



# Training & Technical Assistance Newsletter

FOR THE TVA COMMUNITY

Issue 8

December 2004

This publication is distributed free of charge to the TVA grantee community, state and federal victim assistance agencies working with tribal programs, and other allies promoting the health and sovereignty of tribal member victims of crime. Additional copies can be sent upon request.

Articles, announcements, and other relevant contributions are welcomed. Contact Gina Gavaris, tollfree 1-877-438-4400, for submission guidelines. Please note:

This project is supported by Grant No. 2002-VR-GX-0009 awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, US Department of Justice. Points of view in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the US Department of Justice.



## Message From the Director

I always have mixed feelings about the holiday season. Even though I don't celebrate Christmas, I find Christmas all around me – on television, in the grocery store, as I drive down the street ... even in my family. Some people in my family honor the holiday, and I feel it part of my Auntie responsibilities to buy presents for their children. The other night, I was surprised by a phone call from my 9-year-old nephew. He had detailed instructions about which gifts he would like for me to buy for him this year. He spelled out, letter-by-letter, the names and titles of his requests! This no-nonsense direct order was a first for me. *"What ever happened to believing in Santa Claus?"* I wondered as I scribbled down his list. Anyone ever heard of Yu-Gi-Oh Cards???

While I appreciate getting together with family and friends throughout the month, I find the frantic pace and pressure very stressful. And while it is good to see far-away relatives I haven't seen in a long while, it's also heartbreaking as I helplessly observe ongoing problems with drug use and depression for some of them.

I meet a lot of people who, like me, share mixed feelings at this time of year. One family I know loves to celebrate the holiday with their children, but it is always bittersweet, as they also grieve their nephew – murdered by a stray bullet in a gang-related drive-by shooting a few years back. A woman I know had enjoyed her Christmas Day last year – until her ex-husband came by unannounced, drunk and raging, and started in again with his battering behavior. A friend of mine, in her early sixties, still has trouble getting through the holiday season without feeling depressed due to unresolved memories of early childhood incest that get stirred up during family visits. And then there's the mom of four children who is grateful for the free holiday gifting programs, but who also feels like a "total failure" because she doesn't have money to buy presents for her children. She blames herself even though the reason she doesn't have the money is because her husband squandered all of her income in gambling debts.

Grappling with intense feelings and experiences while the pressure to "drink and be merry" is all around us can make bad things seem much, much worse. And while Christmas and New Year parties might fill the calendar, many people are very much alone in their grief. Grieving family members might feel depressed and exhausted without a way to share their pain. Adding fuel to the fire, TV commercials – and even some family members –

constantly tell us that "good cheer" comes in the form of a beer or wine bottle. It becomes all too easy to reach for the alcohol to help numb the pain. In extreme cases, some people in pain might even contemplate suicide.

As a Victim Advocate, you may see an increase in the need for your services to keep families safe this holiday season. In addition to your usual tasks, stay alert for a heightened sense of hopelessness or loss. To help you, we've included some information on depression and suicide in this issue of the newsletter. Our aim is to offer awareness of the widespread problem of suicide in Indian Country, particularly among the youth. According to the Centers for Disease Control (2004), American Indian and Alaska Natives have the highest rate of suicide in the 15-24 age group, and firearms were used in 54% of youth suicides (Anderson and Smith, 2003). Please use the information in the newsletter to learn more about the warning signs and, especially, the protective factors. If we, as Advocates, can create a climate to protect families against suicide, this is the best possible outcome for everyone involved.

This holiday season, keep the resource numbers handy for your tribal behavioral health counselors, crisis hotlines, and law enforcement. Use them if you have even the slightest suspicion that someone you are working with might be considering suicide as an option. As always, please feel free to give me a call if you would like more training on how to detect suicidal ideation.

I hope you and your families enjoy a safe, loving holiday season. - Gina

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## Coping with Holiday Stress and Depression

By Lori VanBuggenum (Cherokee)

The holiday season is rapidly approaching, and as advocates working with victims of crime, many of us will be experiencing a double-dose of holiday stress. Not only might we face our own personal challenges, we might also be working with people who are experiencing stress and pain associated with this time of year.

Holidays and anniversaries can be extremely distressing for those directly affected by crime. Different events, traditions, smells, tastes, dates, or times can trigger both positive and negative memories that may feel overwhelming. Many people find that holidays trigger renewed sorrow, evoke painful memories, create additional stress, and heighten any sense of loss. Depression and thoughts of suicide might come up for some survivors during this time of year. Any and all feelings that are experienced during holidays and anniversaries need to be honored, and each person responds differently.

**Here are some suggestions for coping with stress and depression associated with holidays, anniversaries and other important dates.**

- **There is no right or wrong way to recognize and celebrate holidays and anniversaries.** The best way to approach a holiday is to find ways to make it personally meaningful while acknowledging events, feelings, and circumstances this year. It may be helpful beforehand to think about what will make the holidays easier and better for you and what might make them harder.
- **Complicated emotional responses are common and natural.** It is normal to experience anger, resentment, guilt, and other negative responses. Cry if you need to, it's a natural and healthy expression of grief that often provides much-needed relief. Don't conceal your feelings to protect other adults, but strive to be sensitive to children's needs. Children are very aware of and influenced by the way adults express their emotions.
- **Determine your capacity for being around people.** Some people need to spend time alone. Others get comfort from being with other people. Select your companions carefully and spend time with those you find helpful, supportive, understanding, patient, and caring.
- **Choose to celebrate or not.** Some people feel they cannot celebrate, or that celebrating would be wrong. Others worry about family members, especially children, and want to ensure they experience some joy. Try to work out what is right for you and your family.
- **Plan for the holidays with family members or friends.** Those close to you can help you cope. Include children in discussions about how the family should celebrate this year. Discuss what traditions to follow and what new ones to create. Bereaved family members should not be pressured to participate in unwanted extended family rituals.
- **Celebrate in ways that are meaningful and helpful.** You don't have to participate in all (or any) activities. Ask yourself whom you want to be with, where you want to be, and what you want to do. Don't feel obligated to send gifts or cards. If you want to buy gifts, but are overwhelmed at the thought of holiday crowds, try shopping online or by phone.
- **Maintain existing family traditions and/or create new ones.** Some people find it helpful to maintain family traditions. Others deliberately do things differently or create new traditions. Making gifts in the memory and honor of others, finding ways to recognize and remember those lost, meditating or attending religious services, spending time with those who are alone, or volunteering and helping other people are among less traditional ways to mark the holidays.
- **Take care of yourself.** Take steps to maintain your strength and energy. Avoid unnecessary additional stresses and include activities that help decrease stress, such as taking a walk, exercising, eating well, taking a bath, or starting a journal. Enlist friends and family to help with practical preparations.
- **Seek professional help if needed.** If you are concerned about burdening family and friends, or feel overwhelmed by their feelings or your own, you might find it helpful to speak to a professional like a grief counselor, religious leader, family doctor, or therapist. A variety of assistance is available, including one-on-one counseling, help-lines to call when feeling particularly low, or support groups with people who are having similar feelings.

Source: <http://www.ncvc.org/ncvc/main.aspx?dbName=DocumentViewer&DocumentID=37678>



# NOPCAS

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR PEOPLE OF COLOR AGAINST SUICIDE



## Suicide Research

*IOM Report 2002 - A Report by NOPCAS*

Native Americans Have the Highest Rate of Suicide Among Minorities That Range From - 11-14 per 100,000. Asian-Pacific Islanders, African-Americans and Hispanics Have Rates at Approximately Half - 6.14-6.53 per 100,000

### Native American Suicide

Native American male suicide rates between the ages of 5-14 are three times higher than males within the same age range of any other group; and between the ages of 15-34 are two times higher than males of any group within the same age range. Currently, Native American male rates peak at 67 per 100,000 in the 25-34 age group. Native American female rates ranging in age 5-34, have suicide rates that are 2.22 to 3.6 times higher than females in the general population.

