More Than $130 Million Awarded to Improve Tribal Victim Services and Public Safety. The U.S. Department of Justice recently announced more than $130 million in grant awards to American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities to enhance victim services, address violence against women, improve public safety, and support youth programs. Through two purpose areas of the U.S. Department of Justice's Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS), OVC awarded funds to more than 20 tribes. CTAS is a consolidated tribal-specific grant program which seeks to help address the disproportionate rates of violence and victimization in AI/AN communities and significant obstacles to culturally relevant services.

Support for Victims of the Mass Shooting in Sutherland Springs, Texas. The following resources from Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) may be able to help victims, families, and the community, as well as the victim service providers, law enforcement, and first responders that are assisting them during this difficult time.

During National Native American Heritage month (November), OVC highlighted its various resources for tribal communities. Learn more by visiting the Tribal Multimedia Resources page.

All three webinars in the SANE Program Development and Operation Web Training Series are now available to watch, including “How to Expand an Existing SANE Program” and “Developing a SANE Program in Rural Communities.”

OVC Supports Communities Responding to Terrorist Attacks and Mass Violence. “Through the Antiterrorism and Emergency Assistance Program (AEAP), OVC supports victims and jurisdictions that have experienced incidents of terrorism or mass violence. AEAP is designed to supplement the available resources and services of entities responding to acts of terrorism or mass violence to ensure that a program’s resources are sufficient and/or not diverted to these victims to the detriment of other crime victims.” OVC also created a "Helping Victims of Mass Violence and Terrorism: Planning, Response, Recovery, and Resources" Toolkit to help communities prepare for and respond to victims of mass violence and terrorism in the most timely, effective, and compassionate manner possible.


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For a complete list of current funding solicitations from OVC, visit http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/Solicitation.aspx.
The International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN) announced the creation of a [new IAFN Indigenous Populations Community](https://www.iafn.org/) during the IAFN Conference held in Toronto, Canada earlier this month. Indigenous women and girls across North America endure alarmingly high levels of marginalization, exclusion, discrimination, violence, exploitation, and abuse.

With the elevated risk for violence against Native women, the challenges facing this population on many levels including the provision of forensic healthcare, and IAFN's existing partnership with IHS, it is time to begin some conversations that focus on the goal of addressing issues unique to indigenous populations. Opening this community will allow for just this type of forum.

Opening the Indigenous Populations Community will create a forum for discussing issues specific to these communities, such as:

- Medical/forensic exams
- Jurisdictional issues specific to Indigenous communities
- Cultural awareness
- Forensic nursing needs in these communities
- Efforts to improve/expand SART, MDT, and community responses for inclusivity

For Information for membership in the IAFN and access to this community forum Serving Indigenous Persons:


Watch "[Tribal Justice](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g5bC00W_7N4)," Two tribes, two judges, one goal- Tribal Justice. Two Native American judges reach back to traditional concepts of justice to reduce incarceration rates, foster greater safety for their communities, and create a more positive future for their youth. By addressing the root causes of crime, they are providing models of restorative justice that are working. Mainstream courts across the country are taking notice.

From SAMHSA: "[Critical Dialogue with Native Youth about Underage Drinking- Our Culture is Prevention](https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/215906353285975754988976/critical-dialogue-with-native-youth-about-underage-drinking-our-culture-is-prevention)." This OJJDP-funded technical assistance bulletin provides an overview of the impact of trauma on students and explores how adverse life experiences can impact their behavior in the classroom. The bulletin also offers strategies for creating trauma-informed classrooms.

Find tribal justice resources in the ["Justice in Indian Country" NCJRS Special Feature](https://www.ncjrs.gov/pqr/index.cfm?fa=pqr.topicDetails&iid=553479). "Tribal law enforcement agencies are well-positioned to engage with tribal members in helping to identify and solve safety problems. In many tribal communities, tribal law enforcement has tested new and innovative justice ideas. Together, federal, state, and tribal government agencies are working to improve safety in Indian Country."

### Training & Events...


The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) is [accepting nominations](https://www.usdoj.gov/ovw/federal-advisory-task-force) to serve on the federal advisory task force that supports the Department's program of research on violence against American Native and Alaska Native Women. Nominees must be representatives of tribal governments, tribal domestic violence and sexual assault nonprofits, or national tribal organizations. Members provide feedback on research priorities, design strategies, research and evaluation protocol, and findings. You may nominate yourself or someone you know. Learn more about the program of research and the task force’s role below. Read the [Letter Calling for Nominations for the Task Force](https://www.usdoj.gov/ovw/theprogram). Submit a cover letter and resume or curriculum vitae to OVW.taskforce@usdoj.gov by December 14, 2017.

