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# Educating Tribal Leadership

July 28, 2020

**Presented by:**

Bonnie Clairmont & Kelly Stoner  
Tribal Law and Policy Institute



# Webinar Information

This webinar was produced by the National Criminal Justice Training Center of Fox Valley Technical College under cooperative agreement number 2018-MU-GX-K064, awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this webinar are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.



# Technical Overview

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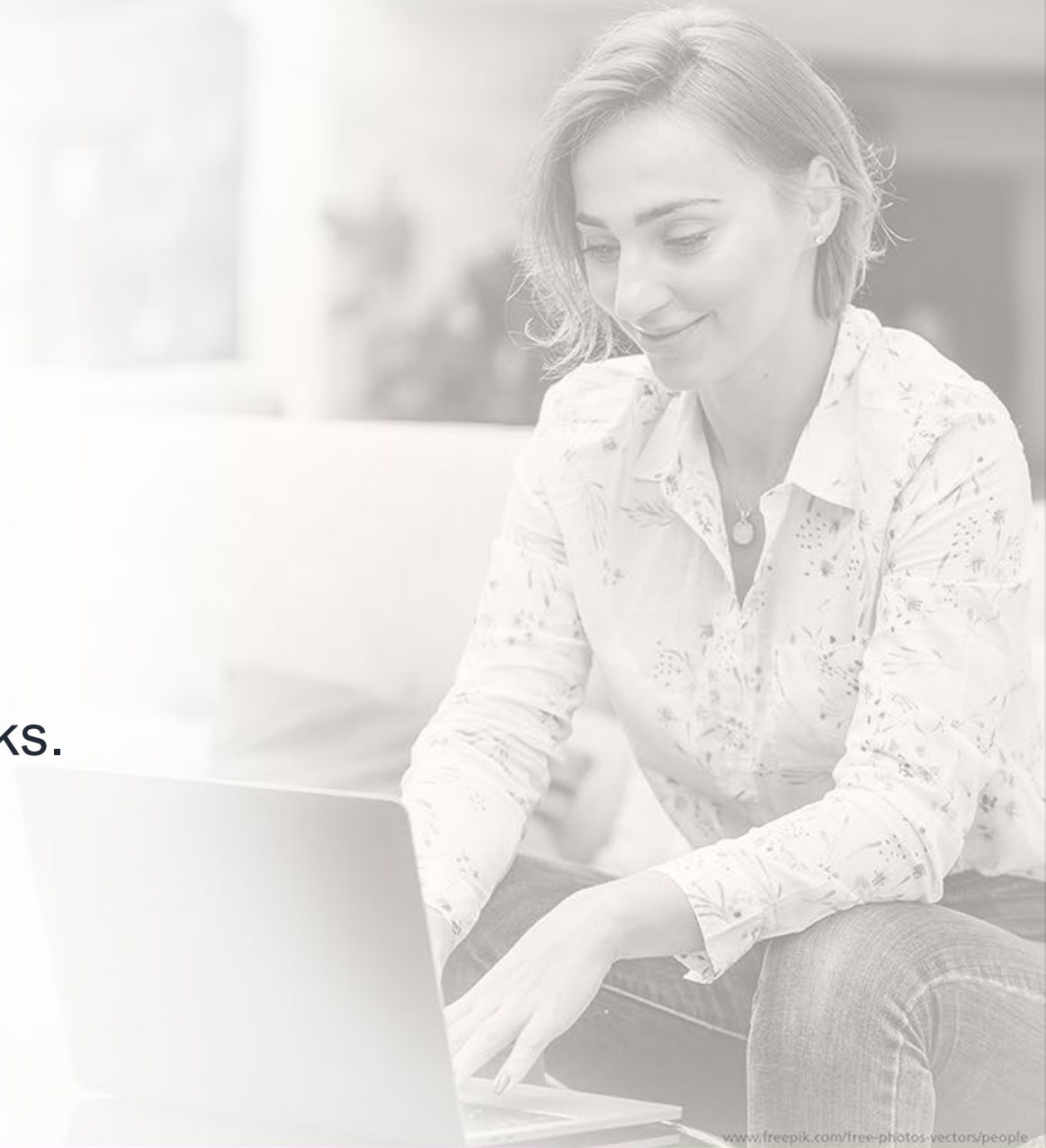
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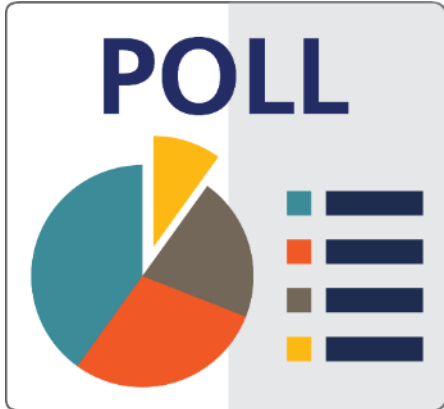
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# Poll Questions