From: <http://www.nopcas.com/research/>

**Attention TVA Grantees:  
Progress Reports  
are due  
January 30, 2005,  
for the  
July 1 - Dec. 30 reporting period!**

*We welcome your comments, questions and suggestions. If you would like training or more information, please contact Unified Solutions toll-free at 1-877-438-4400.*

## Suicide and Depression

It can sometimes be difficult to distinguish between depression and potential suicidal tendencies. Depression and thoughts of suicide can impact a person's life in many different ways. Not everyone experiences depression and suicidal tendencies in the same way. Some people may have behavioral changes, while others experience physical changes.

### Common Warning Signs of Depression and Suicide

- Sadness or anxiety
- Feelings of guilt, helplessness or hopelessness
- Trouble eating or sleeping
- Withdrawing from friends and/or social activities
- Loss of interest in hobbies, work, school, etc.
- Increased use of alcohol or drugs
- Anger

### Specific Signs of Potential Suicide

- Talking openly about committing suicide
- Talking indirectly about "wanting out" or "ending it all"
- Taking unnecessary or life-threatening risks
- Giving away personal possessions

Depression alone or in combination with aggressive behavior, substance abuse and/or anxiety is found in over half of all suicides. If depression is present, substance abuse, anxiety, impulsivity, rage, hopelessness and desperation may increase the risks of suicide.

### A Number of Things can Trigger Suicide

- Stressful events, such as a failed exam or failure to get a job
- Crises in significant social or family relationships
- Interpersonal losses
- Changes in body chemistry
- High levels of anger or anxiety

## How to Help

If you notice someone exhibiting any of the above warning signs, you have reason to be concerned. There are ways that you can be helpful to someone who is thinking of taking his or her own life.

- Be honest and express your concerns. For example, "You seemed really down lately; is something bothering you?"
- Ask directly about thoughts of suicide. For example, "Have you thought of hurting yourself?" If suicidal thoughts are expressed, it is important to contact a local counseling center,

student health center or the local mental health association.

- Listen and offer emotional support, understanding and patience.
- Convey the message that depression is real, common and treatable. Suicidal feelings are real and preventable.
- Offer to accompany the person to see a counselor.

If suicidal thoughts are expressed, it is important to contact a local crisis hotline, a tribal behavioral health clinic, or tribal law enforcement.

### For More Information contact:

- The National Institute of Mental Health, 1-800-421-4211, [www.nimh.nih.gov](http://www.nimh.nih.gov)
- American Foundation for Suicide Prevention 1-888-333-2377, [www.asfp.org](http://www.asfp.org)
- American Association for Suicidology 202-237-2280 [www.suicidology.org](http://www.suicidology.org)
- Or your tribal behavioral health provider.

Source: <http://www.mhacolorado.org/pdf/Depression&Bi-polar/Suicide%20and%20Depression.pdf>

## Depression Checklist

The following is a checklist of ten symptoms of clinical depression. If you experience five or more of these symptoms for longer than two weeks or if the symptoms are severe enough to interfere with your daily routine, please seek help from your doctor, advocate, spiritual healer, or counselor.

- A persistent sad, anxious or "empty" mood
- Sleeping too little or sleeping too much
- Reduced appetite and weight loss or increased appetite and weight gain
- Loss of interest or pleasure in activities once enjoyed
- Restlessness or irritability
- Persistent physical symptoms that don't respond to treatment (such as headaches, chronic pain, or constipation and other digestive disorders)
- Difficulty concentrating, remembering or making decisions
- Fatigue or loss of energy
- Feeling guilty, hopeless or worthless
- Thoughts of death or suicide

Source: <http://www.mhacolorado.org/pdf/Depression&Bi-polar/Depression%20Checklist.pdf>

## What to do when a friend is depressed: Guide for Students

A fact sheet that describes how to spot depression in friends and get them help.

Date: 2000

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/publicat/friend.cfm>

### What is depression?

**Depression is more than the blues or the blahs; it is more than the normal, everyday ups and downs.**

When that "down" mood, along with other symptoms, lasts for *more than a couple of weeks*, the condition may be clinical depression. Clinical depression is a serious health problem that affects the total person. In addition to feelings, it can change behavior, physical health and appearance, academic performance, social activity and the ability to handle everyday decisions and pressures.

### What causes clinical depression?

**We do not yet know all the causes of depression, but there seem to be biological and emotional factors that may increase the likelihood that an individual will develop a depressive disorder.**

Research over the past decade strongly suggests a genetic link to depressive disorders; depression can run in families. Difficult life experiences and certain personal patterns such as difficulty handling stress, low self-esteem, or extreme pessimism about the future can increase the chances of becoming depressed.

### Is it serious?

**Depression can be very serious.**

It has been linked to poor school performance, truancy, alcohol and drug abuse, running away, and feelings of worthlessness and

hopelessness. In the past 25 years, the rate of suicide among teenagers and young adults has increased dramatically. Suicide is often linked to depression.

### Can it be treated?

**Yes, depression is treatable. Between 80 and 90 percent of people with depression—even the most serious forms—can be helped.**

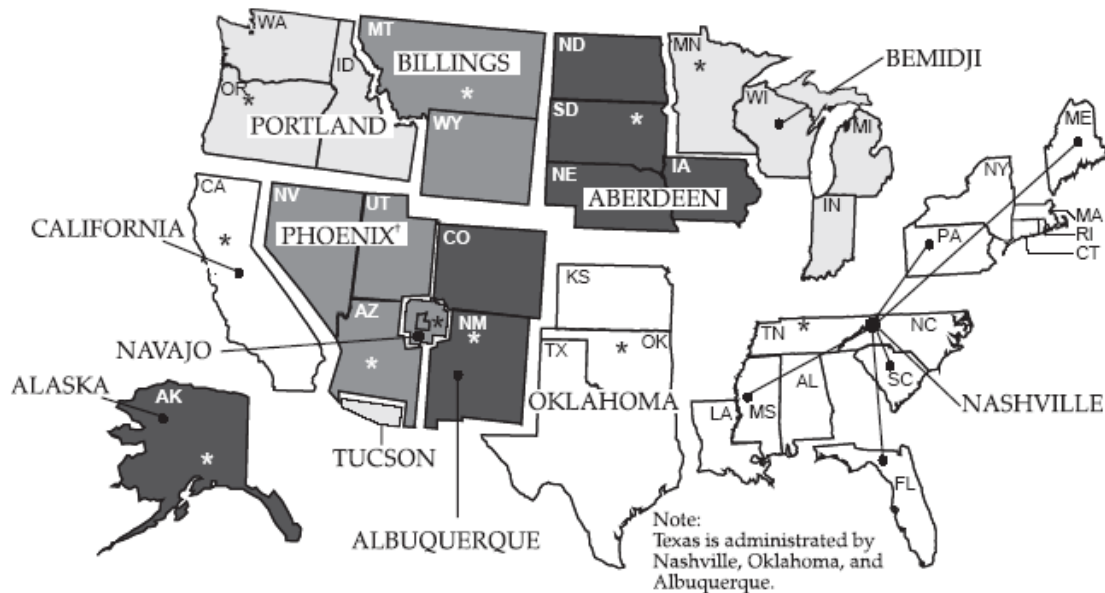
There are a variety of antidepressant medications and psychotherapies that can be used to treat depressive disorders. Some people with milder forms may do well with psychotherapy alone. People with moderate to severe depression most often benefit from antidepressants. Most do best with combined treatment: medication to gain relatively quick symptom relief and psychotherapy to learn more effective ways to deal with life's problems, including depression.

