

Tribal Community and Justice Profile Part A: Executive Summary (5%)

Applicant Name: Native Village of Afognak response as follows:

Problem	Strategy to address the problem	Purpose area(s) addressing the problem
No local option for a juvenile alternative to incarceration. With no options that are culturally sensitive.	PA#2 Create a strategic plan for the Kodiak juvenile justice system that includes a local alternative to incarceration that is culturally appropriate.	PA #2— Comprehensive Tribal Justice Systems Strategic Planning Program
Lack of culturally appropriate evidence based substance abuse programs that combat the high rates of drugs being introduced to our schools and our community.	PA#3- Adapt the Project Venture program (evidence based substance abuse program) for the Alutiiq youth of Kodiak.	PA#3 Justice Systems and Alcohol and Substance Abuse
Lack of leadership cultivation and positive cultural activities which leads to high rates of suicide, self-harm, substance abuse and truancy.	PA#3- Provide an evidence based substance abuse prevention program to Kodiak. PA#9- Provide a formal leadership program for native youth on a Regional level.	PA#3 Justice Systems and Alcohol and Substance Abuse PA#9 Tribal Youth Program

Applicant Name: Native Village of Afognak

Tribal Narrative Profile:

Kodiak Island, located in the Gulf of Alaska 250 air miles south of Anchorage, is the second largest island in the United States. The entire archipelago has a population of 13,592 residents, 2,012 or 14.8% of which are Alaska Native/Native American, including six villages and the City of Kodiak all of which are accessible only by air or water, (US Census 2010). The



Native Village of Afognak (NVA) serves 567 tribal members, making us the second largest of the ten federally recognized tribes in the archipelago. Kodiak has a single road system that extends 15 miles north of the City of Kodiak to Monashka Bay and 30 miles south to Chiniak and Pasagshak Bays. The remainder of the island,

except for the six villages, is virtually uninhabited wilderness – with 83% being a federal National Wildlife Reserve. In addition to our tribal members, NVA often provides services to all Native residents within the City of Kodiak, its connecting road system and the surrounding villages.

Even though Kodiak is a small, remote community, there is a City Police Department with 21 officers and an Alaska State Troopers post with 6 troopers. Kodiak is home to a

Courthouse, City Jail, Department of Corrections Adult Probation Officer and two Juvenile Probation Officers, Kodiak Women's Resource and Crisis Center, Kodiak Island Housing Authority and various Native organizations including Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak.

The City of Kodiak is home to four elementary schools with approximately 250 students in each school, one middle school with approximately 550 students and one high school with approximately 800 students. There are also 8 remote schools in the Kodiak Island Borough School District (KIBSD) servicing kids in kindergarten – 12th grade in the remote village sites, Akhiok, Chiniak, Karluk, Larsen Bay, Old Harbor, Ouzinkie, the largest being Port Lions with a total community population of approximately 200 residents. There are a number of students that move to Kodiak from the rural villages to gain access to greater academic opportunities. Each purpose area we are applying for can have a direct effect on the students in our rural villages and possibly throughout the State of Alaska.

NVA is governed by a seven member Tribal Council with rotating seats elected annually and elected to serve three-year terms. The Tribal Council's sole employee is the Tribal Administrator, Melissa Borton. Mrs. Borton has served in this capacity for nine years and is responsible for the general operation of the Tribe and supervises its ten employees.

Description of tribal justice system:

A. Prevention or intervention initiatives for members at risk of involvement or already involved in the justice system: Our Tribe is located within the City of Kodiak and currently under its justice system. NVA has created strong working relationships with other organizations that provide preventative services and interventions including our local law

enforcement, school district, public policy makers, and medical and behavioral health associations. We work directly with youth through our annual summer culture camps, after school programs, tutoring program, intern employment program and Alutiiq Dancing. We refer services as they are needed to our agency partners. There is not currently a Tribal Action Plan for our Tribe.

B. *Law enforcement, including any cross-jurisdictional agreements:* Our tribe is located within the jurisdiction of the Kodiak Police Department and Alaska State Troopers. These entities provide our direct law enforcement services. We also do not have cross-jurisdictional agreements. Alaska being a Public Law 280 State limits Alaska Tribe's jurisdiction. We do have strong partnerships with our local law enforcement entities and are consulted as needed.

C. *Courts:* We do not have a tribal court. Our work with the local court system is provided through collaboration, referral services, ICWA case management/representation and support as needed. We are currently working on signing an MOU with the Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak for their tribal court to be able to hear our tribal member juvenile cases.

D. *Alternative Dispute Resolution:* NVA doesn't currently have any alternative dispute resolution programs and there are none available in Kodiak at this time.

E. *Corrections, including juvenile detention facilities:* NVA doesn't have any corrections programs. The City of Kodiak operates the City Jail and Corrections department, we partner with them as necessary. There are no juvenile detention facilities located on Kodiak Island, the closest one is located in the City of Anchorage which is an hour long flight and costs approximately \$420 round trip for air travel.