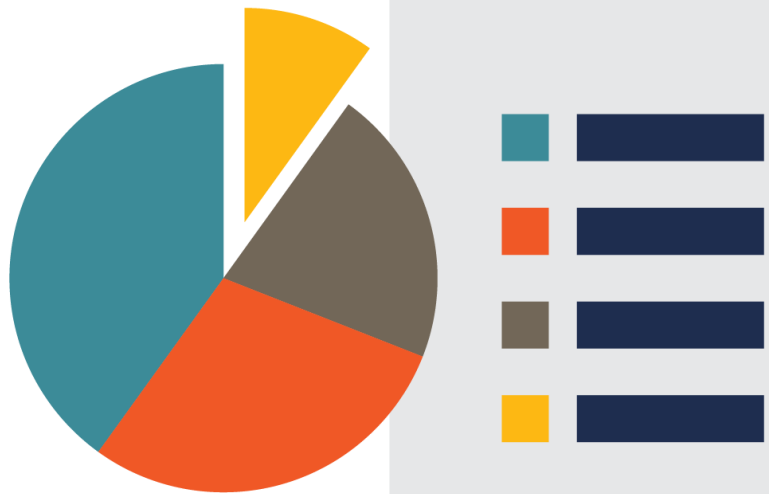
Poll questions may be asked during the webinar.

This is your time to weigh in with your thoughts.



Please respond promptly; polls are open for a short period of time.

# POLL



## Which of the following best describes your role?

- Victim services provider
- Judge or attorney
- Law enforcement
- Social worker, mental health practitioner
- Other



# Presenters



**Bonnie Clairmont**

Victim Advocacy Specialist  
Tribal Law and Policy Institute



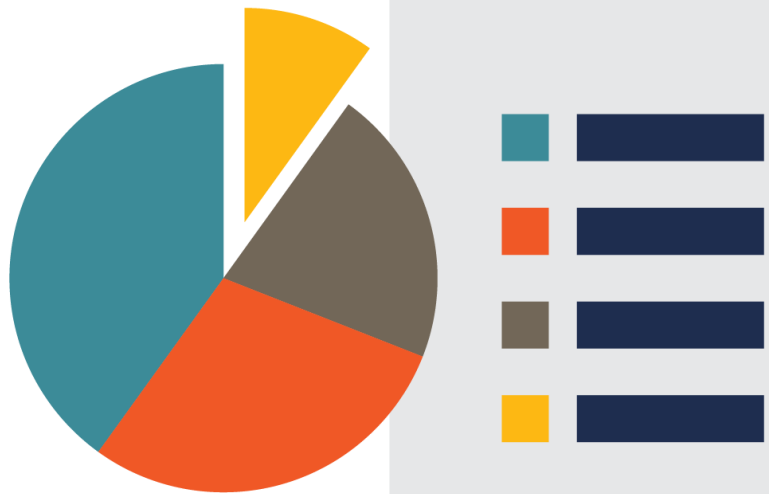
**Kelly Stoner**

Victim Advocacy Legal Specialist  
Tribal Law and Policy Institute

# Learning Objectives

- 1 Discuss why educating tribal leaders is important.
- 2 Identify who should educate the tribal leaders.
- 3 Review what information should be provided to educate tribal leaders.
- 4 Address how and where the education of tribal leaders will take place.

# POLL



To what extent does your tribal leadership support the victim services work/program?

- A great extent
- Somewhat
- Very little
- Not at all

# Developing a Blueprint for Educating Tribal Leadership on Victim Issues

Why is education necessary?

Who will provide outreach?

What information will be included in the outreach and education? Is the information culturally appropriate?

How will outreach take place?

Where will these outreach and education efforts occur?