The most important step toward overcoming depression—and sometimes the most difficult—is asking for help.

**The first peace, which is the most important, is that which comes within the souls of people when they realize their relationship, their oneness with the universe and all its powers, and when they realize that at the center of the universe dwells the Great Spirit, and that this center is really everywhere, it is within each of us.**

*-Black Elk, Oglala Sioux*

### Variations in Age-Adjusted Suicide Rates, by IHS Service Area - United States, 1991-1992



Suicides per 100,000, in Quartiles



\* Area Office  
† The Phoenix area includes NV and parts of UT and AZ as well as the Hopi Reservation, the small section inside the Navajo area.  
Source: IHS.

| IHS Area               | Death Rate (per 100,000) | Percentile |
|------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| Aberdeen               | 19.6                     | 95-100     |
| Alaska                 | 25.1                     | 95-100     |
| Albuquerque            | 7.7                      | 75-94      |
| Bemidji                | 10.7                     | 95-100     |
| Billings               | 8.6                      | 95-100     |
| California             | 5.0                      | 50-74      |
| Nashville              | 2.9                      | 0-49       |
| Navajo                 | 7.4                      | 75-94      |
| Oklahoma               | 4.3                      | 50-74      |
| Phoenix                | 8.1                      | 75-94      |
| Portland               | 8.5                      | 95-100     |
| Tucson                 | 18.8                     | 95-100     |
| All IHS Areas Combined | 9.2                      |            |
| United States Rate     | 3.0                      |            |

Suicide rates were highest among 15 to 19 year-olds. During 1997-1998, Native American males had suicide rates almost five times higher than Native American females. Rates remained unchanged over the ten year period.

Over half of Native American suicides were committed with a firearm, and more than one third were by hanging.

The highest rates of youth suicide occurred in the Alaska, Aberdeen, and Tucson Areas. These Areas had rates that were six to eight times greater than national rates.

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/pub-res/natam.htm>

## Depression Myths and Facts For Teens

**Myths** about depression often separate people from the effective treatments now available. Friends need to know the **facts**. Some of the most common myths are these:

**Myth:** It's normal for teenagers to be moody; Teens don't suffer from "real" depression.

**Fact:** Depression can affect people at any age or of any race, ethnic, or economic group.

**Myth:** Teens who claim to be depressed are weak and just need to pull themselves together. There's nothing anyone else can do to help.

**Fact:** Depression is not a weakness, but a serious health disorder. Both young people and adults who are depressed need professional treatment. A trained therapist or counselor can help them learn more positive ways to think about themselves, change behavior, cope with problems, or handle relationships. A physician can prescribe medications to help relieve the symptoms of depression. For many people, a combination of psychotherapy and medication is beneficial.

**Myth:** Talking about depression only makes it worse.

**Fact:** Talking through feelings may help a friend recognize the need for professional help. By showing friendship and concern and giving uncritical support, you can encourage your friend to talk to his or her parents or another trusted adult, like a teacher or coach, about getting treatment. If your friend is reluctant to ask for help, you can talk to an adult— that's what a real friend will do.

**Myth:** Telling an adult that a friend might be depressed is betraying a trust. If someone wants help, he or she will get it.

**Fact:** Depression, which saps energy and self-esteem, interferes with a person's ability or wish to get help. And many parents may not understand the seriousness of depression or of thoughts of death or suicide. It is an act of true friendship to share your concerns with a school guidance counselor, a favorite teacher, your own parents, or another trusted adult.

From: What to do when a friend is depressed: Guide for Students - a fact sheet that describes how to spot depression in friends and get them help. Date: 2000

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/publicat/friend.cfm>

### Risk Factors

The first step in preventing suicide is to identify and understand the risk factors. A risk factor is anything that increases the likelihood that persons will harm themselves. However, risk factors are not necessarily causes. Research has identified the following risk factors for suicide (DHHS 1999):

- Previous suicide attempt(s)
- History of mental disorders, particularly depression
- History of alcohol and substance abuse
- Family history of suicide
- Feelings of hopelessness
- Impulsive or aggressive tendencies
- Barriers to accessing mental health treatment
- Loss (relational, social, work, or financial)
- Physical illness
- Easy access to lethal methods
- Unwillingness to seek help because of the stigma attached to mental health and substance abuse disorders or suicidal thoughts
- Cultural and religious beliefs - for instance, the

belief that suicide is a noble resolution of a personal dilemma

- Local epidemics of suicide
- Isolation, a feeling of being cut off from other people

### Protective Factors

Protective factors buffer people from the risks associated with suicide. A number of protective factors have been identified (DHHS 1999):

- Effective clinical care for mental, physical, and substance abuse disorders
- Easy access to a variety of clinical interventions and support for help seeking
- Family and community support
- Support from ongoing medical and mental health care relationships
- Skills in problem solving, conflict resolution, and nonviolent handling of disputes
- Cultural and religious beliefs that discourage suicide and support self-preservation instincts

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES & LINKS**

May, P.A., Serna, P., Hurt, L., and DeBruyn, L.M. (in press). Outcome Evaluation of a Public Health Approach to Suicide Prevention in an American Indian Tribal Nation: 1988 -2002. *American Journal of Public Health*.

May, P.A., Van Winkle, N.W., Williams, M.B., McFeeley, P.J., DeBruyn, L.M., and Serna, P. (2002). Alcohol and Suicide Death Among American Indians of New Mexico: 1980-1998. *Suicide and Life Threatening Behavior*, 32(3).

Minino, A.m., Arias, E., Kochanek, K.D. Murphy, S.L., & Smith, B.L. (2002). Deaths: Final data for 2000. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 50(15). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. DHHS Publication No. (PHS) 2002-1120.

Serna, P., May, P.A., and Sitaker, M. (1998). Suicide Prevention Evaluation in a Western Athabaskan Indian Tribe—New Mexico, 1988-1997. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 47(13): 257-261.

CDC, Violence Surveillance Summary Series, No. 2. 1996.

May, P.A. and Van Winkle, N.W. (1994). Contemporary American Indians and Alaska Natives: Durkheim's Suicide Theory and its Applicability." pp. 296-318. In: David Lester, (ed.). Centennial of Durkheim's Le Suicide. Philadelphia: Charles Press.

**National Center for American Indian and Alaska Native Mental Health Research (NCAIANMHR)**, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, Department of Psychiatry, North Pavilion, 4455 East Twelfth Avenue, A011-13, Denver, Colorado 80220. <http://www.uchsc.edu/ai/ncaianmhr/index.htm>

**Medicine Dream.** They talk about the healing power of music and introduce the song, "True Friends," from their CD Mawio'mi (issued by Canyon Records). The song was written about their close friend, K.C. LaFevre, who struggled with alcohol and drug abuse, and died of suicide five years ago. To learn more about Medicine Dream, write to Medicine Dream 2703 West 30th Ave. Anchorage, AK 99517 or log onto <http://www.medicinedream.com/>

**Healing of Nations**

Suicide Prevention & Crisis Intervention Among Native American Youth  
<http://www.healingofnations.org/>

**National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center**

<http://www.safeyouth.org/scripts/facts/suicide.asp>

**Suicide Prevention Services**

<http://www.spsfv.org/>

**Alaska Native Health Board**

<http://www.anhb.org/>

**Indian Health Services**

Suicide awareness, education, identification-knowing the warning signs and counseling of individuals. Bower, Sheena A.  
[http://www.ihs.gov/nonmedicalprograms/chr/docs/initiatives\\_suicide\\_prev.doc](http://www.ihs.gov/nonmedicalprograms/chr/docs/initiatives_suicide_prev.doc)