F. Services for victim/survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking: NVA operates a family violence prevention program which is minimally funded. Through this program we provide referral services, education and prevention activities and partner with our local Women’s Resource and Crisis Center as needed.

G. Reentry programs: There are no reentry programs in Kodiak currently.

H. Sex offender registry obligations: All sex offender registry obligations are run through our local City of Kodiak Police Department and the Alaska State Troopers.

Describe the significant tribal justice, community safety, juvenile delinquency, and victimization issues:

Substance Abuse/Crime/Influx of drugs to Kodiak

According to the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) the most recent data shows that American Indian/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) have the highest rates of substance dependence or abuse compared with all other racial groups in the United States (<http://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/TEDS-Spot146-AIAN-2014/TEDS-Spot146-AIAN-2014.pdf>). This high rate of abuse is a major public health concern as it is linked to premature death and disease among AI/ANs.

Kodiak Jail Bookings

Alaska Natives are incarcerated at levels very disproportionate to

	2011	2012	2013
Total Bookings	818	963	1073
New Arrest	572	631	791

their percentages in the general population. According to the most recent census Alaska Native population comprise 15% of the State’s population. In 2011, 36% of the offender population was Alaska Native (http://justice.uaa.alaska.edu/forum/29/3-4fall2012winter2013/b_ak_corrections.html). Alaska Native children experience the highest rate of neglect and removal from their homes by Alaska’s Office of Children’s Services (OCS) and the primary reason cited is neglect due to parental substance abuse.

Since January of 2014, the City of Kodiak law enforcement has seized over 2.3 million dollars in illegal drugs including heroin, methamphetamine, crack and cocaine. One of the drug busts was the largest recorded in over 20 years. Statistics show that Kodiak has a steady increase in crime with the increase in drug traffic (<http://www.adn.com/article/20140421/kodiak-police-seize-22-million-meth-heroin>). Statistically AI/AN adolescents have higher rates of alcohol and

Does Drug Use Cause Crime?

	2011	2012	2013
Assault	172	157	175
Burglary	35	28	39
Larceny/Theft	184	214	306
Auto Theft	39	38	37
Drug Crimes	120	165	181

drug abuse when compared to the nation’s average

(http://archive.samhsa.gov/data/2k11/WEB_SR_005/WEB_SR_005.htm).

Substance abuse needs to be addressed at a cultural level with our families in Kodiak.

“Research with Native Americans has identified connectedness as a culturally-based protective factor against substance abuse and suicide.”

(<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3193160/> -Assessment of Awareness of Connectedness as a Culturally-based Protective Factor for Alaska Native Youth) There are not

currently any evidence based programs available on Kodiak that are directly connected with our Tribes or are culturally sensitive. Our Tribes have been successful with our after school and summer camp programs that provide a foundation for cultural connectedness for our youth. These programs have also helped to build our Tribes capacity for working with youth and administering programs, however, we believe that by being able to leverage the experience from an evidence based substance abuse program in conjunction with our experience working with our youth will strengthen their ability to combat societal temptations and resist self-destructive behaviors.

Juvenile Justice/ Alternatives to Incarceration/Tribal Courts

Case management for juvenile offenders is done through our local Juvenile Justice office which has two officers. Juvenile Justice works with both the Kodiak Teen Court and The Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak on diversion, Kodiak currently has no culturally appropriate alternatives for incarceration for youth. We have one Tribal Court with the Sun'aq Tribe that only recently started hearing juvenile cases. Sun'aq currently works only with their own tribal members. They are in the process of securing resolutions with the other tribes on the island so that they may offer this service to members of other tribes. They offer diversion on a case by case basis. Some forms of diversion are Teen Court, restitution and community service. The closest juvenile incarceration facilities are located in Palmer and Anchorage, both of which are on the mainland of Alaska, one hour of flying time from Kodiak Island. Kodiak has no reentry program, residential housing or emergency housing for youth in Kodiak. More specifically there is no formal action plans for our AI/AN youth within our justice system.

Suicide Rates

Alaska has dropped from number one to number four in the highest suicide rates in the nation according to the American Association of Suicidology report released in June of 2014. We believe this is due to targeted programs geared towards building the self-esteem in our youth and providing them more outlets and opportunities. Although this drop in rates is a major accomplishment that shows that prevention programs are working in Alaska, we realize that the problem still remains. According to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium even with the actual decrease in State ranking on suicide rates, there have been an increase in attempts of suicide (<http://www.ktuu.com/news/news/alaskas-suicide-rate-no-longer-nations-highest/26893506>). We agree with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium as our Tribe has recently felt the influence of an increase in suicide attempts and self-harm within our local youth, some as young as 11 years old.

Graduation and Attendance

According to the Kodiak Island Borough School District, the AI/AN Kodiak High School students have had the lowest attendance rates of all ethnicities represented for the past three years. Although their attendance rates were low, their graduation rates have increased annually since 2011-2012 at 72% to 2013-2014 at 84.85%.

