



Department of Justice



Office of Justice Programs

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JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AWARDS THE FIRST \$3.3 MILLION OF UP TO \$100 MILLION TO SUPPORT CRIME VICTIMS IN NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

WASHINGTON – The Justice Department’s Office of Justice Programs’ Office for Victims of Crime today awarded the first \$3.3 million of up to \$100 million to support crime victims in Native American communities. The awards will fund critical crime victim services, such as counseling, housing, emergency services and transportation.

The Justice Department is devoted to improving the lives of all crime victims, including those in American Indian and Alaska Native communities by providing easily accessible resources and services. These awards—and those to come—represent the most significant victim services funding ever dispersed to American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, American Indians and Alaska Natives experience violent crimes at rates far greater than the general population.

“American Indian and Alaska Native communities face extensive public safety challenges, but through creative approaches that combine traditional methods with innovative solutions, they are demonstrating their determination to meet the needs of victims in their communities,” said Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Matt M. Dummermuth. “These grants, part of historic levels of funding awarded by the Department of Justice to American Indian and Alaska Native communities, will provide significant resources to bring critical services to those who suffer the effects of crime and violence.”

The following tribes are the first seven of up to 170 tribes eligible to receive funding to help their communities support crime victims for the next three years:

- **Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma** received \$718,577 to disrupt the cycle of domestic violence by addressing the underlying causes and responding to the needs of victims affected by opioid and substance abuse.
- **Squaxin Island Tribe of Washington** was awarded \$779,488 to provide mental health counseling to victims, and to implement a multidisciplinary, holistic approach to survivors and their families.

- **The Bay Mills Indian Community of Michigan** received \$542,375 to hire a Community Cultural Specialist/Educator and Tribal Court Advocate to assist crime victims. The award will also be used to improve transportation for crime victims, and expand and acquire office space, which can also be used as emergency overnight placement for victims. Further, the community will create a strategic plan to help ensure long-term program sustainability.
- **The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon** was awarded \$618,601 to fund a domestic violence shelter and specialized services to help victims affected by elder abuse and human trafficking.
- **The Fairbanks Native Association of Alaska** will receive \$677,495 to increase its existing victim services program staff to expand outreach about available services and improve emergency services.
- **The Morongo Band of Mission Indians of California** was awarded \$762,030 to fund victim training for first responders, provide shelter services to crime victims, establish a crisis hotline and hire a psychologist and legal staff.
- **The Hydaburg Cooperative Association** will receive \$702,621 to increase the availability of local services to support victims of crime. This will include two new full-time staff members, space for a short-term crisis center and program office, as well as the provision of emergency food and clothing for victims.

“American Indian and Alaska Native crime victims continue to face challenges in identifying vital services and resources needed to help survivors address their trauma and navigate a complex system,” said OVC Director Darlene Hutchinson. “The Justice Department has made it a priority to partner with tribes to help victims and their families rebuild their lives in the aftermath of violence.”

The Office of Justice Programs, directed by Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Matt M. Dummermuth, provides federal leadership to improve the nation’s capacity to prevent and reduce crime, assist victims, and enhance the rule of law by strengthening the criminal justice system. OJP has six bureaus and offices: the Bureau of Justice Assistance; the Bureau of Justice Statistics; the National Institute of Justice; the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; the Office for Victims of Crime; and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering and Tracking. More information about OJP and its components can be found at www.ojp.gov.

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