**National Strategy for Suicide Prevention**

<http://www.mentalhealth.org/suicideprevention/>

**American Association of Suicidology** (phone: 202-237-2280)

<http://www.suicidology.org/>

**American Foundation for Suicide Prevention** (phone: 888-333-2377)

<http://www.afsp.org/index-1.htm>



## The Program Spotlight Shines on the Lummi Nation Victims of Crime Program

"Start the Healing 2004"

### Domestic Violence Awareness Activities

By Aaren McBride (Lummi) and Lori VanBuggenum (Cherokee)

In an attempt to raise awareness in the community and end domestic violence, Lummi Victims of Crime Program (LVOC) sponsored several community activities throughout the month of October. **Aaren McBride, Community Events Coordinator**, and **Nikki Finkbonner, Crime Victim Advocate**, for the Lummi Nation Victims of Crime Program successfully coordinated the month-long list of activities. A wide variety of events was offered in the hope that there would be something that would be of interest for every member of the community. The *Fun Run to End Domestic Violence* on October 5 was the first event. All participants were welcome to either run or walk the mile to demonstrate their support for ending domestic violence at Lummi. Everyone received a t-shirt, free food from Dominos Pizza, and an entry into a raffle for various prizes.

On October 9, LVOC sponsored a *Promoting Healthy Relationships Dinner and Dance Party*. Everyone was welcomed to join in a celebration of healthy relationships in the community with a salmon dinner, dancing, and a live band.



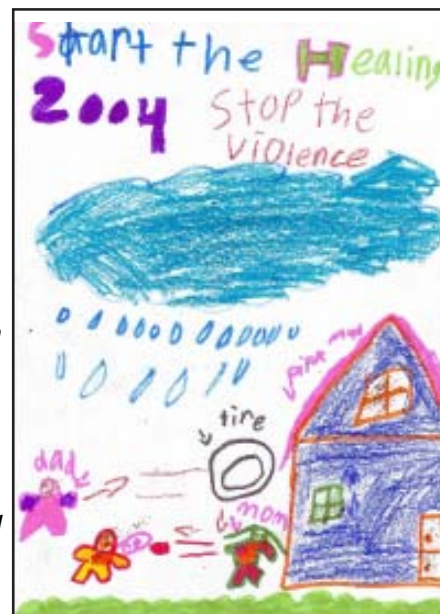
Joanne Storm performs at the Lummi Nation School

October 12<sup>th</sup> was *Volunteer Appreciation Day*. Lummi Victims of Crime sponsored a lunch in honor of all their volunteers and to show appreciation for all of the hard work and time they donate, enabling LVOC to operate at their current capacity. *Free Self-Defense Classes* were held at the Lummi Fitness Center on October 13 and 27. Skilled professionals provided instruction and information, and taught self defense techniques to all who were willing to participate.

Joanne Storm, a member of the Blackfoot Nation, and a contemporary singer, songwriter, and motivational speaker delivered a school-wide assembly performance on October 22 for the Lummi Nation School and a *benefit concert* on October 23. On October 29, the community came together for a *Domestic Violence Vigil*. Speakers included members of the council, survivors of domestic violence, and community members. The winners of the *Domestic Violence Awareness Month Poster* contest were also announced. The contest, held in honor of all victims of domestic violence, was open to all students in grades K-12. The theme was "Start the Healing 2004," and a pizza party was awarded to Mr. Salinas' Fourth Grade Class for their heartfelt depiction of the theme. Other awards and prizes were given to those who attended the vigil. The community events concluded on October 30 with a *Halloween Teen Dance* at the Wexliem Community Building. The night included prizes, dancing, games, and food. Proceeds from all the events benefited the Ne-Alis Tokw Womens Shelter.

The tremendous sponsorship of local merchants and funding from several grant agencies made it possible for the Lummi Victims of Crime staff to sponsor these events. Through these efforts, the LVOC program raises nearly \$1400 and provided the community with some healthy alternatives. Educational materials were distributed at all the events. The Lummi Victims of Crime staff is confident that they succeeded in their attempts to promote community awareness and education, and, most of all, provide fun and exciting new activities for the Lummi community.

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Created by a student in Mr. Salinas' 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Class at the Lummi Nation School



Self-defense class participants role-play a mock attack at the Lummi Fitness Center

# Listening Conference Addresses Tribal Youth Issues

Source: **Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention “News at a Glance,”**  
<http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/ojjdp/206629.pdf>

On September 27–28, 2004, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and other federal agencies took part in a Tribal Leaders Listening Conference in Washington, DC. The conference, which was held at the U.S. Department of Justice’s Great Hall, coincided with the grand opening of the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI), located on the National Mall. OJJDP convened the listening conference to foster collaboration between tribes and the federal government on issues and challenges affecting tribal youth. Tribal leaders from 13 regions met with representatives from OJJDP and other Justice Department offices and the Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, and the Interior. Presentations and roundtable discussions addressed a variety of topics, including tribal justice issues; education; prevention and intervention; health-related issues such as teen pregnancy, substance abuse, domestic violence, and child abuse; and resources and technical assistance available to help tribal communities meet the needs of their youth.

The conference opened with a traditional ceremony that included a presentation of tribal flags, a cedar and sage blessing, and an honor song. Conference participants also attended a working dinner at the Canadian Embassy, one of the entities taking part in a 2-week celebration commemorating the opening of the NMAI. During the summer, conference participants had gathered at regional focus groups in San Francisco, CA, and Green Bay, WI. These sessions served to initiate discussions and shape the content of the final conference.

OJJDP supports and manages the Tribal Youth Program, which seeks to help tribal communities prevent delinquency and improve their juvenile justice systems. For additional information, visit the Tribal Youth Program page of OJJDP’s Web site.

Publications may be viewed and downloaded at OJJDP’s Web site ([www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ojjdp](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ojjdp)). Print publications may also be ordered from the Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse (call 800–851–3420 or order online at [puborder.ncjrs.org](http://puborder.ncjrs.org)).

**Assessing the Mental Health Status of Youth in Juvenile Justice Settings.** Presents the results of a study that used the Voice DISC, a self-administered version of the Diagnostic

Interview Schedule for Children (DISC), to screen for psychiatric disorders in youth newly admitted to juvenile correctional institutions. *Bulletin.* August 2004. NCJ 202713.

**Disproportionate Minority Confinement: 2002 Update.** Provides a concise picture of developments in addressing disproportionate minority confinement (DMC) at the national, state, and local levels during the past 5 years. Summary. September 2004. NCJ 201240.

**Juvenile Arrests 2002.** Summarizes and analyzes national and state juvenile arrest data presented in the FBI’s report *Crime in the United States 2002*.

*Bulletin.* September 2004. NCJ 204608.

**Juvenile Justice Journal, Vol. IX, No. 1 (Causes and Correlates Issue).** Focuses on research that assesses how and why children become delinquent.

*Journal.* September 2004. NCJ 203555.

**Trends in the Murder of Juveniles: 1980–2000.** Draws on statistics from the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting Program—in particular, supplementary homicide report data—to analyze trends in the murder of juveniles between 1980 and 2000.

*Bulletin.* September 2004. NCJ 194609.

## Recent Awards

OJJDP recently awarded three cooperative agreements under the **Tribal Juvenile Accountability Discretionary Grant** program. Recipients are the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, the Chickasaw Nation (Oklahoma), and the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California. Authorized through the Juvenile Accountability Block Grants program, this initiative provides funds to federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes to strengthen tribal juvenile justice systems by encouraging tribes to implement accountability-based programs and services. Recipients received up to \$300,000 for a 3-year project and budget period.