During the 2013-2014 school year, the AI/AN graduation rate was 66% for all students on Kodiak Island which includes the rural villages. This represents a steady decrease over the past three years. The only other student subgroup that is comparable to these statistics are the Students with Disabilities at 60%.

(http://www.kibsd.org/pages/Kodiak_Island_Borough_SD/District_Information/Report_Cards_to_the_Public).

Lack of Prevention Programs and Activities

Kodiak has a limited amount of culturally relevant activities for our AI/AN students. These include: an Alutiiq Dance program that meets once per week; twice weekly middle school group aptly named the Alutiiq Club; an after school program for youth ages 7-10 that meets for 8-weeks twice per year and a summer camp program. These have all proven to be great opportunities to interact with our youth and teach them the Alutiiq culture. However, even with these specific programs we aren't meeting the need for substance abuse prevention or a reduction in self-harm. Together with the high amounts of drugs coming in to Kodiak and our vulnerable population statistics we feel that an evidence based prevention program designed for our indigenous population is what can be more effective.

Limited Leadership Cultivation

We realize that our youth are the future of our tribes and the longevity of our people. It is with this knowledge that we feel the need to cultivate our youth into becoming strong, Alutiiq leaders. Kodiak has a limited amount of culturally relevant leadership activities for our AI/AN students. It is evident that the lack of these activities has led to our students being more likely to abuse drugs and/or alcohol, which leads to higher crime rates, and as a result are more of a drain on our community's limited resources.

Describe current and future plans to comprehensively address the tribe's public safety, criminal and juvenile justice, or victimization issues:

NVA has been working diligently on creating programs and being involved in programs that address the Tribe's public safety, criminal and juvenile justice and victimization issues. We believe that by providing our youth cultural and leadership activities staffed by healthy, responsible adults that also include an educational component we can reduce the significant issues that face our community. NVA has been successfully operating our Dig Afognak summer youth camp program since 1998, since then we have seen approximately 1300 youth come through our program. Many of them come back to work as interns or go to work for other Native organizations within our community as they go beyond our camp participant age. In addition to Dig Afognak, NVA operates an after school program, a kindergarten preparation class and tutoring services by experienced education professionals.

A part our mission includes **encouraging unity**, we have been very successful in creating and maintaining relationships within the community. Our Tribe is known for its community involvement and taking the lead on problems that affect the entire community. The following is a brief synopsis of the programs and services we have been involved with in the community.

Cultural- We attend the *Qik'rtarmiut Regional Alutiiq Language Advisory Committee* meetings. Our involvement includes planning and supporting future Alutiiq Language programs. NVA is a part of the planning committee for the *Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers* which includes fundraising activities and scheduling activities/events. These activities integrate our culture, language and traditions while creating safe, substance-free activities for our youth.

Advocacy- We are working with our local legislators on adding Tribes to be eligible for the Pick-Click-Give campaign. We assisted in the creation of a bill that will be introduced this legislative session. This is just a recent example, over the years we've worked consistently with

other organizations in repairing the State of Alaska's relationship with tribal governments and on subsistence and environmental issues that face our people.

Drug Trafficking- Our Tribe has spearheaded a movement to request more drug enforcement and security at smaller local airlines to reduce the amount of illegal drugs coming into Kodiak and into our villages throughout Alaska. We plan to work on a resolution that will be introduced to the entire Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) membership in October of 2015. NVA has also been the primary coordinator for a series of community forums over the past 6 years with the purpose of educating our community on various drug related topics, including meth awareness; drug paraphernalia recognition; underage drinking; and prescription drug use, just to name a few.

Education and Prevention- Our Tribe understands the importance of our children's education. We attend and are involved with the Native Education Committee for Kodiak Island Borough School District. We are also directly involved with the Alutiiq Club (Native Youth Group), the Alutiiq Dancers, and Healthy Tomorrows (plans healthy activities for the community through Providence Island Hospital). Our staff attends the Suicide Prevention Coalition meetings and has had training in "Safe Talk." This training gives tools to those working on suicide prevention and intervention.

Elders- Weekly we have an Elders Alutiiq Language Luncheon. This gives our staff a chance to learn Alutiiq with our Elders and share a meal. For a number of years our staff has been helping the Kodiak Elder's Council coordinate healthy activities for our senior population, this includes fundraising for their events.

Other highlights to community involvement:

- In promotion of Suicide Prevention Week our staff, Elders and the children of our staff recorded a PSA telling the youth of Kodiak that we loved them in Alutiiq (qunukamken) and information about how to contact the suicide prevention hotline.
- The Kodiak Police Department approached us to assist in fundraising for a “Drunk Busters” program here in Kodiak. We successfully raised the necessary amount of money to purchase two Drunk Busters carts, curriculum and accessories. The Kodiak Police Department did a demonstration at our last community drug forum and intend on using the materials regularly throughout our schools.
- Our staff used three of our weekly Elders Alutiiq Luncheon time to sew fleece hats for the children at the Kodiak Women’s Resources Center. Over thirty hats were delivered before Christmas.