, will be asked to submit documentation reflective of their legal authority to apply for funds under CTAS on behalf of the designating Tribe.

Regarding a **Tribal consortium** application, the applicant must submit documentation that the consortium has the authority to apply, as described above, on behalf of each Tribal consortium member, unless existing consortium bylaws or other Tribal governance documents allow action without explicit authorization from the member Tribes in the consortium. In such case, a copy of the bylaws or other governance documents that allow the Tribal consortium's action without explicit support from all consortium members must be included with the application. **This documentation must be current, sufficiently demonstrate authority for the application, contain authorized signature(s), and be submitted by the application deadline of October 22, 2026.**

If the applicant is a **Tribal designee**, **eligibility is limited to PA 6, OVC Children's Justice Act Partnerships for Indian Communities**. For this purpose area, the applicant will need a Tribal resolution or other satisfactory evidence of legal authority from the Tribe as part of the application, which must (1) authorize the applicant to submit an application on behalf of the federally recognized Indian Tribe and (2) state the Tribe's support for the project and its commitment to participate in the project if it is selected for funding. **This resolution or other satisfactory evidence of legal authority must be current, sufficiently demonstrate authority for the application, contain authorized signature(s), and be submitted by the application deadline of October 22, 2026.**

5. What am I required to submit in the application?

The “What an Application Should Include” section of the NOFO contains detailed information outlining what must be submitted in the application. See the [FY 2026 CTAS NOFO](#) for the application checklist and a complete list of required and recommended attachments.

6. Are there specific requirements for each purpose area?

Yes. See the “Purpose Area-Specific Information” section of the [FY 2026 NOFO](#) for information about the requirements specific to each purpose area.

7. How long will the CTAS NOFO be open?

The NOFO is open from **July 24, 2026, until October 22, 2026**. All applications are due in JustGrants by 8:59 p.m. eastern time (ET) on **October 22, 2026**. Applying is a two-step application process, which requires the submission of the SF-424 in **Grants.gov by October 15, 2026 and the full application including the SF-LLL in JustGrants by October 22, 2026**.

8. Why are there two different deadlines listed for the CTAS Application?

The CTAS application requires the submission of application materials in two different systems, with the second step in the process contingent on the first.

Step 1: Applicants will submit the **SF-424** in Grants.gov at <https://www.grants.gov/register>. Please note that to register in Grants.gov, applicants will need to obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM) registration or renewal.

SAM.gov is a critical part of the funding process with the DOJ. Prior to applying, applicants must first have an active SAM.gov account.

There is no cost to register with SAM.gov; however, applicants must renew and revalidate their registration at least every 12 months from the date they last certified and submitted the registration in SAM.gov (and sooner, if the entity's information changes). Failure to renew your registration will result in it expiring.

On April 4, 2022, the General Services Administration (GSA) implemented a new process for validating an entity's legal business name and physical address when requesting a UEI and for completing a SAM.gov entity registration. This entity validation process is required when

- an entity is registering for the first time;
- a registered entity is updating its registration; or
- a registered entity has changed its legal business name or physical address.

Because of a high volume of requests in SAM.gov during the application season, entity validations may take longer than expected to process. **DOJ strongly recommends starting your SAM.gov registration process at least 30 days before application deadlines.**

Step 2: Applicants will submit the **full application** including the SF-LLL in JustGrants at JustGrants.usdoj.gov.

To be considered timely, the **full application** must be submitted in JustGrants by the JustGrants application deadline, which is **October 22, 2026**, at 8:59 p.m. ET.

9. What are the amounts and time periods of the awards for each purpose area?

Awards will have a period of performance of 24–60 months. Please refer to the Funding Details chart in the NOFO for specific award ceilings and performance duration.

10. When will my Tribe know if the application is selected for funding?

DOJ expects to make award announcements generally by September 30, 2027.

11. How do I determine who is the authorized representative for my agency?

For an applicant Indian Tribe, the authorized representative is either the principal official of the applicant Tribe or a designated official, as determined by the applicant Tribe, who has legal authority to enter into an agreement on behalf of the Tribe and to legally bind the Tribe to that agreement. For non-Indian Tribe applicants, such as an applicant to those purpose areas for which Tribal designees may be eligible, the authorized representative is the individual (such as a chief executive officer of the applicant) who has legal authority to enter into an agreement on behalf of the applicant and to legally bind the applicant to that agreement.

Only one authorized representative can be listed in the application. To learn more about user roles in JustGrants, please access visit <https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh296/files/media/document/External-Roles-Infographic.pdf>. The Authorized Representative(s) must possess the legal authority to accept awards on behalf of their organization. For PA 1, the Entity Administrator must assign two Authorized representatives to accept the award in JustGrants.

12. Who do I contact if I need help with applying?

For more information, please refer to our Tribal Justice and Safety website: <https://www.justice.gov/tribal>.

HELPPESK / OFFICE	PHONE	EMAIL
GRANTS.GOV (TECHNICAL ISSUES)	800-518-4726	support@grants.gov 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (except federal holidays)
JUSTGRANTS (APPLICATION SYSTEM SUPPORT)	833-872-5175	JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov Monday–Friday 7:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m. ET; Saturday, Sunday and federal holidays from 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. ET
DOJ RESPONSE CENTER (PROGRAMMATIC & GENERAL ASSISTANCE)	800-421-6770	tribalgrants@usdoj.gov Monday–Friday 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. ET
SAM.GOV		About Contact SAM.gov

The DOJ Response Center and JustGrants Service Desk will remain open on the NOFO closing date, **October 22, 2026**, until 8:59 p.m. ET.

13. May a Tribe apply for funding both as part of a consortium and as an individual Tribe?

Yes. A Tribe may apply as part of a consortium and submit its own independent application in response to the FY 2026 CTAS, provided that the Tribe’s independent application seeks funding for activities that are distinct and separate from those activities for which the Tribal consortium is seeking funding.

For example, a Tribe could apply under PA 3 as part of a consortium that is requesting funding for a drug and alcohol prevention project to serve all the participating Tribes. The same Tribe could also apply independently under PA 3 for funding for a drug and alcohol treatment program to serve court-involved individuals. Because the applications request funding for distinct and separate projects, the Tribe may submit both applications.

14. For the Tribal Community and Justice Profile Question Set of a consortium application, does the application need to address each member Tribe specifically or should it address the consortium as a whole?

The Tribal Community and Justice Profile for a consortium application should address the service area of the consortium as a whole.

15. Are there maximum word limits on questions in the Tribal Community and Justice Profile and Purpose Area Narrative question sets?

Some of the questions have maximum word limits; please review and address each question in the question sets. During the application scoring, peer reviewers will review and note any applications that exceed the maximum word limits and may not review any information that exceeds the limit.

16. If we have a current grant under one of the purpose areas, are we eligible under that area?

OVC's PA 6, OJJDP's PA 8, and OJJDP's PA 9 have specific restrictions on applications submitted by current grant recipients. See the specific purpose area requirements in the FY 2026 NOFO for information about these restrictions. Tribes with active grant awards should not seek funding for a project that is already covered by an existing DOJ grant.

- CTAS FY 2024 and FY 2025 Children's Justice Act (PA 6) awardees are not eligible to apply for the CTAS FY 2026 Children's Justice Act program.
- CTAS PA 8 has specific eligibility criteria outlined in the NOFO.
- CTAS PA 9 has two categories under which Tribes can apply for funding. Please carefully review the eligibility criteria specified in the NOFO.

For PAs 1, 3, and 5, all federally recognized Tribes are eligible to apply for FY 2026 CTAS. Tribes with a current grant award may seek funding to expand or enhance existing projects or to start a new project. PA 2 funding is available only once per Tribe and prior awardees are ineligible to apply again.

For PA 4, please see FAQ #17 under the Purpose Area 4 section of the FAQ.

17. If we apply for more than one purpose area, is it possible that only some purpose areas could get funded? Or is it that all or none will be funded?

Each application responding to a purpose area will be reviewed individually by the managing DOJ component. Once all applications have been reviewed, the appropriate DOJ components will discuss their funding recommendations and coordinate award decisions.

As such, applicants may receive an award under one, some, or none of the purpose areas for which the applicant has applied. Applicants that receive multiple awards must maintain the grant funds separately and file all required reports for each grant awarded with the applicable DOJ component.

18. Can a Tribe or department of a Tribe apply for other grants other than the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation NOFO?

Yes. The CTAS is a coordinated NOFO for certain Tribal Government-specific grant programs, but the DOJ administers additional grant programs for which Tribes may be eligible. Please visit <https://www.grants.gov/> on a regular basis for a listing of all DOJ funding opportunities.

19. Are Alaska Native village corporations and regional corporations eligible to apply for funding?

Both regional and village corporations established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act are eligible to apply for all purpose areas under the CTAS based on the following statutory definition of “Indian Tribe,” which applies to all purpose areas:

“Indian Tribe” means any Indian Tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, **including any Alaska Native village or regional or village corporation as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (85 Stat. 688) [43 U.S.C. §§ 1601 et seq.]**, which is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians. [Emphasis added.]

An ANC may also consider applying as a consortium (or a designee, where applicable). Please refer to Question 4 for additional information on documentation requirements from a consortium or designee applicant.

20. Are political subunits of Indian Tribal Governments (e.g., Tribally recognized chapters or individual reservation(s)) under a larger federally recognized Tribe eligible to apply for funding?

Yes, but under very limited circumstances and only with prior written approval obtained from the DOJ prior to the application deadline. Procedures and other information related to obtaining such approval follow.

In general, only one application will be accepted from each Tribe or Tribal consortium. If a Tribe or Tribal consortium (including all agencies within that Tribe or Tribal consortium) submits more than one application, only one application will be considered in the review process.

However, in addition to accepting an application from each individual Tribe, the DOJ may accept a single application from a political subunit of a federally recognized Indian Tribal Government after DOJ review and approval of Tribal documentation in support of the political subunit’s eligibility to submit a separate application for funding to serve citizens within that political subunit.

The DOJ will review the eligibility of a political subunit to apply (separately from the federally recognized Indian Tribal Government that includes such subunit, or the “parent Tribe”) on a case-by-case basis.

Procedure for submitting a request for eligibility review:

A political subunit seeking to apply on its own must submit documentation that demonstrates the political subunit’s legal authority to submit its own application (separately from a parent Tribe’s application). The political subunit seeking such approval must submit this documentation to tribalgrants@usdoj.gov by **September 10, 2026**—six weeks prior to the **October 22, 2026** application deadline—for the political subunit’s request to receive DOJ review and consideration. The subject of the submission should read “CTAS Eligibility Review Request for [insert name of Tribal political subunit].”