The **Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative**, a collaborative effort of the U.S. Departments of Justice, Education, and Health and Human Services, recently awarded 24 new grants to local educational agencies to support and expand existing activities related to youth violence prevention and healthy childhood development. Award amounts ranged from a maximum yearly award of \$1 million for rural school districts and Bureau of Indian Affairs schools to \$2 million for suburban school districts and \$3 million for urban districts.

## Resources

### When Violence Hits Home: How Economics and Neighborhoods Play a Role

This report discusses who is most at risk and details the role that economic policies and employment practices might play in reducing the risk of intimate violence. (NIJ)

Access full text at: <http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/nij/205004.pdf>

### Disproportionate Minority Confinement: 2002 Update

(NCJ 201240) September 2004  
Summary, 42 pages  
Bridges, G., Hsia, H., McHale, R.

Describes developments in addressing disproportionate minority confinement (DMC) at the national, state, and local levels. This OJJDP Summary begins with a brief review of the most recent data, followed by an outline of national efforts by OJJDP and others during the past 5 years to address the challenge of DMC. It then presents an update of state activities, including a status report on state compliance with the DMC core requirement, highlights from state DMC assessment research and intervention initiatives, and an outline of remaining challenges. The Summary concludes with a look at the implications of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act's broadening of DMC to encompass disproportionate minority contact.

<http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/ojjdp/201240.pdf>

### American Indians and Crime

Reports the rates and characteristics of violent crimes experienced by American Indians (Native Americans) and summarizes data on American Indians in the criminal justice system. The findings include involvement of alcohol, drugs, and weapons in violence both against and by Indians; victim-offender relationships; the race of persons committing violence against Indians; the rate of reporting to police by victims; and injuries, hospitalization, and financial loss suffered by victims. Sources include the National Crime Victimization Survey, the FBI Supplementary Homicide Reports, and BJS surveys of offenders on probation or in local jails or State and Federal prisons. 2/99 NCJ 173386

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/aic.pdf>

### The National Tribal Justice Resource Centers National Tribal Child Support Initiative 2003

The major goal of the NTCSI is to increase the number of tribal court stakeholders by enhancing Child Support Enforcement program awareness and by improving and expanding child support services to AIAN children and families. Three key objectives are:

1. Assess, analyze and compile the results of a needs assessment survey of tribal courts and agencies to determine and prioritize the technical assistance needs and barriers to successful delivery of child support services in tribal areas and disseminate this information in report format to appropriate federal, state, and tribal governmental agencies with input from OCSE and states with large tribal populations.
2. Serve as a clearinghouse to enhance communication, cooperation and collaboration among OCSE, states and tribes using existing NTJRC partners, resources, technology, and programs that encompass child support specific technical assistance and expertise, including providing "best practices", model forms, codes, and agreements with states and tribal courts through multiple mediums.
3. Develop a comprehensive curriculum and utilize National and Regional conferences and workshops, for both state and tribal governments, to conduct Child Support training workshops in each of the four primary areas of need identified by the Needs Assessment Survey.

<http://www.tribalresourcecenter.org/legal/child/needsreport2.pdf>

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/tle00.pdf>

### Tribal Law Enforcement, 2000

(BJS) (Jan 2003)  
Presents information on the characteristics of tribally operated law enforcement agencies in the United States, including personnel, services, and functions. These selected findings include a special section on crime in Indian country. Agency data are taken from the 2000 Census of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies.

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/tle00.pdf>

## Resources

### Youth Gangs in Indian Country

(NCJ 202714) March 2004  
OJJDP Youth Gang Series, *Bulletin*, 16 pages  
Armstrong, T., Egley, A., Jr., Howell, J.C., Major, A.K.,  
Mendenhall, B.

Describes the nature and makeup of youth gangs in Indian Country. Drawing on research findings from a survey conducted by the National Youth Gang Center (NYGC), this Bulletin presents data regarding the presence and effect of youth gang activity in Indian Country and provides an overview of programmatic responses to the problem. To better understand the gang problem in Indian Country, the Bulletin compares data from NYGC's 2000 Survey of Youth Gangs in Indian Country with data from a national sample of survey respondents and from a field study of gangs in the Navajo Nation. Drawing on these research findings, the Bulletin proposes proven prevention, intervention, and suppression strategies to address the problem of youth gangs in Indian Country.

[http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/publications/  
PubAbstract.asp?pubi=11551](http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=11551)

### Jails in Indian Country, 2002

Presents findings from the 2002 Survey of Jails in Indian Country, an enumeration of all 70 confinement facilities, detention centers, jails, and other facilities operated by tribal authorities or the Bureau of Indian Affairs. BJS conducted the survey on June 28, 2002, as part of the Annual Survey of Jails. The report presents data for each facility, including rated capacity, number of adults and juveniles held, number of persons under community supervision, number of persons confined on the last week day of each month since July 2001, average daily population during June, peak population during June, number of admissions in the last 30 days, inmate characteristics (such as conviction status, DWI/DUI offense, and seriousness of offense), number of inmate deaths, facility crowding, and jail staffing. <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/jic02.pdf>

This report is one in a series. To view the entire series go to <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pubalp2.htm#jic>

**Happy Holidays  
from the Unified  
Solutions Staff!**



### National Institute of Justice Journal January 2001

This issue of the NIJ Journal brings three articles about the challenges of administering justice in Indian Country. In the cover story, "Policing in Indian Country", by Stewart Wakeling and his colleagues at Harvard, describe the results of their exploratory study of policing practices on Indian reservations. "Rural Alaskan Police Face High Turnover", by Darryl Wood, examines a situation often faced by law enforcement officers in remote areas: high turnover rates. The shorter article in the At-A-Glance: Recent Research Findings section highlights "Reducing Violence Against Indian Women", by Eileen Luna, reports findings from her evaluation of the effectiveness of grants to help prevent and respond to violence against Indian women.

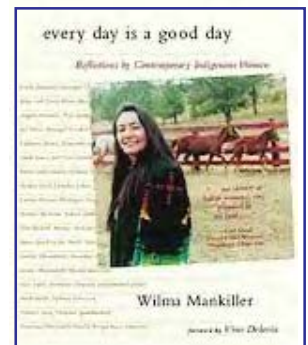
(JR 000246)

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/journals/jr000246.htm>

### EVERY DAY IS A GOOD DAY: Reflections by Contemporary Indigenous Women

**Edited by Wilma  
Mankiller**

Challenging and passionate are the voices in this gathering of proud indigenous women. Coming together as one, 19 strong and successful women provide a rare glimpse into their lives with the hope that their voices will be heard and their message understood: bear witness to the unforgivable acts that their people have survived and take a step forward in mending old wrongs and forgiving past and present hurts. Contributors include: Onondaga Clan Mother Audrey Shenandoah, Shoshone grandmothers Mary and Carrie Dann, Northern Cheyenne activist Gail Small, prominent anthropologist Dr. Bea Medicine, and more than a dozen other inspiring women ranging from Muscogee Creek poet Joy Harjo to Yaqui linguist Octavian Trujillo and Gwich'in environmentalist Sarah James. Fulcrum Publishing, 2004, 248 pages.



List Price \$16.95 - on sale now for \$11.93 at Amazon.com, <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/1555915167/102-5651705-1963363?v=glance>

## Resources

### Articles Available Online in the Tribal Law Journal

The following articles are now available for free online in the Tribal Law Journal at <http://tlj.unm.edu> (scroll down to "articles").