# Benefits of Educating Tribal Leadership on Victim Issues – the “Why”

- Promote cultural awareness
- Promote program sustainability and program results
- Promote support for program design, implementation/enforcement of program policies and procedures
- Promote community awareness
- Promote systems change





# Benefits of Educating Tribal Leadership on Victim Issues – the “Why”

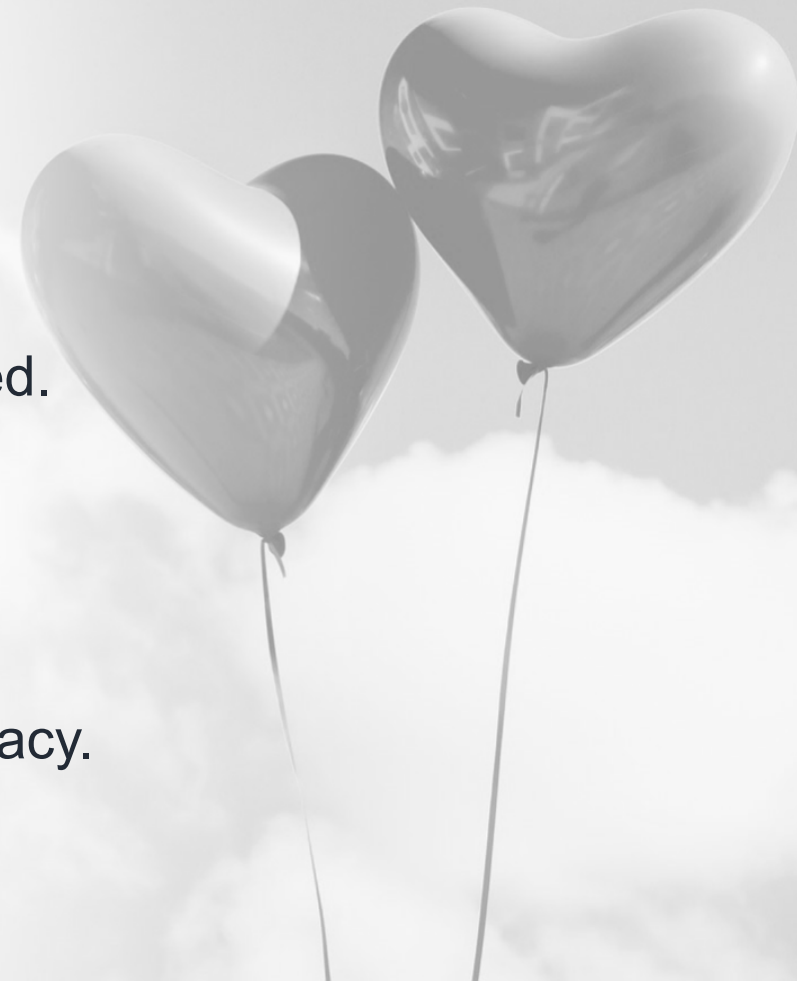
Invitations – consistent and intentional – can lead to investment in the maintenance and growth of your program.

Be inclusive – Who are leaders in your community?  
Do they go outside tribal council?

Invitations – along with a positive experience – can be reciprocated.

Maintenance and growth are vital to the protection of victims and tribal community members as a whole.

Core to a nation’s governance – to its sovereignty – is the protection and wellbeing of its citizens. Use this in program advocacy.



# Mindful Methods and Invitations

*Victim Safety is ALWAYS the priority!*

This may mean having difficult conversations with tribal leaders.

This may inform who you choose to engage and invite to be more involved with your program.

This may mean assessing community readiness to have these discussions.