(Please note: Potential applicants that are political subunits seeking approval to submit a CTAS application should still observe the date by which applicants are strongly encouraged to register in preparation for application submission. See the Application Contents, Submission Requirements, and Deadlines sections of the NOFO.

21. Are the demographic questions scored?

Demographic questions are required *only* for PA 1 applicants, are answered directly in JustGrants, and are worth five points of the score. For applicants that cannot provide specific data, the score will be determined based on the applicant's justification for not being able to provide the requested information. In accordance with the Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA) mandate to consider crime data and staffing needs in COPS Office funding decisions, the COPS Office scores this form for completeness, crime data, and the staffing levels provided.

22. What is considered a quality application?

When completing a grant application, it is important to remember that most applications are submitted in a highly competitive forum and funding is not guaranteed. Applicants must prepare their application with at least two goals in mind: (1) to inform the reader of the intended goals and objectives of the proposed project(s) and (2) to persuade the reader that their projects are worthy of funding. Samples of successful applications can be obtained at <https://www.justice.gov/tribal/funding-opportunities>.

23. What is the maximum consultant rate for each DOJ component involved with CTAS?

The maximum daily consultant rate is **\$650**.

Compensation for individual consultant services procured under a CTAS award must be reasonable, allocable, and consistent with that paid for similar services in the marketplace. The recipient must provide justification for any consultant rate in excess of \$650 per day and receive written DOJ approval of that rate before drawing down funds.

Note: Grantees must also maintain documentation for consultants below the rate. The documentation must show that the rate paid to the consultant is appropriate for the type of work performed, the consultant's expertise, and prior work at that or a higher rate.

24. Is there a required format for the project timeline and where can I find a sample?

No; however, a timeline template and sample can be found at <https://www.justice.gov/tribal/funding-opportunities>.

25. What is Project 25 (P25) Technology?

Project 25 (P25) is the standard for the design and manufacture of interoperable digital two-way wireless communications products. Developed in North America with state, local, and federal

representatives and under Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) governance, P25 has gained worldwide acceptance for public safety, security, public service, and commercial applications. In addition, P25 is a partnership between the public safety community and industry to develop a suite of open architecture standards for digital Land Mobile Radio (LMR) equipment, features, and interfaces.

26. What are the benefits of using P25?

P25 is intended to benefit the public safety community by

- improving radio spectrum resource use;
- promoting marketplace competition for interoperable products;
- enabling interoperable communications within and among public safety agencies;
- providing backward compatibility;
- establishing a staged migration path.

For more information on P25, please visit <https://www.cisa.gov/news-events/news/safecom-guidance-frequently-asked-questions-understanding-p25-standards-and-compliance>.

27. Are there any standards of compliance if I am requesting emergency communications equipment?

Recipients (and subrecipients) using program funds to support emergency communications activities should comply with the latest SAFECOM guidance, including provisions on technical standards that ensure and enhance interoperable communications.

28. What happens if our Tribe does not include a current federally approved indirect cost (IDC) rate at the time of application?

Indirect costs are generally allowed only if the applicant has a current federally approved indirect cost rate or if the applicant is eligible and elects to charge the *de minimis* indirect cost rate of 15 percent.

- Current IDC rate agreement: Applicants should upload a copy of the fully executed and approved Indirect Cost Negotiation Agreement to the application. As a condition of the fully executed Indirect Cost Negotiation Agreement, the applicant must apply the approved rate to the appropriate distribution base as listed in Section I: “Rate” of the Agreement.
- Expired IDC rate agreement: If expired at the time of the application, the applicant should be able to demonstrate that negotiations with their cognizant agency for a current rate are in progress. Applicants must upload a copy of the expired fully executed Indirect Cost Negotiation Agreement to the application. The indirect costs will be calculated and approved for budgetary purposes, but funds will be placed on hold until a current fully executed Indirect Cost Negotiation Agreement is submitted to the awarding agency. It is suggested that the applicant use the narrative portion of the Indirect Costs category on the budget detail worksheet to show the computation of the indirect cost distribution base and the total indirect costs.

- Pending IDC rate agreement: If the applicant has a rate pending with another Federal agency, an award condition will be added to the award prohibiting the obligation, expenditure, or drawdown of funds for IDC until an indirect cost rate has been approved by the cognizant Federal agency, and a Grant Award Modification has been issued.

Applicants that do not have an approved indirect cost rate but wish to negotiate a rate may request one through their cognizant agency, or, if the applicant's accounting system permits, costs may be allocated in the direct cost categories. Indian Tribal Governments applicants should review Appendix VII to Part 200—States and Local Government and Indian Tribe Indirect Cost Proposals regarding submission and documentation of indirect cost proposals.

Nonfederal entities that do not have a current negotiated or provisional indirect cost rate may elect a flat rate up to 15 percent of modified total direct costs (MTDC), as described in 2 C.F.R. 200.414(f), which may be used indefinitely (see paragraph D.1.b. in Appendix VII to Part 200—States and Local Government and Indian Tribe Indirect Cost Proposals for a description of entities that may not be eligible to elect to use the *de minimis* rate.) To use the *de minimis* indirect rate, an applicant would need to make a statement on the application advising DOJ of both the applicant's eligibility to use the *de minimis* rate and its election (no documentation is required). If the applicant elects the *de minimis* method, costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs for all federal awards but may not be double charged or inconsistently charged as both until such time as the applicant entity chooses to negotiate a federally approved indirect cost rate.

Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC) means all direct salaries and wages, applicable fringe benefits, materials and supplies, services, travel, and up to the first \$50,000 of each subaward (regardless of the period of performance of the subawards under the award). MTDC excludes equipment, capital expenditures, charges for patient care, rental costs, tuition remission, scholarships and fellowships, participant support costs, and the portion of each subaward in excess of \$50,000. Other items may only be excluded when necessary to avoid a serious inequity in the distribution of indirect costs and with the approval of the cognizant agency for indirect costs.

29. How many applications were received by purpose area in FY 2025 and how many awards were made by purpose area in FY 2025?

FY 25 CTAS purpose area	Number of applications received in FY 25 (nonduplicated)	Number of awardees in FY 25
01-Public safety and community policing (COPS Office)	128	49
02-Comprehensive Planning Demonstration program (BJA)	17	7
03-Tribal Justice Systems (BJA)	63	23
04-Tribal Justice System Infrastructure Program (BJA)	39	7
05- Adult Tribal Treatment Courts	34	15
06-Children's Justice Act Partnerships for Indian Communities (OVC)	22	13
07-PA 7 was not included in CTAS 2025	N/A	N/A
08-Youth Healing to Wellness Courts (OJJDP)	14	13
09-Tribal Youth Justice Program (OJJDP)	35	30

30. What are the requirements of EO 12372 and which purpose areas do they apply to?

Executive Order (EO) 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs," requires applicants from state and local units of government or other organizations providing services in a state to submit a copy of the application to the state single point of contact (SPOC) if one exists and if the program has been selected for review. Applicants must contact their state SPOCs to determine whether their programs have been selected for state review. The applicant should enter the date that the application was sent to the SPOC or the reason such submission is not required in the section of the SF-424 that refers to EO 12372. For a current list of SPOC, please see <https://www.ojp.gov/IntergovernmentalReviewSPOCList.pdf>.

This requirement is applicable to PA 1 (Public Safety and Community Policing).

Purpose Areas 2 and 3

The Tribe is welcome to include the state in their planning if they believe it would be valuable and is encouraged to work with the state if they expect that lack of state involvement in the planning process is likely to hinder their ability to successfully implement the proposed project if an award is made.

Purpose Area 4

There is no mandatory state involvement requirement. However, we do encourage intergovernmental coordination where appropriate (e.g., transitional living to support community reintegration efforts).

Purpose Area 5

The Tribe is welcome to include the state in their planning if they believe it would be valuable and is encouraged to work with the state if they expect that lack of state involvement in the planning process is likely to hinder their ability to successfully implement the proposed project if an award is made.

Purpose Area 6

There is no mandatory state involvement requirement. Project activities funded under the Children's Justice Act (CJA) PA6 can provide multidisciplinary approaches to the investigation, prosecution, and management of cases by improving coordination among Tribal, state, and federal professionals.

Purpose Areas 8 and 9

There is no preference or mandatory state involvement in CTAS. It is up to the Tribe to decide.

31. Do I need to submit a separate SF 424 for each purpose area I am applying for in Grants.gov?

No. Applicants will submit only one SF 424 in Grants.gov.

32. How do I answer fields 15, 17, and 18 on the SF-424 in Grants.gov?

- Field #15: Applicants must enter a brief descriptive title of the project.
- Field #17: Applicants must enter the proposed start and end date of the project.
- Field #18: Applicants must enter the total amount requested.

Grants.gov is not set up to handle multiple applications under one NOFO; therefore, applicants must enter a response to each of these questions with the understanding that the SF-424 will not reflect every purpose area being applied to.

Applicants will complete each of these fields for each requested purpose area to which they are applying in the JustGrants stage of the application.

33. Can a mandatory PL 280 Tribe that does not currently have a Tribal justice system apply to the CTAS for purposes of developing a justice system?

Yes, for purposes of developing "a justice system" to be operated consistent with applicable federal, state, or Tribal law.

An applicant Tribe may wish to carefully review *all* CTAS purpose areas considered to be relevant, depending upon the applicant Tribe's particular priorities with respect to its FY 2026 CTAS application.

For example, under PA 2, applicants may apply for funding to include, among other things (specified in the CTAS), the development of a justice system-wide strategic plan that identifies the priority needs facing the applicant's justice system and outlines a strategy encompassing multiple justice system components.

As another example, under PA 3, applicants may apply for funding to include, among other things (specified in the CTAS), planning new or enhancing existing Tribal courts or alternatives to incarceration.

34. To what extent can the funds be combined with 638 compacts and 105(l) lease agreements?

CTAS awards are issued as DOJ grants administered by the DOJ program office that manages the program under each respective CTAS purpose area. Recipients of any DOJ grant award made under CTAS purpose areas (programs) will be expected to track, expend, and account for each DOJ grant award—including with respect to funds provided and activities and associated costs funded under each DOJ grant award—consistent with applicable federal law, specifically including the financial management, internal controls, and other provisions of [2 C.F.R. Part 200](#) (as adopted and implemented by DOJ in [2 C.F.R. Part 2800](#)); the terms and conditions of the DOJ grant award; and the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#).

