OVC News...

Now Open: 2018 National Crime Victims’ Service Awards Nomination Period. Each year, Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) recognizes extraordinary individuals, teams, programs, and organizations that demonstrate outstanding achievements in supporting victims and victim services. The recipients are honored at the National Crime Victims’ Service Awards Ceremony in Washington, D.C. Submit a nomination today!


The OVC HELP Brochure Series provides a resource for victims of crime and the victim service providers that work with them every day. Each brochure defines a type of victimization; discusses what to do if you are the victim of this crime; and provides national resources for more information and assistance on where to go for help. Hardcopies of these brochures are not available. Victim service providers, crime victims, and other users are encouraged to print out copies of these brochures for use and distribution. The OVC HELP Brochure Series is in the public domain and may be reproduced as needed. However, they should be reproduced in their totality, without alteration. This brochure series features information and resources on the following topics: Assault, Child Abuse, Domestic Violence, Impaired Driving, Homicide, Robbery, Sexual Violence, Stalking, and What Adults Need to Know about Child Abuse.

https://www.ovc.gov/pubs/helpseries/index.html

Interested in OVC Funding, Publications, and other Programmatic Announcements?
Register through OVC’s Information Clearinghouse, the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS), and select “Victims” as a topic of interest to receive periodic OVC email announcements. Once you have registered with NCJRS, you will also receive important information from OVC and other partner agencies within the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) related to—new funding opportunities, recently released publications, program initiatives, and much more!


For a complete list of current funding solicitations from OVC, visit http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/Solicitation.aspx

Resources...

OJJDP-funded Toolkit to Support Law Enforcement Responses to Children Exposed to Violence Released. This toolkit was developed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and the Yale Child Study Center, and released in conjunction with Police Week. The “Enhancing Police Responses to Children Exposed to Violence” toolkit is designed to equip law enforcement professionals with trauma-informed, developmentally-appropriate tools to identify and minimize threats to child safety, foster closer engagement between law enforcement and youth, and maximize both officer safety and positive outcomes for children and families. The toolkit contains protocols, checklists, and other field-tested and research-informed resources. http://www.theiACP.org/children-exposed-to-violence?ed2f26df2d9c416fbddddd2330a778c6=qozpzipnam-qarrimll
Check out "Reflections from the Field on Victim/Survivor Advocacy: Summary Report from an Advocates Roundtable convened by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice." (January 2017) Victim advocacy requires that advocates on-the-ground address the realities and needs of all survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking at the individual, systems and community levels. To gauge the current state of advocacy, the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) convened a roundtable of 15 invited, community-based domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking advocates on October 5-6, 2016 in Washington, DC. OVW convened this roundtable to hear directly from advocates in the field about current advocacy practices and trends in order to inform and enhance its training, technical assistance, and policy efforts. 

https://www.justice.gov/ovw/page/file/936746/download

Tribal Law and Policy Institute (TLPI) Resource Guide for Drafting or Revising Tribal Criminal Laws Against Sexual Assault and Stalking. The Tribal Legal Code Resource: "Sexual Assault and Stalking Laws Resource Guide for Drafting or Revising Tribal Criminal Laws against Sexual Assault and Stalking" is designed to assist Native nations interested in developing or revising victim-centered laws on sexual assault and stalking. This resource includes sample language and exercise questions designed to guide discussion on what laws will best reflect tribal values. Originally published in June 2008, this resource (previously updated in May 2012) has now been revised and updated to reflect recent innovations in tribal law and new federal requirements. (April 2017). 
http://media.wix.com/ugd/8305c9_f0ad1894e1e94dd3b25a83e8f06aded8.pdf

New Legislative Advocacy Toolkit. The National Children's Alliance (NCA) is proud to offer its members the new Legislative Advocacy Toolkit, created by NCA's Public Policy Collaborative Work Group. The toolkit is designed to help anyone involved in the CAC/MDT movement navigate the public policy landscape. Inside: Overviews of the federal and state legislative and budgetary processes; Guidance on the development of advocacy strategies; Details on lobbying rules and regulations; A glossary of common legislative terms and links to additional resources; Sample and template resources including testimony, support letters, protocols, legislative agendas, and more! 
http://www.nationalchildrensalliance.org/advocacytools

FY 2017 VOCA Funding Current Status/Action News. The omnibus appropriations bill passed by Congress reduced the cap on spending from the Crime Victims Fund in 2017 to $2.573 billion, down from $3.042 billion in 2016. This includes $326 million for VAWA grants (total VAWA appropriations is up slightly to $481.5 million) and $10 million for the DOJ Inspector General's Office. It is estimated that this will result in a significant decline in state VOCA assistance grants. 
http://www.navaa.org/budget/index.html