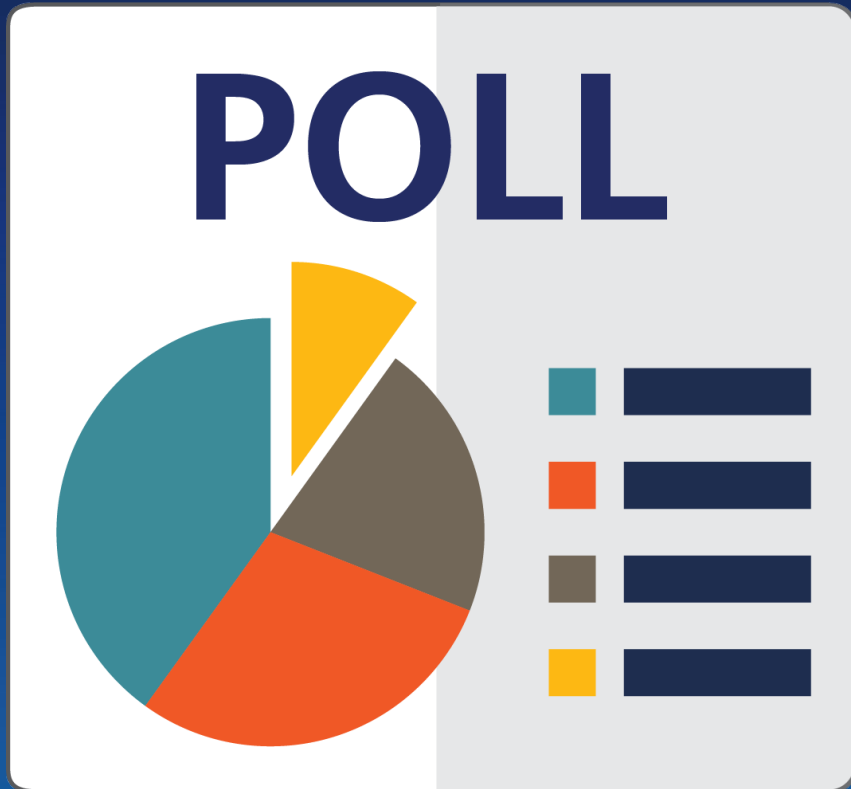
This may mean collecting data specific to your community and identifying what can be safely shared.

# Who Should Educate Tribal Leaders

- ✓ Tribal Coalitions
- ✓ Victim Services Supervisors
- ✓ Victim Services Staff
- ✓ First responders
- ✓ Court personnel







On an average, how often did you meet with your tribal leadership this past year (2019 – 2020)?

- Yearly
- Quarterly
- Monthly
- Weekly
- Never

# What Information Should be Provided to Educate Tribal Leadership?

- Define domestic violence, sexual assault, child sexual assault, sex trafficking, stalking.
- Violence is never a victim's fault.
- Offenders should be held accountable for making the choice to be violent.
- Tribal sovereign authority may be exercised to hold perpetrators accountable and keep tribal citizens safe.
- Violence is not part of our cultural traditions.



# **The Impact of Violence in Tribal Communities**

# Roots of Violence in Tribal Communities

- Pre-colonization
- Historic trauma
- Diminished status of women
- Destruction and disease
- Boarding schools
- Learned violence
- Limited jurisdiction





# Data

56.1% of American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) women have experienced sexual violence.

55.5 % have experienced physical violence by an intimate partner.

- National Institute of Justice Research Report: Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women and Men. U.S. Department of Justice (2016)

An estimated 24.5% of AI/AN women experienced stalking during their lifetimes.

- Prevalence and Characteristics of Sexual Violence, Stalking, and Intimate Partner Violence Victimization — National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, United States, 2011)

On some reservations in the United States, the murder rate of Native women is 10 times higher than in the rest of the nation.

- Bachman, R. (2008). Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women and the Criminal Justice Response: What Is Known.)