An applicant Tribe with 638 compacts, contracts, or agreements (*see*, for certain key definitions, 25 U.S.C. 5304 and 25 U.S.C. 5361), or 105(l) lease agreements (*see* 25 U.S.C. 5324(l)), will need to ensure that—if it receives a DOJ CTAS award—it has (or puts in place) appropriate financial management systems and internal controls to allow it to track and report on DOJ grant award funds and establish that the DOJ award funds have been used in accordance with Federal law and the DOJ grant award terms and conditions. *See, e.g.*, 2 C.F.R. 200.302 and 2 C.F.R. 200.303.

35. What roles from the SF-424 submitted in Grants.gov automatically transfer to JustGrants?

The individual identified in the “Name and Contact Information of Person to be Contacted on Matters Involving this Application” in Section 8.f of the SF-424 will be designated as the Application Submitter in JustGrants. This information in the SF-424 cannot be changed; however, the Entity Administrator can reassign the application submitter role to another user in JustGrants.

36. Is the CTAS New Grantee Orientation Training mandatory?

Yes, attendance at the annual CTAS new grantee orientation virtual training is required for all FY 2026 CTAS award recipients. Award recipients must participate in this DOJ-wide CTAS new grantee orientation, scheduled during Year 1 of the award period. Award recipients must ensure two staff members—the program manager and the fiscal manager attend this training for each funded purpose area, and ensure both members are present and engaged for the full duration of the training.

37. Does the new grantee CTAS orientation training satisfy the financial management training requirement for OJP recipients?

No, attending the new grantee CTAS orientation does NOT satisfy the financial management training, and OJP recipients are required to attend the financial management training.

The Grant Award Administrator and all Financial Managers for an OJP award must have successfully completed an “OJP financial management and grant administration training” within 120 days after the date of the recipient's acceptance of the award.

In the event that either the Grant Award Administrator or a Financial Manager for the award changes during the period of performance, the new Grant Award Administrator or Financial Manager must have successfully completed an “OJP financial management and grant administration training” by 120 calendar days after the date the Entity Administrator enters updated Grant Award Administrator or Financial Manager information in JustGrants.

A list of OJP trainings that OJP will consider “OJP financial management and grant administration training” for purposes of this condition is available at <https://onlinegfmt.training.ojp.gov/>. All trainings that satisfy this condition includes a session on grant fraud prevention and detection.

The recipient should anticipate that OJP will immediately withhold (“freeze”) award funds if the recipient fails to comply with this condition along with any other imposed remedial actions appropriate.

38. Is my Tribe required to complete the OJP Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire?

The OJP Financial Management and System of Internal Controls Questionnaire is only required for PAs 2–9 and is included as a questionnaire that must be completed in JustGrants for such purpose areas. Please note that if you are applying for more than one purpose area that requires the questionnaire, you will only be required to complete it once.

39. I do not have an Excel version or PC that supports the Excel Budget Detail and Narrative worksheet provided for CTAS applicants. What should I do?

For accessibility, the excel Budget Detail and Narrative worksheet requires that macros be enabled and is only functional with Excel 2007 or later versions. The Excel 2008 version for Macintosh computers may not run the macros for the CTAS Budget Detail and Narrative worksheet. Applicants encountering accessibility issues may use other application software (e.g., Microsoft Word) to capture the budget detail and narrative information and are not required to use the specific budget form; however, other iterations must capture the same information.

Questions on Procurement and Training and Technical Assistance

- 1. My agency currently has a grant from DOJ. May I use grant funds to procure the services of a current DOJ–funded training and technical assistance (TTA) provider to assist my agency with the project implementation?**

This is subject to the specific facts involved in each request, and determinations regarding the propriety of entering into contractual agreements with DOJ–funded TTA providers will be made on a case-by-case basis and contingent upon several factors.

For example, in some instances, the TTA service(s) that your agency is seeking may be available at no charge to your agency, pursuant to an existing agreement for a TTA provider to provide such implementation services. For this reason, recipients must submit an official TTA request to their assigned grant or program manager before entering into a contractual agreement with a DOJ-funded TTA provider for project implementation assistance, and a determination will be made on whether there is an appropriate mechanism for TTA delivery.

Furthermore, in accordance with DOJ procurement rules and regulations, award recipients and subrecipients must conduct all procurement transactions in a manner providing full and open competition consistent with the Procurement Standards (see 2 CFR 200.317 to 2 CFR 200.327). This principle applies whether purchasing transactions are negotiated or competitively bid and without regard to dollar value and the DOJ will evaluate the request considering this basic principle. Recipients and subrecipients must exclude from bidding or proposal submission any entities that were involved in developing or drafting the specifications, requirements, statements of work, or requests for proposals for the recipient's project in question.

- 2. My agency is interested in applying for a DOJ grant. May I request the services of a DOJ–funded training and technical assistance (TTA) provider in writing my agency's grant proposal?**

The DOJ's procurement practices are consistent with the procurement rules and regulations for DOJ award recipients and subrecipients. The DOJ is committed to using fair and transparent processes for making grant award decisions and vendor selection. The DOJ wants to ensure that the award selection process is fair, transparent, and free of undue influence. Thus, the DOJ forbids applicants from using a DOJ–funded TTA provider staff to write grant applications fully or partially. DOJ–funded TTA providers generally do not have the resources to write grant applications fully or partially for all applicants interested in applying for selected NOFOs. This would create an unfair advantage for any applicants that did receive grant writing services from a DOJ–funded TTA provider. Therefore, it is not a fair practice to write applications fully or partially for some but not all applicants that are applying under a NOFO.

Although TTA providers may not assist in writing grant proposals, there are DOJ resources designed to assist applicants with grant writing. These resources are nationally publicized and available to all applicants. Please contact the appropriate grant NOFO point of contact for more information regarding these resources. DOJ grant regulations and policies are based on the procurement standards contained in the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards set forth at 2 C.F.R. Part 200. These standards should be used in conjunction with the DOJ Grants Financial Guide.

3. My agency is interested in applying for a DOJ grant. May I request technical assistance from a DOJ–funded training and technical assistance (TTA) provider to assist me with the competitive application process?

Yes. Applicants may request and obtain technical assistance from a DOJ–funded TTA provider regarding topic areas, technical questions contained in the NOFO, and/or clarification on application requirements. However, DOJ–funded TTA providers are prohibited from fully or partially writing the grant application as a service to grant applicants and from reviewing or providing comments on competitive grant applications.

Purpose Area–Specific Questions

Purpose Area #1 – Public Safety and Community Policing (COPS Office – Tribal Resources Grant Program-Hire and Tribal Resources Grant Program-Equipment/Training)

1. My Tribe is considering applying for PA 1 funding. How to determine if my agency is eligible to apply?

Only federally recognized Indian Tribal Governments, as determined by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior, may apply. This includes Alaska Native villages and Tribal consortia consisting of two or more federally recognized Indian Tribes.

2. Can a Tribe apply to start up a law enforcement agency?

Yes, under Purpose Area 1, Tribes are eligible to apply for funding for existing or start-up law enforcement agencies.

3. What is considered primary law enforcement authority?

An agency with primary law enforcement authority is defined as the first responder to calls for service for all types of criminal incidents within the jurisdiction served.

Agencies are not considered to have primary law enforcement authority if they only respond to or investigate specific type(s) of crime(s), respond to or investigate crimes within a correctional institution, serve warrants, provide courthouse security, transport prisoners, have cases referred to them for investigation or investigational support, or only some combination of these.

4. What projects can be supported under PA 1?

Applicants may apply for funding to cover the costs outlined below. For detailed information on the allowable costs and fundable requests, please refer to the non-exhaustive COPS Office Purpose Area 1 FY 2026 Allowable/Unallowable Costs List at <https://www.justice.gov/tribal/funding-opportunities> and <https://cops.usdoj.gov/ctas>:

- Full-time newly hired or rehired sworn career law enforcement officers, including the following:
 - Village public safety officers
 - Tribal/village police officers
 - School resource officers
- Civilian Positions, including the following:
 - Anti-methamphetamine and/or anti-opioid coordinators
- Equipment, supplies, and technology

- Contracts/consultants
- Strategic planning
- Indirect costs
- Travel
- Training
- Overtime

These are some allowable costs in PA 1. Please review the entire non-exhaustive list of allowable and unallowable costs, which can be found at <https://www.justice.gov/tribal> and <https://cops.usdoj.gov/ctas>.

5. What information must I include under the PA 1 narrative questions?

Applicants are required to provide information demonstrating how grant funding will be used to increase their involvement in community policing. Answers to the questions in this section should be specifically linked to the community policing activities to be implemented or enhanced through the grant project.

6. My Tribal Government has multiple components of law enforcement departments (e.g., Department of Public Safety and Fish and Wildlife Department) that we are including in our request under PA 1. Do we need to report cumulative full- and part-time budgeted sworn force strength numbers for all departments?

Your application should report all cumulative full- and part-time budgeted sworn force strength numbers for all law enforcement departments in your Tribe (e.g., Fish and Game, Department of Natural Resources) that would receive funding through this request if awarded.

7. How much funding is my Tribe eligible to receive under PA 1?

The budgeted number of sworn officer positions will be used to determine the funding maximums. The budgeted number is the number of sworn officer positions funded in your agency's budget, including funded but frozen positions as well as state, BIA, and locally funded vacancies.

The COPS Office will have maximum award amounts in FY26 as follows:

- Sworn force of fewer than 20 officers: No more than \$700,000 total
- Sworn force of 20+ officers: No more than \$900,000 total

8. How many officers should our Tribe request?

Applicants should determine the number of officers needed and adhere to the maximum funding awards as outlined above in question #7.

9. Can my Tribe still apply for TRGP-Hire funds as we are currently working below our budgeted strength?

Yes. A law enforcement agency operating below its budgeted strength is eligible to apply for funding so long as the applicant attests that awarded funds will be used in compliance with the nonsupplanting requirement and not used to supplant state, local, or Bureau of Indian Affairs funds that are already budgeted for sworn law enforcement officer positions. Budgeted strength is the maximum number of sworn law enforcement officers that a law enforcement agency is authorized to employ in its budget. See the Guidance for Understaffed Law Enforcement Agencies Operating below Budgeted Strength under the COPS Hiring Program (CHP) and Tribal Resources Grant Program—Hire (TRGP—Hire) Fact Sheet on the TRGP website at <https://cops.usdoj.gov/ctas> for additional information.

10. Will my Tribe receive the total amount of funding we requested under PA 1?

Grant awards are subject to the availability of funding and any changes or additional requirements that may be imposed by the agency or by law.

11. Is there a local cost share (matching funds) requirement under PA 1?

No. PA 1 grants provide 100 percent of the funding for approved costs.

12. What is the length of the TRGP-Hire and TRGP-E/T grant awards?

- **PA 1 hiring grants are for a 60-month implementation period (five years).** Funding covers the entry-level salary and benefits of full-time sworn officer positions during the 60 months.
- **PA 1 equipment and training grants are for a 36-month implementation period (three years).** If your agency is awarded civilian full-time methamphetamine and/or anti-opioid coordinator positions, these positions fall under the 36-month implementation period (three years) of this grant.

13. May I request a school resource officer (SRO) under the TRGP-Hire award?

Yes. Per COPS Office statute 34 U.S.C. §10389(1), an SRO is defined as “a career law enforcement officer, with sworn authority, deployed in community-oriented policing, and assigned by the employing police department or agency to work in collaboration with schools and community-based organizations—

- a. to address crime and disorder problems, gangs, and drug activities affecting or occurring in or around an elementary or secondary school;
- b. to develop or expand crime prevention efforts for students;
- c. to educate likely school-age victims in crime prevention and safety;
- d. to develop or expand community justice initiatives for students;
- e. to train students in conflict resolution, restorative justice, and crime awareness;

- f. to assist in the identification of physical changes in the environment that may reduce crime in or around the school; and,
- g. to assist in developing school policy that addresses crime and to recommend procedural changes.”

14. Are there any other application requirements if my agency wants to request funds to hire SROs?

Recipients awarded funding to hire and/or deploy School Resource Officers (SRO) into schools will be required to submit to the COPS Office a signed MOU between the law enforcement agency and the school partner(s) within 90 days of the date shown on the award congratulatory letter. An MOU is not required at time of application; however, if the law enforcement agency already has an MOU in place that is applicable to the partnership, the MOU can be uploaded as an attachment under the Section in JustGrants titled “MOUs and Other Supporting Documents.”

The MOU must contain the following: the purpose of the MOU; clearly defined roles and responsibilities of the school district and the law enforcement agency, with officers’ roles focusing on safety, information sharing, supervision responsibility, and chain of command for the SRO; and signatures. The MOU is an agreement among parties that defines the roles and responsibilities of the individuals and partners involved, including SROs, school administrators, law enforcement and education departments, students, and parents. The MOU should explicitly state the proposed programs and daily activities that the SRO will develop and/or administer. It should also address the policies and procedures and the extent to which information will be shared between the law enforcement agency and school or school district partners throughout the course of the award. The MOU should be signed by the law enforcement executive and designated representative for the school or school district who has general educational oversight within that jurisdiction.

Please refer to the SRO MOU fact sheet at <https://cops.usdoj.gov/ctas> for a full description of the MOU requirements.

15. Are there any mandatory training requirements for SROs?

Yes. COPS Office–funded SRO(s) are required to complete a basic 40-hour SRO training course from the COPS Office–approved provider. Training must be completed no later than nine months after the date shown on the award congratulatory letter or six months from the SRO hire date, whichever comes first. If a COPS Office–funded SRO leaves the recipient agency after completing the training, the recipient agrees to pay for the new SRO who is assigned to backfill this position to attend a 40-hour basic training course. The new SRO must complete the training no later than nine months after being placed in the school. If the officer has completed the 40-hour basic training within the last 12 months prior to the award date, the requirement has been fulfilled. Any gap longer than 12 months will require the officer(s) to retake the course. The agency must coordinate with the training provider if they want funds to cover registration and travel costs.

If your agency fails to comply with the SRO basic training within the specified timeframe, the COPS Office may temporarily suspend grant funds or take other remedial actions in accordance with 2 C.F.R. §200.339 until your agency complies with this requirement.

Please refer to the SRO Training fact sheet at <https://cops.usdoj.gov/ctas> for a full description of the MOU requirements.

16. If awarded, will our agency be subjected to monitoring, reporting, and evaluation requirements?

Federal regulations require that any financial assistance from the Federal Government be monitored to ensure that those funds are spent properly. Awarded agencies will be responsible for submitting semiannual programmatic progress reports and quarterly Federal Financial Reports. In addition, the COPS Office is interested in tracking the progress of its programs and the development of its grantees' community policing plans. Therefore, all grantees will be required to cooperate with grant monitoring activities of the DOJ, including the COPS Office, the Office of the Inspector General, or an entity designated by the COPS Office.

The COPS Office monitoring staff may take several monitoring approaches, such as site visits, office-based grant reviews, and periodic surveys to gather information. The COPS Office may seek information including your agency's compliance with nonsupplanting and financial requirements of the grant and progress toward achieving your community policing plan. COPS Office Grant Program and Monitoring Specialists, as well as auditors, are particularly interested in confirming that the purchase of approved items is consistent with the applicant's proposal.

17. Can I request a modification to my hiring award?

If your agency needs to change one or more of the funded hiring categories, your agency must submit a post-award modification and receive written prior approval before expending awards funds. For additional information on grant modifications, please contact the COPS Office Response Center at 800-421-6770 to speak to your grant program manager.

18. Would the COPS Office PA 1 allow for the purchase of a database system that would allow multiple databases throughout Tribal departments to share information pertinent to law enforcement?

Yes.

19. Would the COPS Office PA 1 allow for the hiring of officers or purchase of equipment that would benefit multiple law enforcement agencies or governments, including nontribal law enforcement?

TRGP funding must be used for law enforcement activities or services that benefit your agency and the population that it serves. The items funded under the TRGP may not be used by other agencies unless

the items benefit the population that your agency serves. Your agency may use the items funded under the TRGP award to assist other law enforcement agencies under a resource sharing, mutual aid, or other agreement to address multijurisdictional issues as described in the agreement.

20. Are Tribal conservation departments eligible to receive grant funding under PA 1?

Yes, if a Tribe's conservation department has primary law enforcement authority, it is eligible to receive grant funding under PA 1 as part of a Tribe's single application. As stated in the NOFO, applicants must either be an established law enforcement agency, have an existing contract with the BIA for law enforcement services, or have an existing contract with a state or local agency for law enforcement services.

21. Can our police department request additional funding for PA 1 if they received a grant for this year already through the COPS Office?

Yes, you can apply under PA 1 if you are an existing grantee. Please see the general frequently asked questions section, specifically FAQ #17, that provides further information on specific restrictions on applications submitted by current grant recipients.

22. Are TRGP-Hire recipients required to retain COPS Office-funded officers after the grant period ends?

Yes. Tribes must retain grant funded sworn officer positions for a minimum of 12 months following the conclusion of 60 months of federal funding for each position with state or local funds.

23. Does the COPS Office pay for background investigations?

Yes, for newly hired officers, and it must be requested in the budget worksheet of the application. Background investigations are required for all career law enforcement officer positions funded under TRGP.

24. Does the COPS Office pay for basic law enforcement training?

Yes, for newly hired officers, and it must be requested in the budget worksheet of the application. Basic law enforcement training is required for all career law enforcement officer positions funded under TRGP.

25. Can my Tribe use funds to establish a new or supplement an already existing contract for law enforcement services with BIA, state, or local law enforcement?

Yes. Funds awarded under TRGP-Hire may be used to establish a new contract or supplement an existing contract for law enforcement services for activities under the award. Recipients will be expected to track, expend, and account for the grant award—including funds provided and activities and associated

costs funded under the award—consistent with applicable federal law, specifically including the financial management, internal controls, and other provisions of [2 C.F.R. Part 200](#) (as adopted and implemented by DOJ in [2 C.F.R. Part 2800](#)); the terms and conditions; TRGP Award Owner’s Manual; and the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#). The jurisdiction wishing to receive law enforcement services must be the legal applicant in the application,

Only federally recognized Indian Tribal Governments, as determined by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior, may apply. This includes Alaska Native villages and Tribal consortia consisting of two or more federally recognized Indian Tribes.

26. How does the COPS Office define a career law enforcement officer?

The COPS Office statute defines a “career law enforcement officer” as a person hired on a permanent basis who is authorized by law or by a state, territorial, or local public agency to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, or investigation of violations of criminal laws. 34 U.S.C. §10389(1).

27. What is the definition of village public safety officer?

The State of Alaska, and any Indian Tribe or Tribal organization in that state, may also use TRGP-Hire funds for village public safety officers defined as “an individual employed as a village public safety officer under the program established by the State pursuant to Alaska Statute 18.65.670. Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010, Pub. L. 111-211, title II, § 247 (a)(2).”

28. Does the civilian meth or opioid coordinator position need to be retained for 12 months after the completion of the grant?

No, the awarded civilian meth or opioid coordinator civilian position is not subject to the COPS Office retention requirement.

29. Can recipients use funding to rehire laid-off officers or rehire officers who are scheduled to be laid off?

Yes. TRGP-Hire funding may be used to rehire officers who have been laid off or are scheduled to be laid off on a specific date, due to state, local, or BIA budget reductions. Grantees must continue to fund the officer(s) with its own funds from the grant award start date until the date of the scheduled layoff(s). Grantees must maintain records related to the layoff(s) in their grant files in the event of an audit, monitoring review, or other evaluation of award compliance.

Note: TRGP-Hire funding is based on the agency’s entry-level salary and benefits package, and any additional costs for rehired officers beyond entry-level are the responsibility of the agency.

30. What type of documentation should be maintained in an agency's grant file regarding layoff(s) and rehire(s)?

- The number and date(s) of the layoff(s) or scheduled layoff(s)
- The date of the rehire(s)
- The reason for the layoff(s) or pending layoff(s) (specifically demonstrating how the layoffs are occurring for local economic reasons unrelated to the availability of COPS Office funding). Such examples are:
 - Budget documents ordering department- or jurisdiction-wide budget reductions;
 - Local council or departmental meeting minutes, memoranda, notices or orders discussing the layoffs;
 - Notices provided to the individual officer(s) regarding the date(s) of the layoffs; and,
 - Other documentation prior to the date of the application announcement explaining why the layoffs occurred.

Records must be maintained with your agency's award records during the award period and for a minimum of three years following the date of the submission of the final expenditure report.

31. What fringe benefits are allowable?

For more information on what fringe benefits are allowable, refer to the allowable and unallowable cost list at <https://www.justice.gov/tribal/funding-opportunities> and <https://cops.usdoj.gov/ctas>.

32. When entering the entry-level officer salaries for each year, can we include cost-of-living allowance (COLA) increases for years 2–5?

Yes. Applicants will enter the currently approved entry-level salary in year one and document any increases in the entry level sworn officer base salary in years 2–5 (i.e. step raises, change in benefit costs).

33. Are fringe benefits allowable for requested overtime costs?

Yes, but only for the following benefits: FICA, Worker's Compensation, and unemployment insurance. Any additional fringe benefits commensurate with overtime will be the responsibility of the agency.

Overtime hours (hourly rate and approved fringe benefits) are to be calculated and requested in the "Other" budget category (NOT in the personnel or fringe benefits categories).

34. How to obtain Tribal technical assistance (TTA)?

The COPS Office offers technical assistance on a variety of topics requested at the local Tribal level to all Tribes through the Collaborative Reform Initiative Technical Assistance Center. Please visit the COPS Office home page for further information at <https://cops.usdoj.gov/cri-tac>.

The COPS Office supports TTA covering broader topic areas such as community policing, drug identification and response, gangs, school and youth safety, and human trafficking, to name a few.

35. Why are some narrative boxes not editable in the PA 1 budget worksheet?

Applicants must enable and complete the Excel budget worksheet for PA 1.

Data, including the item description, should be entered in the narrative boxes for Travel, Equipment, Supplies, and Other Costs in the budget worksheet. For these four areas alone, the large narrative boxes below these categories' items will be greyed out or disabled. You do not need to input any information in these large narrative boxes for the Travel, Equipment, Supplies, and Other Costs categories.

Instead, write up your information within the **Item Narrative Box** that is part of the Item/Item Narrative—i.e., the first narrative box. Use this box to enter your narrative, item description, justification, etc. Be thorough and precise with your descriptions.

Purpose Area #2 – Comprehensive Tribal Justice Systems Strategic Planning (BJA, COPS Office, OJJDP, OVC)

1. What projects are supported under PA 2?

Under PA 2, applicants may request funding to engage in a data-informed planning process to develop a written, justice system–wide strategic plan that will guide justice system development and enhancement to promote community wellness and safety for adults and youth. The strategic planning process is supported by extensive training and technical assistance that is provided by a DOJ-funded TTA provider at no cost to the Tribe. The resulting strategic plan will identify the priority needs facing the applicant's justice system and outline a detailed strategy.

- **Equipment or Supplies.** No equipment should be budgeted for this project. Costs for office equipment, computing devices, or information technology such as computers, printers, scanners, and tools to support data collection and analysis should be included in the "Supplies" or "Other" category. (See, for example, the 2 C.F.R. 200.1 definitions "Equipment," "Supplies," "General Purpose Equipment," "Computing Devices," and "Information Technology Systems.")
- **Training and Technical Assistance.** DOJ will provide TTA support at *no cost* to grantees to support the strategic planning process. This support includes technical expertise delivered via virtual and onsite visits to work through the strategic planning process, including: forming a strategic planning team, creating and carrying out a comprehensive needs assessment, identifying community strengths and resources, defining community challenges, developing approaches to strengthen the

applicant's justice system and improve community wellness and safety, and completing the final written strategic plan to be submitted to DOJ. Costs for outside TTA providers, planners, or outside organizations to create a strategic plan for the Tribe are not an allowable expense.

- **Travel.** Airfare, lodging, mileage reimbursement, and per diem associated with regional and national meetings or strategic planning trainings.

2. Can PA 2 funds be used for personnel?

Yes, hiring a staff member or contract position as a program manager is an allowable expense for PA 2. Because the strategic planning process requires a lot of coordination across different departments within a Tribe, the DOJ encourages the inclusion of a staff person to manage the process. A full- or part-time (75 percent full-time employee) project manager to coordinate the planning process and work with the DOJ designated TTA provider to coordinate daily activities. This position can be funded through the mechanism that best suits the Tribe, as a staff member or on a contract basis. In addition, funds may be used to support staff or contractors to support the data collection and analysis, including research partners.

3. How much funding is my Tribe eligible to receive under PA 2?

The DOJ plans to award approximately ten grants, up to \$150,000 per award.

4. What is the length of the grant award?

PA 2 grants are for up to a five-year period; however, shorter time frames are allowable.

5. If we are awarded a grant, will our Tribal Government be subjected to monitoring, reporting, and evaluation requirements?

Federal regulations require that any financial assistance from the Federal Government be monitored to ensure that those funds are spent properly. Awarded agencies will be responsible for submitting periodic programmatic progress reports and quarterly federal financial reports.

6. Will TTA be provided for PA 2 grantees, and is the training required?

BJA has a dedicated TTA provider to provide extensive support to PA 2 grantees at no cost to grantees. This will include extensive onsite trainings and office-based support for facilitating the strategic planning process, forming a strategic planning team, conducting a comprehensive needs assessment, identifying community strengths and resources, defining community challenges, developing approaches to strengthen the grantee justice system and improve community wellness and safety, and completing the final written strategic plan to be submitted to DOJ.

7. Will my Tribe be responsible for submitting progress reports to BJA for PA 2?

Yes. To assist in fulfilling the DOJ's responsibilities under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), PL 103-62, applicants who receive grant funding must provide data that measures the results of their work.

8. My Tribe received a PA 2 award in the past. Can we apply for a new PA 2 award to update our strategic plan?

No, PA 2 funding is available only once per Tribe; prior recipients of PA 2 awards are not eligible to apply for PA 2 funding again. Please see the general frequently asked questions section, specifically FAQ #17, that provides further information on specific restrictions on applications submitted by current grant recipients.

Purpose Area #3 – Tribal Justice Systems (BJA)

1. What projects can be supported under PA 3?

Allowable projects under this purpose area can develop, support, and enhance adult Tribal justice systems and prevent crime, including violent crime and substance use-related offenses (opioids, alcohol, stimulants, and other drugs). Key partners can include law enforcement; pretrial services; risk and needs assessment experts; diversion, prevention, and treatment providers; juvenile justice; Tribal prosecutors; Tribal court services and defense counsel; detention facilities; community corrections; re-entry coordinators; community planners and facility managers; and traditional leaders.

Examples of projects that can be supported are as follows:

- **Tribal courts.** Planning new or enhance existing Tribal courts, updating tribal codes; hiring prosecutors and public defenders; establishing Special Assistant United States Attorney agreements with U.S. Attorney's Offices; addressing crimes related to missing or murdered Indigenous persons; building capacity to respond to jurisdictional changes resulting from Supreme Court and other court-related decisions; and implementing the enhanced sentencing authority provisions of the Tribal Law and Order Act and the Special Criminal Jurisdiction under the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2022, including the Alaska Pilot project-related activities.
- **Alternatives to incarceration.** Employ decision-making models and programming to redirect persons convicted of nonviolent offenses, that do not have a history of violence, and are at low risk of recidivism, including youth at high risk for going into the adult justice system, from prosecution or incarceration. This could include community supervision, mental health services and substance use disorder treatment, electronic alcohol and offender monitoring, recovery support services including job training and placement, housing assistance, education, and peer, family and community supports.
- **Crime Prevention.** Protect communities from overdose, crime related to alcohol and substance use disorders, and production of substances such as opioids, methamphetamine, and other drugs or to

improve other aspects of public safety through prevention programming and technology solutions. Enhance security in areas such as lighting, surveillance equipment, and community emergency alert and telephone systems.

- **Treatment.** Providing behavioral treatment services (e.g. cognitive behavioral therapy and medications for opioid use disorder) and/or integrating treatment into existing services (tribal or otherwise) for individuals who are pursuing or in recovery and are at risk of or already in the tribal justice system (including the incarcerated population), or in reentry.
- **Corrections (institutional and community).** Develop, implement, and enhance programming for Tribal members incarcerated in Tribal, federal, state, or local correctional facilities or under community supervision to reduce their risks for reoffending and support successful rehabilitation. Programming could include collaborations to address mental health and/or substance use needs, effective treatment such as cognitive behavioral therapy and medications for opioid use disorder, educational and vocational services, and other programming to reduce the risk for recidivism.
- **Re-entry.** Develop, implement, and enhance re-entry programs. Also provide treatment, aftercare, and other re-entry support services to individuals leaving incarceration from Tribal, local, state, and federal correctional facilities.
- **Law enforcement.** Identify, apprehend, and prosecute crimes in Tribal communities (subject to existing legal authority); support programming to improve officer safety and the delivery of law enforcement services; improve the ability to collect and analyze data; and assist with law enforcement intergovernmental collaboration efforts to enhance public safety.
- **Equipment or Supplies.** Purchase office equipment computing devices, or information technology such as computers, printers, scanners, surveillance cameras, digital cameras, office furniture, courtroom furniture, computer networks, court management systems, electronic alcohol and offender monitoring devices for those under supervision, and related equipment or supplies. (See, for example, 2 C.F.R. 200.1 definitions “Equipment,” “Supplies,” “General Purpose Equipment,” “Computing Devices,” “Information Technology Systems.”)
- **Recovery Support Services.** Peer recovery networks, supportive housing, and vocational services to improve long-term stability and recovery.
- **Strategic planning.** Develop Tribal action plans (see [Tribal Action Plan \(TAP\) | SAMHSA](#)) for alcohol and substance use disorder and related crime and tribal safety needs; increase coordination with relevant nontribal agencies and organizations and, at all levels of the Tribe; engage in strategic planning efforts to address a specific part of the Tribal justice system such as courts or law enforcement. For justice system-wide strategic planning, see Purpose Area 2.
- **Training.** Costs connected with obtaining expert knowledge to help with developing or enhancing the program, including registration fees and other costs connected with training events related to PA 3 activities. In planning their training needs, applicants should note that training and technical assistance will also be offered at no cost. For more information about DOJ-provided TTA, see <https://www.justice.gov/tribal/training-and-technical-assistance>.

2. Are grant deliverables subject to approval?

Yes, deliverables produced with grant funds must be reviewed and approved by BJA prior to the production and dissemination of said products. Examples of deliverables include workshops, billboards, flyers, pamphlets, training curricula, etc.

3. Is a match required?

No, a match is not required for this purpose area.