#### **Expanding the Network of Safety: Tribal Protection Orders for Survivors of Sexual Assault**

The right to exist in a world free from violence is a basic tenet in many indigenous cultures and governments. The epidemic of sexual violence perpetrated against Native American women in the United States reflects a fundamental breakdown in the cultural and legal norms that have served to provide protection to Native women from time immemorial.

#### **Law Enforcement Authority in Indian Country**

The protection order has proven to be an effective tool in the war against domestic violence. A protection order, however, is good only so long as it can be enforced, and enforcement has proven to be a problem when a person travels with a protection order to a different jurisdiction.

#### **Issue Paper: What Indian Tribes Can Do To Combat Child Sexual Abuse**

One of the most destructive problems affecting children in "Indian country" today is sexual abuse. Increasing reports of child sexual abuse and the severe impact this type of crime has on Indian youth and their families have prompted tribal leaders to voice great concern about the impact of this crime on Indian communities.

### Improving Tribal/Federal Prosecution of Child Sexual Abuse Cases Through Agency Cooperation (Sept. 1999)

This OVC bulletin (NCJ 172877) encourages close cooperation between tribal and federal law enforcement agencies to ensure effective investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases. Employing multiagency protocols and teams, for instance, helps address the jurisdictional overlap and confusion in oversight that often leads to multiple investigations and child interviews, which result in unnecessary victim trauma.

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/publications/infores/pdfxt/tribalbult.pdf>

### **Books about loss and trauma....**



#### **OnLine Publication Catalog**

The Renew Center for Personal Discovery (<http://www.renew.net>) offers books about loss and trauma. Check out their website for a catalogue of resource books for elementary and middle-aged children, as well as adults who are survivors of trauma. Featured this month:

### **Pathways to Peace & Forty Steps to a Less Violent America**

#### **By Victor La Cerva, M.D.**

We are bombarded daily with media accounts of violence in our world. We may feel overwhelmed, depressed, or angry about what is happening. This book focuses on solutions. It helps to develop a peaceable imagination, and offers possibilities for involvement in the domains of the self, the family, community and the larger culture. In clear and explicit tones, Pathways provides pragmatic information so that peacemaking is accessible to everyone. Looking for tools to deal with your own stress levels? Concerned about how to build resilience, and help your children avoid victimization? Want to get involved in reducing racism or making your local school safer? You will find all the information and resources you need in this book.



Each of us, in our own ways, can be part of the solution. Whether you are a parent, teacher, member of the clergy or business community, health or social services worker, policymaker, or elder, this book will help you blaze trails to a more peaceable future. Pathways to Peace maps out a journey for every American concerned about violence. Included are practical guidelines on everything from bullyproofing children to creating arks of peace, together with timely insights and constructive resources for decreasing violence at home, in schools and communities, and most importantly, ourselves.

to order, go to:

<http://store.yahoo.com/renewcenter/pattopeacefor.html>

## Training Opportunities

### Mending the Sacred Hoop Technical Assistance Project Trainings Introductory Training

January 10-12, Mesa, AZ

Developed for S.T.O.P. grantees receiving first-time funding, newly hired staff, and people who have not had prior training from MSH-TA, this training goes beyond "DV 101" in increasing current practitioners' knowledge of violence against Indian women, including sexual assault and stalking. We will cover the historical perspective of violence against Native women, including examining the historical trauma that continues as a legacy of colonization, and create a framework for understanding with "The Face of Violence," a theatrical presentation of Native women's stories. In addition, breakout sessions will be offered on: Advocacy, Developing Native Programs for Men Who Batter, and Domestic Violence and Children. We will also examine current issues in addressing and organizing in Native communities to end violence against women.

For more information please visit the following website:

<http://www.msh-ta.org/events.htm>

### Truancy Prevention Conference

Washington, DC  
December 6-8

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) announces the availability of online registration for "Partnering To Prevent Truancy: A National Priority." Sponsored by OJJDP and the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools, the conference will be held December 6-8, 2004, in Washington, DC.

The conference will focus on community, court, and school programs that rely on interagency cooperation to prevent truancy in urban, suburban, rural, and tribal communities. Keynote speakers include Dr. Robert Wm. Blum, Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University; Dr. Tony Evans, The Urban Alternative; and Susie Kay, Hoop Dreams Scholarship Fund.

**Resources:** JUVJUST subscribers will receive additional information about the conference as it becomes available. Such information also will be posted on the conference Web page at:

<http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/2004TruancyConference/index.html>, where you may register online.

### "Battered Women, Abused Children, and Child Custody: A National Crisis" A Continued Examination of A Compelling Problem, A Crucial Search For Answers

**To Be Held The Weekend of January 7th , 8th & 9th  
2005 Sarazen Student Center, Siena College  
515 Loudon Road, Loudonville, NY 12211 (Albany)**

Visit [www.batteredmotherscustodyconference.org](http://www.batteredmotherscustodyconference.org) for registration, schedule, topics, fees, scholarships, hotel discount, and other details.

Following in the footsteps of its groundbreaking predecessor (the First National Battered Mother's Custody Conference, held Jan. 9-10, 2004), BMCC II draws together a further unprecedented collaboration of leading national experts with state-of-the-art knowledge of the legal, social, and psychological issues facing battered women as they struggle to protect their children in and out of America's family and criminal courts.

The purpose of the First National Battered Mother's Custody Conference was to examine these issues in order to bring them to the light of day, for they have long been hidden behind the closed doors of family courts, judicial chambers, and social services offices. Now, building upon that continued effort, BMCC II seeks to develop immediate and long-term solutions that all attendees - advocates, victims, attorneys, judges, law enforcement, and social workers - will be able to share and implement and in their home jurisdictions.

## Training Opportunities

### ONLINE LEARNING OPPORTUNITY - January 20 – March 24, 2005 Violence Against Native Women

Offered by UCLA Extension (Los Angeles, California) In cooperation with the Native Nations Law & Policy Center and Tribal Law and Policy Institute

Who: Anyone seeking training and education on the laws and policies that impact Native (American Indian and Alaska Native) women victims of violence in the United States. No prior experience or training necessary.

What: A 10-week course covering tribal, state, and federal laws and regulations impacting the lives and safety of Native women. Course will cover the crimes of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Where: Virtually anywhere! This course is available to anyone who has regular access to a PC computer or Macintosh computer with reliable access to the Internet. The computer needs to have either Internet Explorer 5.0 (or higher) or Netscape Navigator 4.77 (or higher). You can take the course from home, school, or work. You will not need to travel or leave your community to benefit from this course.

When: January 20 – March 24, 2005. Students are expected to login to the class a minimum of 2-3 times per week (anytime, day or night) to participate in discussions, download required readings, and submit assignments.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO ENROLL, VISIT [www.uclaextension.edu/tribal](http://www.uclaextension.edu/tribal), or call (310) 206-6671**

Other questions:

Instructor: Sarah Deer, J.D., Staff Attorney, Tribal Law and Policy Institute. You can contact Sarah directly at 323-650-5467 or [sarah@tribal-institute.org](mailto:sarah@tribal-institute.org)

Cost: \$515 for 10 week course.

Textbook: No textbook is required for this course. All reading material will be available online at no extra charge.

Credits: This course is available for 4.5 units of college credit. You will need to check with your home institution to determine whether this credit is transferable to your own school.

### Fifth Women Are Sacred Conference April 21-23, Albuquerque, NM

Coming full circle, Mending the Sacred Hoop and Sacred Circle, the original sponsors of the first Women Are Sacred gathering in 1998 announce the 5<sup>th</sup> Women Are Sacred Conference.

Co-sponsored by Clan Star and the Tribal Law and Policy Institute, this two and a half day national gathering will provide those who are working to end violence against Native women with the opportunity to network, share, reflect and re-connect to the work and one another.

For more information:

<http://www.msh-ta.org/events.htm>.

### Second Annual Tribal Victim Assistance Conference Spring 2005

Unified Solutions Coaching and Consulting Group, Inc., in collaboration with the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), Native American Circle, and the National Center for Victims of Crime, will host our second annual TVA conference for advocates and law enforcement officers this spring.

We will be calling you to ask for your input. What workshop topics would best meet your needs? What events or activities would you like to participate in? We would like to hear your suggestions, so please be thinking about how we can create an experience that best serves you.

The date and location for the Second Annual TVA conference will be announced soon!

## Funding Opportunities

### National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association 2004 Tribal New Program Development Grant Application

#### Introduction

The National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association (National CASA) is pleased to announce the availability of 2004 Tribal New Program Development grants. The National CASA grant program is authorized to distribute funds under the Victims of Child Abuse Act (P.L. 101-647) for the purpose of increasing the number of CASA volunteers and the proportion of abused and neglected children represented by CASA volunteers. These funds may only be used to serve abused and neglected children who are the subjects of civil child abuse proceedings. None of these funds may be used to represent children in delinquency proceedings or in family custody disputes.

The Grants Program is administered by the National CASA Association, under a cooperative agreement with the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), U.S. Department of Justice. Disbursement of supplemental grant funding is contingent on OVC approval and the availability of funds. The National CASA Tribal grants are one-year grants. The grant period is January 1, 2005, to December 31, 2005. Grant awards are available for up to \$35,000 for a Tribal New Program Development grant. Reviewers of completed applications may recommend a lower amount based on need, grant activities, and the justification for and content of the proposed budget.

#### Review and Selection

Grant recipients are selected using a competitive application process. Reviewers evaluate and score each proposal based on the scoring totals included in the application. Consideration will be given to the degree to which the applicant adequately provides the required information. The following criteria will be used by reviewers to assess proposals in the Tribal grant category:

- commitment to researching, planning, and organizing a tribal CASA program;
- tribal government contribution to the program, either through in-kind or funding support;
- clearly stated and attainable goals and measurable objectives;
- a clear, thorough, well-presented, and organized plan with timelines to achieve goals;
- a plan to achieve sustainability during and beyond the grant period; and
- a proposed budget that directly relates to proposed activities; is explained and justified in the narrative; is realistic and reasonable; and includes a cost per child figure consistent with rates expected when assessing the location and age of the program

#### Scoring

Grant applications will be scored according to the following point system, for a total of 100 points:

- Project Narrative Questions - 80 points
- Program Background and Need - 20 points

- Project Approach - 20 points
- Project Management - 15 points
- Project Goals and Implementation - 10 points
- Program Sustainability - 15 points
- Goals Sheet - 10 points
- Grant Budget Narrative and Summary Sheet - 10 points

#### Submission Instructions

Complete and submit the original application and two additional copies of the complete packet (a total of 3 copies) to:

**National CASA Association**  
Attn: Shanon Doolittle, Grants Manager  
100 W Harrison, North Tower, Ste 500  
Seattle, WA 98119

Complete the application forms by typing information in the fields provided. Application items are to be placed in the following order:

1. Applicant Information Sheet
2. Governing Body Information Sheet
3. Project Narrative Questions
4. Goals Sheet
5. Grant Budget Narrative Sheet
6. Grant Budget Summary Sheet
7. Program Operating Budget (Budget should include detailed income and expense sources for the current fiscal year.)
8. 501(c)(3) status letter (if your program has one)

Do not include additional attachments unless they are related to the Supplemental Grant. Do not enclose your proposal in binders or plastic. Use staples.

- Applications should be sent via U.S. Mail or overnight delivery service. Ask for a return receipt from the delivery provider for confirmation of delivery, if needed. National CASA will not confirm the receipt of your proposal.

- Faxed or e-mailed applications will not be accepted.

#### Questions

For grant-related questions, please contact Marla Big Boy at (888) 805-6207 (toll free). You may also contact Shanon Doolittle, grants program manager, at (800) 628-3233, ext. 217, or by e-mail at [grantmgr@nationalcasa.org](mailto:grantmgr@nationalcasa.org). For an electronic version of this grant application, please e-mail [grantmgr@nationalcasa.org](mailto:grantmgr@nationalcasa.org).

#### Application Deadline

Completed applications must be received by Friday, December 10, 5:00 P.M. Pacific Standard Time (PST). Late applications will not be considered.

## Funding Opportunities

### FY 2005 Tribal Courts Assistance Program

**Closing Date: 1/30/2005**

For more information visit <http://www.ntjrc.org/resources/funding/bja>

BJA's Tribal Courts Assistance Program (TCAP) is one of the U.S. Department of Justice's primary initiatives for providing court-related support to tribal justice systems. Since fiscal year (FY) 1999, BJA has awarded 259 grants to federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native communities through a highly competitive process. TCAP's goal is to develop new tribal courts, improve the operations of existing tribal courts, and provide funding for technical assistance and training of tribal court staff. The objective in reaching this goal is to help tribal governments develop, enhance, and continue the operation of tribal judicial systems, including intertribal court systems. Both onsite and offsite technical assistance and training is available to all grantees. Technical assistance also is provided to help grantees develop program goals and measure how well these goals are being met. Funding under this competitive grant announcement is contingent on the availability and amount of FY 2005 funding for the Tribal Courts Assistance Program.

There are three separate categories for which federally recognized tribes may apply:

#### **Category I**

##### **Planning and Implementing an Intertribal Court System for Smaller Service Populations**

Applications are sought from consortia of tribal governments (at least two per consortium), each of which serves a population of less than 1000 people, to plan, develop, and implement a tribal court system where none currently exists. This category focuses on smaller tribes, located contiguous to or near other tribal governments, for which the creation of an intertribal court is economically and administratively feasible. Grant funds may be used to facilitate the development and initial implementation of an intertribal court system that will be designed to meet the needs of more than one tribe in the same geographic region. Distances of several hundred miles separating tribes and rugged or

inhospitable terrain can adversely affect the development of a collaborative partnership by making it logistically too difficult or economically unfeasible to establish an intertribal court. In these severe circumstances, and given that a tribal government can succinctly justify such hardships and incorporate this information into its application under the problem definition section of its program narrative (see Selection Criteria), such a tribe may apply as a single entity.

#### **Category II**

##### **Planning and Implementing a Single-Tribe Court System**

Applications are sought from tribal governments that serve a population equal to or greater than 1000 people for the development and initial implementation of a tribal court that will meet their needs. Tribal governments may apply for grant funds to facilitate the development and initial implementation of a tribal court system where none currently exists.

#### **Category III**

##### **Enhancing or Continuing the Operation of Tribal Courts**

Applications are sought from tribal communities, regardless of the size of their service populations, to enhance or continue the operation of existing tribal courts. Initiatives may include, but are not limited to, establishing a core structure for a tribal court, improving case management, training court personnel, developing code, acquiring additional equipment and software, enhancing prosecution and indigent defense, supporting probation diversion and alternative sentencing pro-grams, accessing services, focusing on juvenile services and multidisciplinary protocols for victims of child physical and sexual abuse, and structuring intertribal or tribal appellate systems.

**If a tribal government is a member of an intertribal consortium that submits an application, it may NOT submit an individual application or an application as part of a different consortium.**

## Funding Opportunities

### FY 2004 Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program

Due 12/09/04

For more information visit:

<http://www.ntjrc.org/resources/funding/bja/substanceabuse.asp>

The Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program was initiated in fiscal year (FY) 2002 to provide financial and technical assistance to federally recognized tribal governments to develop or enhance tribal justice systems, with a special focus on reducing crime associated with the distribution and abuse of alcohol and controlled substances. Eligibility applies to any Indian tribe, band, nation, or 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. An authorized intertribal consortium also can apply, providing that it includes written authorization from the governing body of each member tribe with the application.

In FY 2002, BJA made awards to 25 tribal communities based on a competitive application process that involved three funding categories: law enforcement, treatment services, and a combined comprehensive component. Grant awards under the first two categories were up to \$175,000 each. Under the combined component, tribes were expected to work with law enforcement, treatment providers, and key community stakeholders to develop and implement a comprehensive, system-wide strategy to control and prevent crime-related alcohol and substance abuse. Grant awards for the combined component were up to \$350,000 each. Under all three categories, program periods could not exceed 24 months.

In FY 2003 and 2004, applications focused on the development and implementation of a comprehensive strategy. Although the goals and objectives remained relatively similar, feedback from the field prompted BJA to increase grant awards to \$500,000 and extend project periods to 36 months. Of the 39 submissions that BJA received, 15 applicants (6 in FY 2003, 9 in FY 2004) received federal funding. BJA set aside

resources that would allow the 24 nonrecipients to participate in the technical assistance and training offered to grantees.

Both onsite and offsite technical assistance and training are available to all grantees. Technical assistance also is provided to help grantees develop program goals and measure how well these goals are being met. Contact information and a training calendar for BJA's Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program can be found on the National Tribal Justice Resource Center's web site:

<http://www.ntjrc.org/resources/funding/bja/substanceabuse.asp>

In FY 2005, funding under this competitive grant announcement is contingent on the availability and amount of FY 2005 funding for the Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program. The program focuses on planning, developing, and implementing a comprehensive strategy to control and prevent crime associated with the distribution and abuse of alcohol and controlled substances. Tribes that want to compete in the application process must link law enforcement and treatment services into a meaningful and effective strategy that they can implement over a 36-month period.

Applicants are encouraged to consider promising and research-driven approaches that enhance tribal justice when developing their applications. Information about such approaches can be found on the National Tribal Justice Resource Center's web site:

<http://www.ntjrc.org/resources/funding/bja/substanceabuse.asp>

Tribes that received FY 2003 or FY 2004 grants through this program are not eligible in FY 2005.

National Tribal Justice Resource Center  
4410 Arapahoe Ave. Suite 135  
Boulder, CO 80303  
Phone: 303-245-0786 / 1-877-97-NTJRC  
Fax: 303-245-0785  
E-mail: [Mail@ntjrc.org](mailto:Mail@ntjrc.org)  
Website: <http://www.ntjrc.org>

## Funding Opportunities

### FY 2005 Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders

The Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program recognizes that domestic violence is a crime that requires the criminal justice system to hold offenders accountable for their actions through investigation, arrest, and prosecution of violent offenders, and through close judicial scrutiny and management of offender behavior.

At each juncture in the criminal justice process, concerns for victim safety should guide the actions of all partners in the system. Criminal justice agencies must collaborate among themselves and in meaningful partnership with nonprofit, nongovernmental faith- and/or community-based sexual assault and domestic violence programs, including local shelters, victim service organizations and domestic violence coalitions, to ensure that victim safety is a paramount consideration in the development of any strategy to address domestic violence. Additionally, representatives from criminal justice agencies working to prevent and reduce domestic violence must have a clear understanding of the roles of governmental and nongovernmental victim assistance programs.

The primary purpose of the Arrest program is to encourage communities to adopt a coordinated community response (CCR) in the treatment of domestic violence as a serious violation of criminal law. This program challenges the entire community to listen, communicate, identify problems, and share ideas that will result in new responses to ensure victim safety and offender accountability.

The Arrest Program challenges victim advocates, police officers, pre-trial service personnel, prosecutors, judges and other court personnel, probation and parole officers, and faith- and community-based leaders to work together to craft solutions to overcome the problem of domestic violence. All entities must collaborate to ensure that victim safety is a paramount consideration in developing their strategy to address domestic violence.

#### **Award Period**

The award period for these grants will be 24 months. Budgets must reflect 24 months of project activity.

#### **Award Amounts**

Applicants should carefully consider the resources needed to successfully implement the project proposed and present a realistic budget that accurately reflects project costs. Budget caps will be considered based on the

following service area population formula. If your service area includes a population of up to 500,000, your budget should not exceed \$400,000; over 500,000 but below 900,000, your budget should not exceed \$750,000; and 900,000 and over your budget should not exceed \$1,500,000. Applications should include a service area map identifying the service area to be served. Notwithstanding the aforementioned budgetary caps, OVW may negotiate the scope of work with applicants and adjust budgets accordingly prior to granting an award. Additionally, OVW may remove from further consideration applications that exceed the solicitation's budgetary caps. Current grantees should note that continuation or supplemental funding is not guaranteed. All applications will be subject to peer review and internal review by OVW staff and will be scored according to the criteria set forth in this solicitation. Applications with the highest composite scores will be eligible to be considered for funding.

#### **Letter of Intent**

All applicants who intend to apply for FY 2005 funding under this program are encouraged to submit a non-binding letter of intent to OVW by December 16, 2004.

#### **Application Due Date**

Applicants should register online with GMS **by January 5, 2005**.

### **PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY**

#### **Types of Applicants**

In FY 2005, OVW will accept applications for the Arrest Program from both current grantees and new applicants. Grantees that received an award through the Arrest Program in FY 2003 or earlier are eligible to apply. Past recipients of Arrest Program awards, who applied for but did not receive continuation funding in FY 2004 are also eligible to apply.

Current grantees who received new or supplemental funding for 24 months in FY 2004 are not eligible to apply.

Please see the following website for the complete grant solicitation: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/vawo/docs/fy05arrestpolicies.pdf>



### Our Mission Statement

Unified Solutions is dedicated to the implementation of sustainable solutions to end violent crime and foster responsible, proactive leadership and public safety. We recognize the problem of violence in our communities and at home can be directly linked to institutional practices of dominance and privilege. Therefore, we invite individuals and agencies to examine and transform these practices and dismantle internalized oppression at all levels. We provide training and resources to build confident and responsive grassroots and workplace leadership. We work in partnership with diverse community sectors, actively seek the participation and involvement of resident community members in our work, and recognize equitable, shared power among all stakeholders involved in a project. We facilitate learning environments and promote linkages between multi-cultural, multi-disciplinary, and multi-faith communities to develop a best practices network of “unified solutions” to sustain peace in our world. We tailor our services and products to uphold the unique cultural heritage and spiritual vitality of those we serve.

### About our Logo

The Unified Solutions logo was formed from a collaborative process with community members. We received great blessing from those who support the vision of USCCGI and who offered their talent and expertise to find a way to express the vision in visual art.

Special thanks to Victor Robles, Yaqui artist, and Desiree Trowbridge, Latina artist, who helped breathe life into this work.

The image depicts a Phoenix, the Earth, and four sets of hands coming from each direction to create something new. A light radiates out from the center between the hands, to show the sacred power of the work that comes from this kind of collaboration.

The image tells a story and sends a message:

*The fate of our world depends upon our ability to come together and create together—all people,  
young and old, of all colors, from all directions.*

*When we commit our hands together in action, creating a new way with unified solutions,  
the power of this light shines from within the Phoenix.*

*The Phoenix burns to ashes and is re-born.*

*The Phoenix takes on all that is finished, all that no longer serves us  
—like greed and fear and competition  
—and burns it away.*

*All that is left is the light that guides us, and the Earth is reborn.*

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