# Data

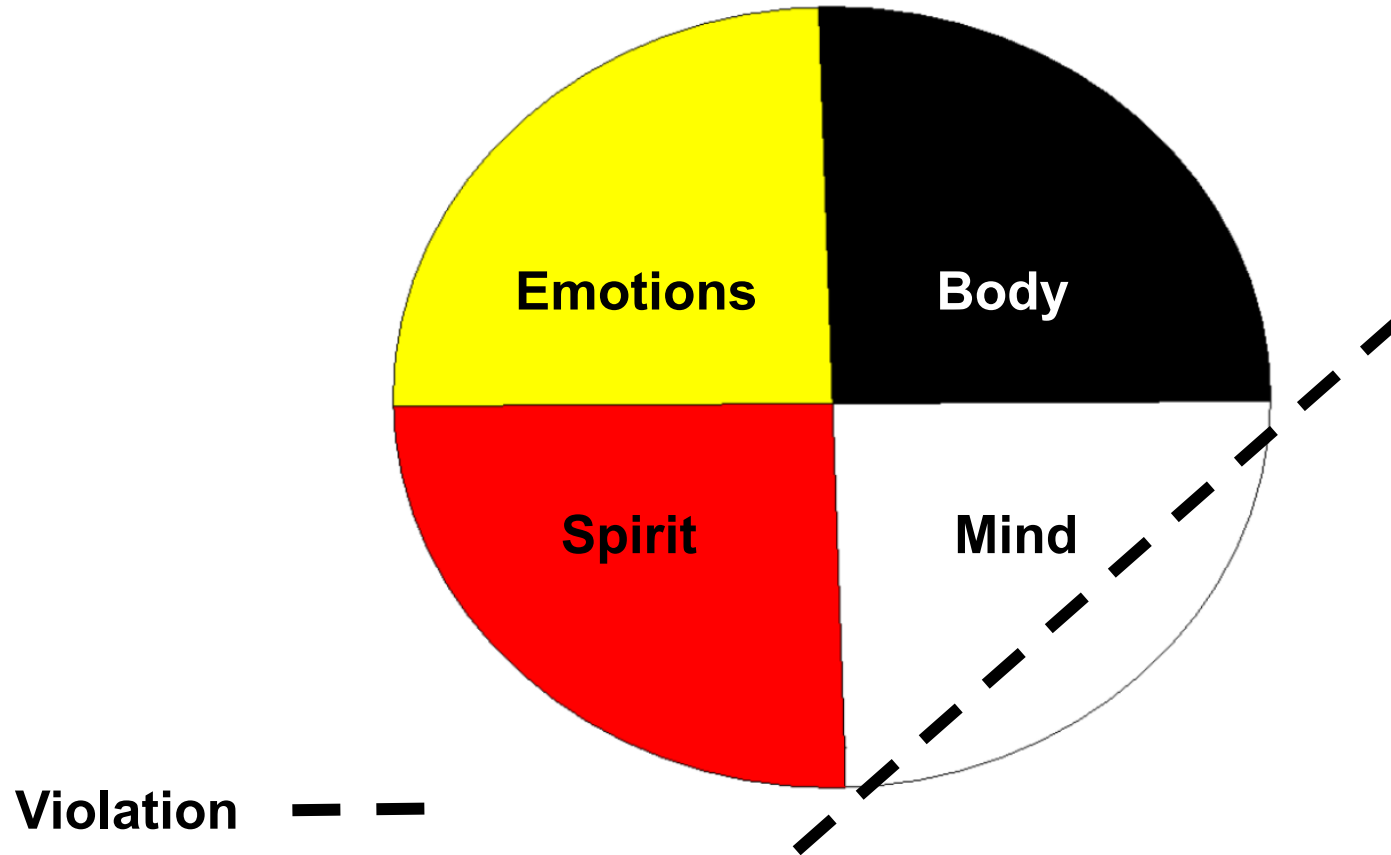
U.S. Attorneys decline to prosecute 67% of sexual abuse and related matters that occur in Indian country.

- 2010 GAO Study

279 of a total of 999 declinations were in sexual assault (child and adult victims), exploitation, and failure to register as a sex offender cases.

- U.S. Department of Justice, Indian Country Investigations and Prosecutions 2018 report

# Holistic Impact of Violence on Victims





# Challenges Experienced By Victims

- Lack of culturally appropriate, accessible services
- Victim-blaming attitudes in tribal communities
- Delayed response from law enforcement, under-resourced departments
- In many cases, victims do not receive justice
- Navigating a complex criminal justice system
- Revictimization



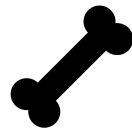
# Data

*Where 106 victims of sex trafficking studied (American Indian and non-Native):*

Lederer, L.J. and Wetzel, C.A. (2014). The Health Consequences of Sex Trafficking and Their Implications for Identifying Victims in Healthcare Facilities. *Annals of Health Law* 23, pp. 61-91. Retrieved from: <http://www.icmec.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Health-Consequences-of-Sex-Trafficking-and-Implications-for-Identifying-Victims-Lederer.pdf>



Neurological symptom  
86%



Injury  
69%



Dental health problem  
54%



Gastrointestinal symptom  
62%



Cardiovascular or  
respiratory symptom  
67%



Depression  
89% (during trafficking)  
81% (after trafficking)



Attempted suicide  
42% (during trafficking)  
21% (after trafficking)

# Needs of Victims

- ✓ To be safe and protected
- ✓ To have a place to turn
- ✓ To have access to culturally appropriate advocacy services and support services
- ✓ To be informed of rights, and have rights enforced
- ✓ To have justice, to have offender held accountable for making choice to be violent
- ✓ To have access to medical services
- ✓ To have services for children



TYPE OF TEAM	CRIME ADDRESSED	MEMBERS	TASK
Multi-disciplinary Team (MDT)	Child Sexual Assault/ Child Abuse	Law enforcement, social services, medical, child welfare, advocacy, judicial agencies with jurisdiction over child sexual abuse cases	Coordinating the investigation, prosecution, and disposition of child sexual abuse cases
Coordinated Community Response (CCR)	Domestic Violence	Law enforcement including dispatcher, jail, advocacy, probation, courts (civil & criminal), prosecution, batterer program	Sharing information, creating policy to maximize victim safety and offender accountability on domestic violence cases
Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)	Sexual Assault	Law enforcement, advocacy, forensic examiner/s, prosecutors office (tribal, state, federal), hospital/clinic staff	Providing specialized immediate victim centered response to victims of recent sexual assault

Author: Bonnie Clairmont, Tribal Law & Policy Institute



# Benefits of Coordinated Community Responses and Other Team Approaches

Ensures that every intervention is responsive to victim needs and interests, and holds offenders accountable.

Encourages communication, coordination, problem solving, and collaboration.

Develop policies and protocols to create seamless, culturally appropriate response.

Increased confidence and community engagement in services.



# How: Methods to Engage Tribal Leadership

- ✓ Meet with tribal leaders to tap into knowledge of customs and traditions.
- ✓ Request a designee to be a collaborative partner.
- ✓ Invite tribal leaders to community events hosted by the agency.
- ✓ Invite tribal leaders to speak at meetings and events
- ✓ Provide informational brochures or newsletters regularly.
- ✓ Invite tribal leaders to attend trainings with program staff.



# How: Stay the Course

Tribal communities have a long history of combatting violence.

Education and engagement may take time.

Evaluate your methods of engagement regularly. What works? What doesn't?

Leadership turnover is inevitable. How can you make a lasting impact to ensure your program continues to be a priority?

# Locations to Engage Tribal Leaders

Tribal complex by requesting to be put on the agenda.

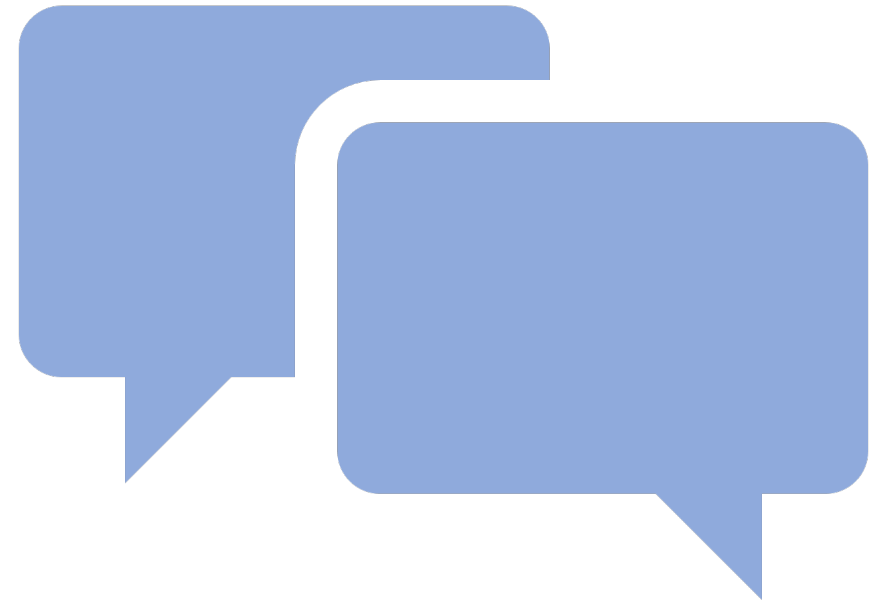
Tribal leader office, informally, with permission to visit.

Program community outreach activities by requesting tribal leader participation.

Other?

# Grantee Discussion

Using the chat box or raise hand function to speak, let's share some successes and/or challenges you have faced engaging your tribal leadership.











**Bonnie Clairmont**  
bonnie@tlpi.org



**Kelly Stoner**  
kelly@tlpi.org

# Tribal Law and Policy Institute

[www.home.tlpi.org](http://www.home.tlpi.org)



General Inquiries –

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# Upcoming Webinars

**August 25, 2020 | 3 PM CT**

- ✓ Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART)

**September 8, 2020 | 3 PM CT**

- ✓ Coordinated Community Response (CCR)

**September 22, 2020 | 3 PM CT**

- ✓ Child Protection Teams (CPT)

*Dates are subject to change. Please watch your email for updates and registration links.*

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