4. Am I eligible to apply for PA 3 funds this year if I received a PA 3 grant under a prior year NOFO?

Yes, grant recipients of prior year CTAS funding are eligible to apply for funds under PA 3 of this solicitation if the requested funds are for a different purpose than the prior award. However, applicants should be aware that if a large percentage of the funds in the existing award are currently unobligated, this will make a new award less likely. Please see the general frequently asked questions section, specifically FAQ #17, that provides further information on specific restrictions on applications submitted by current grant recipients.

5. Can I apply for a healing to wellness court under PA 3?

No, all healing to wellness courts and other treatment courts should be requested under PA 5 – Adult Tribal Treatment Courts.

6. Will DOJ offer any technical assistance to grant recipients under this program?

Yes, BJA partners with several technical assistance providers that will provide training and technical assistance to grant recipients on a range of Tribal justice topics.

7. Can a Tribal Government with a service population of fewer than 1,000 apply to plan, implement, or enhance a single Tribal court system?

Yes, Tribes or Tribal consortia of any size can apply to plan new or enhance existing Tribal court systems. However, Tribes with a service population of fewer than 1,000 are encouraged to consider applying as part of intertribal consortia.

8. Do Tribes have to allocate a specific amount over the project period to cover travel and other costs for attending BJA training or court-related meetings?

Technical assistance and training remain a critical component toward planning, implementing, enhancing, and sustaining Tribal justice systems. You should budget for airfare, lodging, and mileage reimbursement for training costs related to purpose area activities. For budget purposes only, please use Washington, D.C., as the destination when calculating the estimated costs for travel.

9. If my Tribe is applying for multiple areas of focus under PA 3, can we request \$900,000 for each project?

No, regardless of the number of areas of focus, the recommended range for funding is \$250,000 to \$900,000 total for a five-year award period.

10. Can my Tribe request \$900,000 for a project period of less than five years?

No, PA 3 applications must be for a five-year award period.

Purpose Area #4 – Tribal Justice Systems Infrastructure Program (BJA)

1. What projects can be supported under PA 4?

This purpose area can support efforts related to the enhancement of physical tribal justice system infrastructure, including the following:

- **Safety and security.** Renovate, expand, or replace existing single jurisdiction or regional Tribal justice facilities or build new single jurisdiction or regional permanent Tribal justice facilities (prefabricated, permanent modular, new standalone permanent facilities, or pre-engineered steel building options) where no existing permanent structures are available or sufficient to address staff/resident/detainee/inmate safety and security issues. The facility types supported by this program include police departments, courts, detention centers, multipurpose justice centers (including police departments, courts, and/or corrections), transitional living facilities (halfway houses), correctional alternative or treatment facilities, and domestic violence shelters / safe homes / transitional living facilities / advocacy programs.
- **Programming capacity.** Renovate or expand existing Tribal justice facilities or build new permanent Tribal justice–facilities (prefabricated, permanent modular, new standalone permanent facilities, or pre-engineered steel building options) where no existing permanent structures are available or sufficient that add capacity for recidivism reduction programming; enhance facility service/function capacity; provide capacity, equipment, or infrastructure to support staff training, fitness, and/or housing; implement correctional alternative programs and domestic violence shelters/programs; or establish community-based programs to reduce the recidivism rates for offenders who are subject to Tribal jurisdiction.
- **Other costs associated with renovation/expansion of a facility, construction of a new permanent facility, or the completion of existing construction projects.** Infrastructure costs such as roads, sewer and water hookups, land preparation, and other costs normally associated with construction site work; items associated with managing the planned construction or renovation process and construction materials necessary to construct or renovate facilities and associated infrastructure; furniture, surveillance cameras, or other items affixed or integral to the facility; staff housing; or other costs associated with the completion of a renovation or construction project funded through other confirmed funding sources.

2. If a Tribal Government has received renovation or construction funds from BJA in previous years, is it eligible to apply for funding under PA 4?

Yes. However, the Tribe should demonstrate how the proposal complements, builds on, or differs from effort(s) funded in previous years.

3. Will BJA offer any technical assistance to grant recipients under this program?

Yes. BJA will provide training and technical assistance free of charge to grant recipients under this program to assist with National Environmental Policy Act compliance, operational planning, and construction management based on the availability of funding.

4. Is a budget match required?

No. There is no matching funds requirement for this purpose area.

5. Do applicants have to submit a BIA correctional facility needs assessment that supports the Tribe's application submission?

Applicants must demonstrate that they have completed a planning process that supports the need for renovation, expansion, or permanent facility funding under TJSIP. Applicants must certify the extent of planning completed and present all relevant documents related to the completed planning activities with their application. Applicants that have completed a formal or structured justice system planning process, such as the BJA Planning Alternatives and Correctional Institutions for Indian Country or the National Institute of Corrections Planning of New Institutions process, should attach documentation such as a master plan or needs assessment as part of their application submission for funding under the TJSIP purpose area. Applicants should describe the development of a renovation, expansion, or new permanent facility plan that explores building options to ensure a cost-effective design and provide the status of any requests to other agencies regarding the staffing, maintenance, and operation of the facilities being planned, expanded, or renovated.

6. Does the funded facility have to be located on Tribal lands? How are "Tribal lands" defined?

Efforts funded under PA 4 must be located on lands on which the Tribe exercises jurisdiction sufficiently to operate the funded facility. Typically, this is limited to "Tribal lands," meaning

- a. all land within the limits of any Indian reservation under the jurisdiction of the United States Government, notwithstanding the issuance of any patent, and including rights-of-way running through the reservation;
- b. all dependent Indian communities within the borders of the United States whether within the original or subsequently acquired territory thereof, and whether within or without the limits of a State;

- c. all Indian allotments, the Indian titles to which have not been extinguished, including rights-of-way running through the same.

7. If my Tribe received funds to renovate or construct a correctional facility previously, can I now apply for PA 4 funds to renovate or expand a police department or a courthouse?

Yes.

8. Can my Tribe submit more than one application under PA 4?

No. Only one application will be accepted from each Tribe or Tribal consortium, covering all proposed projects within this purpose area.

9. Can Tribes apply under PA 4 to fund facilities related to reentry, such as transitional living facilities (halfway houses)?

Yes. Tribes can use funding under PA 4 to fund reentry-related facilities.

10. Can my Tribe apply to fund renovation, expansion, or a permanent facility for domestic violence shelters / safe homes / transitional living facilities / advocacy programs?

Yes. Based on input from Tribal leaders, BJA expanded TJSIP to address domestic violence program infrastructure needs.

11. Can my Tribe propose to renovate, expand, or build more than one justice facility in one application submission?

Yes.

12. My Tribe is interested in applying for CTAS PA 4 funding to erect a permanent facility (prefabricated, permanent modular, permanent new standalone, or pre-engineered steel building options only). What steps do I need to take as I prepare my application?

When considering applying for a CTAS PA 4 (Tribal Justice Infrastructure Program) award, applicants should identify the building code and zoning requirements that would apply to the proposed project, including any applicable Tribal, local, county, or state requirements, and assure that the building site allows modular construction in accordance with those specific applicable codes and zoning requirements.

Obtain a quote/estimate from a permanent facility vendor. Please ensure that your quote/estimate accounts for costs associated with BJA Tribal Justice System Infrastructure Program (TJSIP) Permanent Facility Construction Minimum Requirements (see <https://www.justice.gov/tribal/funding-opportunities>). Considering the significant investment in these projects, BJA provides minimum requirements that permanent modular structures must meet to ensure that grantees opt for structurally sound permanent modular structures.

Ensure that you are able to obtain documentation from your Tribe's appropriate Tribal governing body authorizing the use of Tribal land or facilities for the purpose of erecting a permanent facility. The documentation must specify the area of land to be used for the project.

Consider the fact that BJA will require proof of project insurance prior to releasing funds to commence the permanent modular project. New construction and major renovation projects create unique insurance challenges, and property owners need to understand the obligations and responsibilities they assume when contracting with their preferred builders or contractors. It is best to consult with an experienced independent insurance agent to assess the scope of a construction project and determine which policy is best suited to protect the owner's interests.

13. My Tribe is seeking to build a new facility but “trailer-like” modular facilities are not sufficient to meet our needs. Can TJSIP funding be used to build a facility with a longer life span?

Yes. TJSIP funding can be used for permanent modular facilities, prefabricated facilities, permanent standalone facilities, and pre-engineered steel buildings. With proper maintenance and care, the aforementioned facility types can have a life span of 50 years or more. Please note that temporary modular facilities (e.g., trailers) are not allowable under PA 4. Temporary modular facilities are for short-term needs (e.g., natural disaster relief) and are not recommended for permanent applications. For more information on TJSIP permanent facility requirements, please visit <https://www.justice.gov/tribal/funding-opportunities>.

14. Can my Tribe use PA 4 funding to purchase a shipping container or miniature homes/tiny houses to be adapted to address justice system infrastructure needs?

The answer depends on the intended use of shipping containers or miniature homes / tiny houses. Examples of allowable uses of shipping containers and miniature homes tiny houses may include transitional housing/living, a small program office, meeting space, or counseling space. However, most of the PA 4 funding requests are more complicated, so it is difficult to envision complex layouts fitting into shipping containers, especially given life safety and egress requirements. Given security issues and life safety code considerations, shipping containers or miniature home / tiny house structures may not be amenable to serve as a detention/holding area, courthouse, police department, probation department, or treatment facility. As with any project funded under PA 4, the Tribe must adhere to all PA4 requirements, including the [Bureau of Justice Assistance permanent facility minimum requirements](#) as it relates to these facility types.

15. Can my Tribe use PA 4 funds to purchase an existing building or modular facility?

Yes, if the purchase is limited to a building or modular facility and does not include any land or any interest in land. There is a general prohibition on land acquisition that applies to Department of Justice grants. It is atypical to purchase a building without purchasing the land it sits on, but if the facility at issue is one that can be purchased without land and moved to a site available to the Tribe, we would not need to consider it a prohibited real estate purchase. If your Tribe is considering the purchase of a facility (excluding land), the Tribe would need to provide sufficient documentation as part of the application submission that the existing facility appears to be a viable structure and that the facility meets or will meet the [Bureau of Justice Assistance permanent facilities minimum requirements](#). Additionally, the Tribe would need to provide an authorizing resolution or other satisfactory evidence of legal authority documenting a commitment to fund the restoration or renovation of the facility to ensure that it will be operationalized once it is moved or relocated to the desired location, should the total cost be greater than the grant amount. The Tribe would need to provide confirmation of structural viability, permanent facility minimum requirement compliance, and assurances of the commitment to fund the restoration or renovation of the facility to be considered for funding under PA 4. As part of the application submission process, applicants pursuing the purchase of an existing facility must provide responses to the following questions as an application attachment with the file name 'Purchase of an Existing Facility':

1. What is the fair market value of the facility versus the purchase price of the facility?
2. What is the total cost of the facility, including the price to move the facility, site work / infrastructure costs, and restoration/renovation cost compared to the cost of a new permanent or modular facility?
3. Has the facility received a structural viability assessment? If so, please attach the assessment documentation as part of the application submission.
4. What is the age of the facility?
5. What is the remaining life span of the facility being purchased?
6. How will the facility and the moving of the facility be insured?
7. How is the Tribe going to convert the facility into a permanent building?

16. Currently, my Tribe has an active PA 4 grant. Is my Tribe eligible to apply for PA 4 funding under the CTAS NOFO?

As indicated under the Merit Review Criteria section of the NOFO, BJA will consider current award balances for applicants that have active TJSIP projects as part of the application review process. As it relates to TJSIP applicants that have an existing award for a project that is not yet complete, BJA policy is to assess other equally ranked projects that do not have current TJSIP funding or have not received TJSIP funding in the past that have a compelling need for funding. This strategy is based on the availability of TJSIP funding. BJA recognizes there are limited resources available to support justice system physical infrastructure needs for tribal communities. The goal of this policy is to direct funding to areas that

demonstrate a critical need to address public safety and/or security deficiencies. Therefore, it is unlikely that applicants with active TJSIP grants will be recommended for funding.

Purpose Area #5 – Adult Tribal Treatment Courts

1. Can we apply for PA 5 and the Adult Treatment Courts (ATC) program?

Yes, you may apply for both ATC and the new CTAS PA; however, only one award would be made.

2. Is there a match requirement for PA 5?

No, a match waiver has been obtained for PA 5.

3. Will the ATC violent offender prohibition apply to PA 5?

This Purpose Area is partially funded with Adult Treatment Court (ATC) funding. Per 34 U.S.C. § 10612, ATC funding may not be used to provide treatment or services for violent offenders. For the purposes of this NOFO, the term “violent offender” means a person who—

1. is charged with or convicted of an offense that is punishable by a term of imprisonment exceeding one year, during the course of which offense or conduct—
 - a. the person carried, possessed, or used a firearm or dangerous weapon;
 - b. there occurred the death of or serious bodily injury to any person; or
 - c. there occurred the use of force against the person of another, without regard to whether any of the circumstances described in subparagraph (a) or (b) is an element of the offense or conduct of which or for which the person is charged or convicted; or
2. has one or more prior convictions for a felony crime of violence involving the use or attempted use of force against a person with the intent to cause death or serious bodily harm. More detailed information is available at: [Violent Offender Prohibition in Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts FAQ](#). See also 34 U.S.C. §10613.

4. Would applying for PA 5 prohibit us from applying another CTAS award?

No. For CTAS PAs 1, 3, 4, and 5, all federally recognized Tribes are eligible to apply for FY 2026 CTAS. Tribes with a current grant award may seek funding to expand or enhance existing projects or to start a new project. Please see the general frequently asked questions section, specifically FAQ #17, that provides further information on specific restrictions on applications submitted by current grant recipients.

5. If we already have a CTAS award for a HTWC can we still apply for PA 5?

Yes, as long as it is for new activities and does not duplicate an existing award you may apply for PA 5.

6. Will DOJ offer any technical assistance to grant recipients under this program?

Yes, BJA has a technical assistance provider that will provide training and technical assistance to support grant recipients at no cost to them.

Purpose Area #6 – Children’s Justice Act Partnerships for Indian Communities (OVC)

1. Who is eligible to apply for PA 6 funding?

For PA 6, Children’s Justice Act Partnerships for Indian Communities, federally recognized Indian Tribes, as determined by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior,¹ including Alaska Native villages, Alaska Native Corporations, and Tribal consortia consisting of two or more federally recognized Indian Tribes may apply. “Indian Tribe” means any Indian Tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community (including any Alaska Native village or regional or village corporation as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (85 Stat. 688), 43 U.S.C. §§ 1601 et seq.) that is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians. In addition, an organization that is acting as the authorized designee of a federally recognized Indian Tribe may apply.

In addition, under this purpose area, FY 2024 and FY 2025 PA 6 CJA program awardees are *not eligible* to apply for the FY 2026 PA 6 CJA program.

2. Can adult victims be supported under PA 6?

In general, no. PA 6 is authorized by the Children’s Justice Act Partnerships for Indian Communities Grant Program (Victims of Crime Act of 1984, Section 1402(g), 34 U.S.C. § 20101(g)), which supports projects in American Indian / Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities for the purpose of improving the investigation, prosecution, and handling of cases of criminal child abuse, particularly cases of child sexual abuse. Limited support services may be provided to the families, including non-offending adult caregivers, of children who are receiving grant services funded under PA 6.

3. If an applicant received funding from CTAS FY 2024 or FY 2025 PA 6, are they eligible to apply for the CTAS FY 2026 PA 6 program?

No. CTAS FY 2024 and FY 2025 PA 6 awardees are *not eligible* to apply for CTAS FY 2026 PA 6 CJA program. Please see the general frequently asked questions section, specifically FAQ #17, that provides further information on specific restrictions on applications submitted by current grant recipients.

¹ A determination by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior is not required for tribes to which federal recognition was extended by virtue of Public Law 115-121, the Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act of 2017.

4. What activities can be funded under the award?

Specific examples of activities that may be funded under PA 6 include but are not limited to the following:

- **Personnel/Staffing.** 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.** Victim assistance may include appropriate 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. Services must be linked to the child's victimization.
- **Coordination/outreach.** Funding may support purchase of supplies and travel associated with 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.
- **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.
- **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 personnel and other staff who work closely with the program to training events that address the handling, investigation, and prosecution of child abuse and neglect cases.
- **Equipment.** Funding may be used for equipment and technology expenses that meet the equipment cost threshold. Equipment is defined as an item having a useful life of more than one year and a per unit acquisition cost of \$10,000 or more. Examples might include program vehicles, forensic interviewing recording equipment, and medical equipment for a pediatric SANE program.
- **Supplies.** Costs may include supplies such as play therapy, digital cameras, rape kits, office furniture, consumable office supplies, printers, and scanners, etc.
- **Procurement contracts and consultants.** Funding can be used for contracted services or consultants to carry out program activities that include, but are not limited to, telemedicine/telehealth access, cell phone service, or leasing a vehicle, photocopier, or other equipment essential to the operation of the project. The consultant rate should be consistent with OJP's maximum limit of \$650 per day or \$81.25 per hour.

- **Other costs.** Funds can be used to support other program expenses as necessary to fulfill the project's goals and objectives related to child victimization—for example, short-term emergency assistance, facility and equipment, maintenance fees, or conference registration fees, etc.

Note: Costs associated with programs focused solely on prevention activities are not allowable.

5. What activities *will not* be funded under the award?

Prevention- and construction-related costs *are not allowed* under this award.

6. Are grant deliverables and other key activities subject to approval?

Yes, deliverables and some activities produced with grant funds must be reviewed and approved by OVC prior to the production and dissemination of said products. Examples of such deliverables include resumes of potential program staff, privacy and confidentiality policies and procedures, training curricula, community needs assessments, and strategic plans.

7. May Tribes apply for more than the designated award totals?

Applicants may apply for the approximate award amount of up to \$450,000 covering a three-year project period. DOJ has the discretion to negotiate the scope of work and budget with applicants prior to the awarding of a grant.

8. Does the applicant need to address performance measures in the application?

OVC does not require applicants to submit performance measures data with their application. OVC will require successful applicants to submit specific data as part of their reporting requirements. For the application, applicants should indicate an understanding of these requirements and discuss how they will gather the required data should they receive funding.

9. Will OVC offer any technical assistance to grant recipients under this program?

Upon award, OVC will provide access to either programmatic or financial compliance support to expand grant recipients' capacity to develop and implement their grant funded project. Support may include

- Professional development training;
- Specific training for project staff and staff members from collaborating partner agencies and organizations or other experts on how to serve victims of child abuse and neglect;
- Assistance with establishing mechanisms to capture required measurement data, development of project deliverables, or other capacity-building needs that may be identified.

All recipients are expected to actively participate in OVC activities and services, including the use of OVC-designated resources and support from providers.

10. If we are awarded a grant, will our Tribal Government be subject to monitoring, reporting, and evaluation requirements?

Federal regulations require that any financial assistance from the Federal Government be monitored to ensure that those funds are spent properly. Awarded agencies will be responsible for submitting semiannual programmatic progress reports and quarterly federal financial reports and performance measures data collection.

OVC actively monitors the status and progress of all grants. OVC monitoring can include phone discussions, emails, participating in meetings and events, reviewing progress and financial reports, or conducting site visits. Grantees must complete Office of Justice Programs financial management training and may have monitoring or site visits conducted by the Office of the Chief Financial Officer.

11. How long will the funds be available for obligation, expenditure, and drawdown if we receive an award?

The funds for this program are authorized by the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) of 1984. VOCA requires that grant funds be available for award recipients to use during the Federal Fiscal Year in which the award is made, plus three additional Federal Fiscal Years (e.g., VOCA funds awarded in FY 2026 are available for use through the end of FY 2029).

Purpose Area #7 – Tribal Victim Services Program (OVC)

Purpose area #7 is no longer included in CTAS. The Tribal Victim Services Program is a standalone notice of funding opportunity under the OVC Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside Program. For more information about this Program, visit <https://ovc.ojp.gov/program/tribal/tribal-victim-services-set-aside>.

Purpose Area #8 – Enhancing Youth Healing to Wellness Courts (OJJDP)

1. What projects are supported under this purpose area?

The purpose of this program is to support Tribes seeking to enhance an existing Youth Healing to Wellness Court (YHWC). Enhancements to existing YHWCs can focus on court operations and/or the implementation of programs and the delivery of services. All grant recipients will be required to work with their OJJDP grant manager and OJJDP's training and technical assistance provider to work through key objectives and deliverables over the course of the five-year award period.

Enhancing Youth Healing to Wellness Courts – \$750,000

This purpose area will support the continuation, expansion, or enhancement of Youth Healing to Wellness Court. The only Tribes that are eligible to apply for this category are

- Tribes that have an OJJDP-funded Purpose Area 8 award with a project period end date in 2026;

- Tribes that had an OJJDP–funded Purpose Area 8 award that ended in 2025 but did not apply for or receive a YHWC award in FY 2025.

The goal of a YHWC is to increase Tribal capacity to sustain an effective court after the conclusion of the grant award. Funding will support a planning period and will focus on aligning the YHWC team about the current needs of their community’s Youth Healing to Wellness Court. Enhancement grant recipients are expected to review and revise their current approved strategic plan to incorporate the next five years.

Applicants must attach a copy of their most recent OJJDP Youth Healing to Wellness Court strategic plan or sustainability plan to the application.

The objectives of this purpose area are to ensure that all grantees, over the five-year project period, have access to the OJJDP treatment court resources, including OJJDP-funded training and technical assistance, needed to do the following, as applicable:

- Conduct a community strength and needs assessment to help enhance an existing YHWC.
- Identify existing resources and partners that can support the proposed enhancement(s).
- Identify resource gaps and other areas of need that should be addressed during the expansion of the court.
- Obtain support from Tribal council, Tribal court judges, prosecutor’s office, defense counsel, probation, law enforcement, treatment providers, schools, vocational programs, other service providers, Tribal elders, Tribal community members, and others, as appropriate.
- Enhance YHWC policies and procedures, which should address eligibility criteria, screening and assessment procedures and tools, phased treatment, supportive services, compliance monitoring, and graduated sanctions and incentives.
- Hire staff needed for the YHWC team.
- Update a YHWC policies and procedures manual.
- Enhance written bench books, screening and assessment tools, participant contracts, participant handbooks, and any other resources needed to expand the YHWC.
- Develop or enhance a written data collection protocol describing how the data outlined in the strategic plan will be collected, stored, and analyzed to measure project success and make any needed adjustments to the project design.
- Develop and implement an appropriate data collection system (or an existing system) to support the project.
- Collect data pursuant to the performance measures outlined in the strategic plan.
- Screen juveniles and young adults under age 21 for eligibility.
- Conduct a process evaluation with assistance from the OJJDP-designated TTA provider.

Staffing. Salary and fringe benefits for positions to support enhancement of the program and oversee staff that provide direct assistance to youth participants.

Expand treatment workforce. Implementation of workforce development to increase substance use and mental health providers. This can include building the expertise of Juvenile Probation Counselors in substance use and mental health.

Equipment and supplies.

- Computer hardware and software for internet access and email capability.
- Cell phones, telephones, pagers, printers, and copiers as needed for program implementation.
- Office supplies, postage, and other necessary program and outreach supplies.

Training. Off-site specific training for identified program staff to improve or develop skills in the areas related to operating a YHWC. **NOTE:** While funds may be allocated for program staff to attend training, all grant recipients will receive virtual, onsite, and cluster trainings from the OJJDP selected training provider. Funds are *not* allowed for additional consultants.

Court Operations and Services. Administrative, management, and operational activities that support the court, treatment, and services for youth.

Strategic planning. Comprehensive planning for Tribal justice systems to serve juveniles as it relates specifically to the youth healing to wellness court objectives. These grants require a dedicated planning period at the start of the grant award. Awardees may be required to travel to specific training for development of the comprehensive plan which will include a sustainability plan. To be clear, enhancement grant recipients are expected to review and revise their current approved strategic plan to incorporate the next five 5 years.

Specific requirements. Federally recognized Tribes that are seeking to enhance an existing YHWC are eligible to apply.

Important note. Tribes seeking to enhance an existing OJJDP Tribal Healing to Wellness Court programs are eligible to apply for funds in this purpose area.

Limitation on Violent Offender Participation. Per 34 U.S.C. § 10612, any court that receives funds under this program may not permit participation by violent offenders. For purposes of this funding opportunity, the term “violent offender” includes a juvenile who has been convicted of or adjudicated delinquent for a felony-level offense that (1) has as an element the use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force against the person or property of another, (2) the possession or use of a firearm, or (3) by its nature, involves a substantial risk that physical force against the person or property of another may be used in the course of committing the offense. See 34 U.S.C. § 10613. Funding will be immediately suspended if DOJ determines that violent offenders are participating in any program funded under this purpose area.

Technical assistance. A (TTA) provider has already been identified by OJJDP to support PA 8 grantees. Applicants should *not* include requests for funding to support onsite consultants as this will be managed by the existing TTA provider.

2. Are matching funds required?

Matching funds are required under PA 8. However, there is a waiver of the match for PA 8:

Match waiver: The match required at 34 U.S.C. 10616 is waived for grantees under PA 8. See 34 U.S.C. 10616(a). Applicants are not required to submit a match waiver request. Any match amount proposed by an applicant and incorporated into an approved budget will be treated as a voluntary match and becomes mandatory and subject to audit.

3. How can I find out what costs are allowable/unallowable?

Please reference the OJP Financial Guide (<https://www.ojp.gov/funding/financialguidedoj/overview>) to determine whether program costs are allowable or unallowable.

4. What training and technical assistance requirements are associated with this award?

OJJDP requires all newly awarded grantees to attend a mandatory, virtual DOJ–required, CTAS orientation training during the first year of the project.

In addition, in the first year of the project, OJJDP will provide newly funded grantees mandatory intensive training and technical assistance to help them develop a comprehensive strategic plan and the capacity to collect and use performance management and program evaluation data. Within 12 months of the first year of the grantee’s project period, OJJDP will require the grantee to submit an approved comprehensive strategic plan to implement, monitor, and sustain project goals and objectives and that documents the achievement of designated milestones. Please see the NOFO for more information, including how these requirements impact the applicant’s budget.

5. What are the PA 8 reporting requirements?

Federal regulations require that any financial assistance from the Federal Government be monitored to ensure that those funds are spent properly. Awarded agencies will be responsible for submitting semiannual programmatic performance reports and quarterly federal financial reports in JustGrants.

To assist in fulfilling DOJ’s responsibilities under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), P.L. 103–62, and the GPRA Modernization Act of 2010, P.L. 111–352, applicants that receive funding under this NOFO must provide data that measure the results of their work.

Performance measurement

In addition to collecting the appropriate project-specific data, grantees will be required to submit data to OJJDP for performance measurement. See [performance-measures-tribal-healing-wellness-program.pdf \(ojp.gov\)](#).

6. Under PA 8, may youth 18 years of age or older receive services under the award?

Yes. Because of the laws regarding underage (i.e., under 21) drinking that are active in every state, the programming in PA 8 may address youth under age 21.

Purpose Area #9 - Tribal Youth Justice Program (TYJP) (OJJDP)

1. What projects can be supported under this purpose area?

OJJDP's Tribal Youth Justice Program (TYJP) seeks to support and enhance Tribal efforts to prevent and reduce juvenile delinquency and strengthen a fair and beneficial juvenile justice system response for American Indian and Alaska Native youth. The funding in this purpose area enables Tribes to develop, expand, or strengthen approaches along the juvenile justice continuum that can range from prevention to intervention and treatment. This program helps Tribes develop effective and equitable juvenile justice systems that create safer communities and empower youth to lead productive lives. Please see the NOFO for specific examples of prevention, intervention and treatment approaches that can be supported with PA 9 funding.

2. Can we serve youth who are age 18 and over with the funding in this grant?

The population of youth served under this award must be under the age of 21 at the time of entering the Tribal Youth Justice Program.

3. What categories of grant awards are funded under PA 9?

Seeding Change Planning Grant (Category 1)

Category 1 will support a dedicated planning period for Tribes to develop strategies to improve and/or enhance Tribal juvenile justice systems that include prevention, intervention, and treatment programs and services for youth. This grant is intended for Tribes that have not previously received OJJDP funding for PA 9; therefore, Tribes that have an active TYJP PA 9 award at the time of application are *not eligible* to apply for this grant award.

Harvesting Change Implementation/Expansion Grant (Category 2)

Category 2 will support the continuation, expansion, or enhancement of current OJJDP-funded TYJP. The purpose of Category 2 is to increase Tribal capacity to sustain effective youth programs, services, and supports after the conclusion of the grant award. The only tribes that are eligible to apply for this

category are Tribes that have an OJJDP–funded Purpose Area 9 award with a project period end date in 2026 and Tribes that had an OJJDP–funded Purpose Area 9 award that ended in 2025, but did not apply for or receive a TYJP award in FY2026.

4. Can we propose programs that are “best practices”?

OJJDP recognizes that the opportunity to develop and implement Tribal best practices, Indigenous practices that have longevity in Tribal communities, and/or traditional healing methods to support Tribal youth exist throughout the juvenile justice continuum. These approaches may be proposed as prevention, intervention, or treatment strategies and may be proposed alone or in combination with other approaches.

5. What performance measures should we use when we create our proposal for PA 9 funding?

In addition to collecting the appropriate project-specific data, grantees will be required to submit data to OJJDP for performance measurement. The specific performance measures can be found at <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/funding/performance-measures/performance-measures-tribal-youth-program.pdf>.

6. What training and technical assistance is associated with this award?

OJJDP funds a training and technical assistance (TTA) center, The Tribal Youth Justice Resource Center, that work with programs for Tribal youth. More information about them can be found at <https://www.tribalyouth.org/>. While the TTA center cannot assist with proposal writing, they can assist with information and resources that may help your Tribe in formulating your application.

In addition, in the first year of the project, OJJDP will provide newly funded grantees mandatory intensive training and technical assistance to help them develop a comprehensive strategic plan and the capacity to collect and use performance management and program evaluation data. Within 12 months of the first year of the grantee’s project period, OJJDP will require the grantee to submit an approved comprehensive strategic plan to implement, monitor, and sustain project goals and objectives and that documents the achievement of designated milestones. Please see the NOFO for more information, including how these requirements impact the applicant’s budget.

7. Are matching funds required?

Matching funds are not required under any category of PA 9.

8. What are the PA 9 reporting requirements?

Federal regulations require that any financial assistance from the Federal Government be monitored to ensure that those funds are spent properly. Awarded agencies will be responsible for submitting semiannual programmatic progress reports and quarterly federal financial reports in JustGrants.

To assist in fulfilling DOJ's responsibilities under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), P.L. 103–62, and the GPRA Modernization Act of 2010, P.L. 111–352, applicants that receive funding under this solicitation must provide data that measure the results of their work. After awards are made, DOJ staff will provide additional information about how data should be collected and reported.