June 15th is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day: Find Elder Abuse Resources Here! 
Check out the National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative (NIEJI) which was created to address the lack of culturally appropriate information and community education materials on elder abuse, neglect and exploitation in Indian Country. Initiatives include: Establishing a resource center on elder abuse to assist tribes in addressing indigenous elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation; Identifying and making available existing literature, resources and tribal codes that address indigenous elder abuse; Developing and disseminating culturally appropriate and responsive resources for use by tribes, care providers, law enforcement and other stakeholders. 
https://www.nieji.org/

Do you want to create an elder abuse case review multidisciplinary team (MDT), but you don’t know where to start? — Start here! The Elder Justice Initiative (EJI) is pleased to announce the launch of the new Multidisciplinary Team Guide and Toolkit. The Toolkit is designed for anyone looking to create or grow a local elder abuse MDT, regardless of their experience with MDTs. The web-based Toolkit is enhanced for use on mobile devices and contains easy-to-download PDF sample documents and citations. 
https://www.justice.gov/elderjustice/mdt-toolkit

Visit OVC TTAC to view archived webinars of the Elder Justice Initiative Webinar Series. This webinar series provides critical information for prosecutors, victim specialists, law enforcement, and others working on elder abuse cases. Topics include: Starting and Running an Elder Abuse Case Review, MDT; Helping Law Enforcement Respond to Elder Abuse Quickly; Introducing the Elder Justice Initiative Victim Specialist Resource Page; Elder Justice Prosecution Resources; Introduction to the Elder Justice Website. 
https://www.ovcttac.gov/views/TrainingMaterials/dspWebinars.cfm

OVC TTAC also offers FREE Victim Assistance Training (VAT) Courses Online. Register for the Elder Abuse Online Training Course to learn about what elder abuse is, and how victims are affected by this crime. This course includes issues related to the crime, such as prevalence and victim impact as well as tips and strategies to help victims. Register for this 45 minute course today. 
https://www.ovcttac.gov/views/TrainingMaterials/dspOnline_VATOnline.cfm

Funding Opportunity! Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) Enhanced Training and Services to End Abuse in Later Life Program Webinar. June 15, 2017 – 11:00am PT, 12:00pm MT, 1:00pm CT, 2:00pm ET. This webinar on June 15 – World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) – will commemorate WEAAD 2017 and the efforts of communities and professional around the county to confront elder abuse. This webinar will also provide participants with a detailed overview of OVW’s Enhanced Training …and Services to End Abuse in Later Life grant program. This grant program funds communities across the country to address elder abuse through trainings, services, and a coordinated community response. Participants will hear from previous years’ grantees about the impact the grant program has had on their community’s response to abuse in later life. Participants will also learn about steps they can take to prepare to apply for the grant. Register today! https://ta2ta.org/webinars/registration/funding-opportunity-ovw-enhanced-training-and-serv.html

Are you a Child Welfare Professional?

Be sure to check out the recently developed Tribal Information Exchange, a project of the Capacity Building Center for Tribes that provides the latest tribal child welfare news and resources, including a tribal ICWA manager’s peer-to-peer network.

The Tribal Information Exchange is an electronic site with culturally responsive child welfare resource information. It provides tribal social service professionals and communities an easy to access information exchange in which the language, content, and style speaks to tribal issues.

The Tribal Information Exchange is just another example of how the Center for Tribes values, and is committed to, providing culturally responsive materials and resources. We have a group of native consultants, including members of our National Advisory Committee, who draft and review materials for posting to support this commitment and value.

Recent Publication Resource Featured by the Tribal Information Exchange include:
- ICWA Guide for Tribal Governments and Leaders
- Resources for [Native] Grandparents
- Title IV-E Resource List
- Engaging and Supporting Native Fathers
- Intergenerational/Historical Trauma Resource List

Visit www.TribalInformationExchange.org today!

The Capacity Building Center for Tribes is part of the Children’s Bureau’s new Child Welfare Capacity Building Collaborative. The Collaborative is composed of three integrated Centers to serve Tribes, States, and Courts in building capacities to improve child welfare service delivery. The Center for Tribes is a partnership of the Tribal Law and Policy Institute, the University of Denver (project lead), the University of Southern Maine and Westat. We collaborate with tribes and Native organizations from throughout the country and seek guidance and direction on program development and implementation activities from a National Advisory Council – individuals with culturally-relevant and tribally focused expertise in a variety of human services topical areas.