[Exhibit](https://www.evawi.org) at End Violence Against Women International - EVAWI's 2018 Conference to Promote Your Company and Services. EVAWI invites you to join as an exhibitor at the organization's 2018 International Conference on Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence and Gender Bias, April 3rd - 5th, in Chicago, Illinois. **Why Participate?** Access to 2,000+ expected conference attendees; Establish lasting relationships with leaders making a difference in the lives of victims of sexual assault, intimate partner violence, stalking, elder abuse and human trafficking; Engage professionals from the fields of criminal justice, victim advocacy and health care; Increase the visibility of your products and services to those working to end gender-based violence.
Registration Now Open for National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA)’s 2018 Annual Protecting Our Children Conference. April 15–18, 2018 | Anchorage, AK. With over 1,100 attendees-growing every year-this four-day conference has become the premiere national event addressing tribal child welfare and well-being. Keynote speakers range from federal officials at the highest level of government to youth with lived experience in child welfare systems. NICWA provides meaningful programming to conference attendees, creating a space where participants can learn about the latest developments and best practices from experts in the field and from one another. Participants represent a cross-section of fields and interests including child welfare, mental health, and juvenile justice service providers; legal professionals; students; advocates for children; and tribal, state, and federal leaders. Register today to be a part of the largest national gathering on American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) child advocacy issues.

The National Criminal Justice Training Center (NCJTC) Welcomes Lonna Hunter to our team as the New Program Coordinator...

Lonna Hunter, (Dakota/Tlingit) is honored to join the National Criminal Justice Training Center (NCJTC) at Fox Valley Technical College as a Program Coordinator providing training and technical assistance (TTA) to tribal nations. Lonna brings extensive experience in tribal, state, and federal policy and advocacy for ending violence against women and children and building diverse coalitions of community, tribal and government leaders. Most recently Lonna was the Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS), Office of Justice Programs Tribal Liaison for crime victim services, homeland security, emergency communications, State Patrol, and the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA). Recently, Lonna facilitated discussions with Minnesota’s tribal nations to focus on sex trafficked Native youth developing priorities and identifying best practices for federal/state funding. Lonna assisted tribal law enforcement in developing a victim-centered sex trafficking taskforce in partnership with the US Attorney’s office. Lonna’s other accomplishments include organizing the crime victim compensation board to develop tribal policy for healers and ceremonies to be covered for Native victims of crime and implementing listening sessions and surveys to author the tribal section of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Implementation Plan for Minnesota from tribal law enforcement, leadership, tribal judges, attorneys and prosecutors. Lonna worked with the Governor’s Office and Minnesota’s tribal nations to author the 10-page Tribal Law Enforcement and Jurisdiction white paper for the opioid tribal state summit. Lonna’s other experience includes work as the Resilience and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Prevention Planner with the Minnesota Department of Health. There she provided technical assistance and training to communities with an emphasis on 11-tribal nations in Minnesota to expand resiliency and prevention efforts around ACEs and healing.

Lonna is a member of the Maternal Child and Health Fatality Review Team and passionate advocate for Native youth, she and her husband are founders of Twin Cities Native Lacrosse, which focuses on our Indigenous game and wellness teaching community youth traditional and contemporary lacrosse. Her past children’s advocacy work includes expert testimony to Attorney General Eric Holder’s Taskforce on American Indian/Alaska Native Children witnessing violence, as well as advocacy on behalf Native victims of child sexual abuse with Jeff Anderson & Associates. Lonna has worked for the statewide domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions-Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women, Minnesota Indian Women’s Sexual Assault Coalition and served as the director of the national Sheila Wellstone Institute.

Lonna’s past awards and honors include the 2006 Gold WATCH Award, which recognized her work to pass legislation to allow strangulation to be charged as a fifth-degree felony. She also received the 2007 Minnesota Women’s Press Changemaker Award for Native women in policy, the 2008 Minnesota Women’s Consortium Woman of Distinction Award for organizing Native women on civic engagement, 2012 Tribal Law and Policy Institute-Indian Nations Conference, the Bonnie Heavy Runner Victim Advocacy Award. She was also honored as a Center on Women and Public Policy Feminist Leadership Fellow with the Humphrey School of Public Affairs and Creative Community Leadership Fellow at Intermedia Arts. Lonna is also an appointed member of the Indian Advisory Committee and Dakota Community Council for the Minnesota Historical Society.
CTAS Spotlight: Congratulations to Nadine Waconda, Victim Advocate, from the Pueblo of Isleta’s 2015 CTAS CTVA Grantee Program...

Nadine Waconda, was selected by the Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women as an honoree for the 2017 Advocate of the Year Award! The Advocate of the Year Award is awarded to a distinguished individual who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in and commitment to victim assistance, advocacy and support of Native women and children who are impacted by domestic violence and/or sexual assault.

Upon receiving funding from the Office for Victims of Crime and being hired as a Victim Advocate, Nadine began a mission to establish a solid victim assistance program in the Pueblo of Isleta. She was instrumental in drafting the first Pueblo of Isleta Victim Services Handbook, which was adopted by the tribal council in 2017. She coordinated three separate victims’ rights trainings with her partners for the entire police department and tribal courts and provided training to more than five dozen public safety officials. She made enormous strides in establishing the program in a short amount time with the support from her tribal leadership as well as from the Chief of Police, Lieutenants, the Prosecutor’s office and her fellow colleagues. Today, the Pueblo of Isleta is a model program for not only its Victim Assistance Program but also for its strong Coordinated Community Response Team. Nadine was honored for this award at the Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women’s (CSVANW) 2nd Annual Awards Gala on October 28, 2017.

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