Please visit the Center for Tribes microsite (www.capacity.childwelfare.gov/tribes/) for more information.

Training & Events...

EARLY BIRD registration is now open for the National Center for Victims of Crime 2017 National Training Institute. Improve your response to victims of crime through promising practices, current research, and effective programs and policies. This multidisciplinary institute offers more than 80 victim-centered, practice-based, research-informed trainings to sharpen your skills, connect with peers, and reach across professions. Register now before rates increase! https://victimsofcrimetrainings.secure-platform.com/a/page/NTI

Register Now for the Child Welfare Virtual Expo 2017! Registration is now open for the Child Welfare Virtual Expo 2017 on Thursday, July 13. Hosted by the Capacity Building Center for States, a service of the Children's Bureau, the Virtual Expo will support you and your colleagues across the nation in strengthening child welfare assessment and decision-making. The Center welcomes participants from public child welfare agencies as well as Tribes, courts, and partner systems. https://vts.inxpo.com/scripts/Server.nxp?LASCmd=AI%3A4%3BF%3AQS%2110100&ShowKey=38433
Working with Child and Adolescent Victims: The Principles of Forensic Interviewing Seminar - August 1-3, 2017 at the National Advocacy Center. The U.S. Department of Justice's National Indian Country Training Initiative is pleased to announce that it is sponsoring a new class titled Working with Child and Adolescent Victims: The Principles of Forensic Interviewing Seminar. The seminar is August 1-3, 2017, at the National Advocacy Center in Columbia, South Carolina. The DOJ's Office of Legal Education will provide travel and lodging accommodations. For an application, please email Leslie A. Hagen, National Indian Country Training Coordinator, at Leslie.Hagen3@usdoj.gov.

NICWA Training Institutes. Join the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) for an upcoming training institute in Portland, Oregon. June 6–8, 2017. Topics covered in this training include: Understanding ICWA, Positive Indian Parenting, and Working with Substance-Abusing Families. These interactive and energetic courses are taught by dynamic trainers who are experts in the field of Indian child welfare and led by those with an extensive experience working with tribal communities. Participants will also enjoy the opportunity to network with other attendees from tribal, state, and national agencies located throughout the country. Register online. http://www.cvent.com/events/june-training-institute/event-summary-681257e90c274631915fd27381b09572.aspx

The 6th Annual Healing to Wellness Court Enhancement Training is taking place September 12-14, 2017 in Albuquerque, NM. The Tribal Law and Policy Institute (TLPI) is soliciting for workshop proposals that present the best practices in tribal justice, collaboration, and service delivery that enhance the capacity for adult, juvenile, family, and/or DUI/DWI Healing to Wellness Courts. TLPI will accept sessions that cover a wide range of topics. We encourage proposals that detail innovative practices; specific how-to guidance; the integration of custom and tradition into the Wellness Court; screenings, assessment tools, and evidence-based practices that serve Native populations; and planning guidance. Workshop Proposals are due May 5, 2017. Workshop submissions will be notified by June 16, 2017. https://tlpi.wordpress.com/2017/02/24/call-for-workshop-proposals-for-the-2017-healing-to-wellness-court-enhancement-training/

Unified Solutions Welcomes New Technical Assistance Specialist, Katherine Stuart...

Katherine Stuart is a Technical Assistance Specialist for Unified Solutions Tribal Community Development Group, Inc. She is an enrolled member of The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation the Arrow Lakes Band (Sinixt). In 2009, she completed a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration in Management from Eastern Washington University and in 2014, she graduated from Gonzaga University Graduate School of Business with a Masters of Business Administration in American Indian Entrepreneurship. Katherine’s professional background includes research, business development, small business management, strategic planning, marketing and event coordination.

While serving as the Education Outreach Coordinator at the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture in Spokane Washington, she was as a member of the Education Department and Center for Cultural Plateau Studies. During this time, she worked closely with The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Kalispel, Spokane, and Coeur d’Alene Tribe of Indians to develop culturally respectful educational outreach programs. In 2009 Katherine became part of an expansion management team for a small business and supported the opening of new locations for this company in Washington and Montana. In 2011, she transitioned to an Exhibit Marketing Consultant role within a global marketing communications company where she assisted businesses in the development of their event marketing programs. For six years she provided ongoing support to clients by conducting research, strategic planning, event and social media marketing, and event logistics.

Katherine is committed to her community through ongoing volunteer work within organizations that serve youth and families that have been impacted by a variety of victimization. She has partnered with programs that offer personalized mentoring and trauma informed outreach to help empower youth to fulfill their potential.

Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter!