

Tribal Narrative Profile (25%)

You may enter as much text or as little as you need to fully describe your community as long as the total number of pages for the entire Tribal Narrative Profile does not exceed 15 pages. Remember that the individuals reviewing the application may not be familiar with the community, so descriptions should be as clear and detailed as possible. Be sure that every question is answered. If there are questions that you are unable to answer, provide an explanation as to why the information is unavailable.

1. Describe the general form of your Tribal Government.

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma (AST) is a federally recognized Tribe of Indians and their headquarters are located adjacent to the City of Shawnee in central Oklahoma. The Tribal Constitution provides for a General Council made up of all Tribal members and meet every April and October of each year. The 5 member Executive Committee, made up of a Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary, Treasurer and a Tribal Representative answers to the General Council. The Executive Committee is elected officials with staggered terms. The Governor and Secretary's two year terms end at the same time and the Lt. Governor, Treasurer, and Tribal Representative's two year terms end at the same time. Of the 39 recognized Tribes in Oklahoma, the Osage Nation has the only Reservation in Oklahoma. The Absentee Shawnee Tribe has a checkerboard jurisdictional area that includes parts of, Pottawatomie, Cleveland, Oklahoma, and Lincoln counties. The Tribal membership is structured into three (3) separate Tribal Communities scattered over more than 400 square miles. These communities are affiliated with two (2) different Bands of AST memberships; the White Turkey Band, located near the Horseshoe Bend Community in northern Pottawatomie County and the Big Jim Band located near the Little Axe Community in central Cleveland County. There is also a core of Tribal members who live in or near the City of Shawnee, Pottawatomie County. The Tribal Headquarters in Shawnee is located 10

miles from Horseshoe Bend (in one direction) and 20 miles from Little Axe (in the opposite direction). Their jurisdiction covers more than 400 square miles and has a population of 4,105 members as of December 12, 2014.

The Legislative and Executive authorities of the Tribe are vested in this five (5) member body of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is empowered by the Constitution to conduct business for the Tribe and to implement the goals of the General Council. The Executive Committee meets in Executive, Special and General Sessions. The Executive meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month.

The Tribal Government is structured with a separate judicial branch. Judicial authority is vested in the Absentee Shawnee Supreme Court and a Tribal District Court. The Executive Committee appoints the Judges. The AST is a Self-Governance Tribe and is considered a mature Federal contractor. The Tribe has a demonstrated history of successful grants management. The Tribe has an integrated network and communication system with email service and internet access available to all Tribal Programs. All departments have computers. The Tribe provides key staff with cell phones. Financial accountability for all grants, contracts, and enterprises is provided through the Tribal Accounting Department. The AST has an established management system that complies with 25 CFR 900, Subpart F and OMB Super Circular 25 CFR 200. Financial activity related to grants and contracts utilize computer software and special revenue funds. The Tribe does not have any material weaknesses within its' Single Audit.

2. Briefly describe the tribal justice system, including prevention or intervention initiatives for members at risk of involvement or already involved in the justice system (youth or adult); law enforcement, including any cross-jurisdictional agreements; courts; alternative dispute resolution; corrections, including juvenile detention facilities; services for victims and survivors of crime (e.g., violent crime, drug-related crime, child abuse, elder abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking); tribal reentry programs; and sex offender registry obligations. If services are not available within the tribe, please describe how they are accessed or provided.

a) Prevention/Intervention initiatives for members at-risk of involvement or already involved in the justice system (youth/adult) - Coordinated prevention and/or intervention initiatives and programs for youth and adults at-risk of further involvement in the judicial system have been implemented in five departments: The Police (COPS); Family Services (TYP); Domestic Violence Services (OVW); the Comprehensive Justice Systems (BJA), and the Indian Child Welfare (OVC). All of these grant programs have been administered through a coordinated approach which required the five department directors to work together and with the court, to fully serve the needs of the Client.

b) Law Enforcement – (including any cross-jurisdictional agreements)The Absentee Shawnee Tribal Police Department (ASTPD) is located at the Tribal Headquarters in Shawnee, OK. The department consists of a Chief, Assistant Chief, Divisional Captains, Sergeants, Investigator, SORNA, six (6) Patrolman and six (6) Volunteer officers. There are four cross-jurisdictional agreements; Pottawatomie & Lincoln County Sheriff’s offices, Cities of Shawnee and Tecumseh and the Oklahoma Parks and Recreation Department. Negotiations are in process with the City of Norman for a cross jurisdictional agreement. The ASTPD has acquired a Patrol Boat from government surplus to be used on Lake Thunderbird. AST Trust Land is adjacent to and under the Lake and the boat will be used for Search and Rescue. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has recently financed a Police

Substation for the ASTPD approximately two blocks from the Lake. Furthermore, ASTPD Officers now are able to obtain a Federal special Law Enforcement Commission from the BIA. This Commission has many requirements to be met, but it provides for Tribal Officers to become Federal Police Officers.

c) Court System – The Absentee Shawnee Tribal Court has been in operation since 1982. The Tribal Court has “full faith and credit” status with all Federal and State Courts in the United States per Federal Law. The AST Court system includes a District and Supreme Courts. The District Court is in session weekly where it hears all docketed matters as well as all cases not previously docketed. The Supreme Court is in session upon the filing of any appeal. The AST Court hears civil, criminal, child welfare, probate, and appellate cases for any Tribal member. Non-tribal persons must sign a “Submission to Jurisdiction” form in order to participate in the AST Court System. The AST Court was funded CTAS Purpose Area #3 for FY12 to improve the technological capacity; provide security for court personnel and persons in the courtroom; and, create a Strategic Planning Advisory Board that will address community and victims concerns.

d) Alternative Dispute Resolution – The AST Court System (in some situations) uses mediation or arbitration as a method of dispute resolution. These require legally binding documents to be signed by all parties. Within the Court System, certain cases may be heard by only the Judge, by a Jury, or by three Elders, who render a decision.

e) Corrections Department – (including Juvenile detention facilities) The AST does not own or operate a corrections facility. The AST Court will refer the case to Federal Court in

cases that may require longer term imprisonment than the Pottawatomie County Safety Center can provide, at the rate of \$35 per day. For Juvenile Detention, the Sac & Fox Nation owns and operates a juvenile detention Facility approximately 40 miles away and charges \$100.00 per day for this service.

f) Services for victims and survivors of crime – (violent crime, drug-related crime, child abuse, elder abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking)

Victim Advocacy: Assist victims by offering educational classes that focus on the dynamics of domestic violence and sexual assault, dating violence and stalking. Each victim is helped with emotional support and resources both from tribal programs and local community programs.

Court Advocacy: Assist survivors with domestic violence court-related appearances as well as filing for emergency protective orders (EPO) or restraining orders.

Housing and Utility Assistance: Assist victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking in emergency situations. This assistance may allow for a victim to either receive housing or utility assistance.

Transitional Housing: The AST Domestic Violence Transitional Housing Program serves Victims of Domestic Violence. Participants have up to two years to obtain education and job skills needed to begin a new life. Services include case management, counseling, and transportation. There are four homes all equipped with furniture and basic household items.

Sexual Assault Advocacy: The AST Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Program is on-call 24 hours per day to provide emotional support, advocacy and crisis counseling to sexual assault survivors at hospitals, police stations and throughout the legal system. The program also serves as a resource center to the community by offering educational information and referrals.

Indian Child Welfare: The AST Indian Child Welfare and the Court provides for child abuse, issues; including prosecution of the offender and have foster homes, medical care and a Child Psychiatrist on staff for the children.

AST Court System: Drug-related crime is currently being assisted through a BJA grant that provides funding for Drug and Alcohol Assessments, DUI Assessments and Level of Service Inventories to assist the Judge in the decision-making process.

Shelter Placement Assistance: The AST's Domestic Violence Program works with other shelters within Oklahoma in order to help victims obtain safe housing. Emergency transportation for the victim and children may also be available.

Referral Assistance: Assists with providing community resources to those who are in need of additional services outside the scope of the AST's programs; such as elder abuse. The Oklahoma Department of Human Services, Adult Protective Services is contacted immediately regarding suspensions of physical, emotional and/or financial abuse of an elder.

Community Outreach: The AST's Domestic Violence Program offers educational trainings, informational displays, and community events in order to provide more awareness to both

Tribal and non-Tribal communities. Indian Child Welfare works with the community in recruiting Native Foster Homes for Native Children. Law Enforcement, when time allows, makes presentations at Community Events.

- g) Tribal Reentry Programs** – The AST has no funding to develop and operate a reentry program. However, a Bureau of Justice Assistance FY-13 Smart Probation grant application was not funded. The AST works directly with the Reentry Program of the Citizen Potawatomi Nations’ Program. Referrals are made to their program.
- h) Sex Offender Registry** – The AST Police Department was funded a planning grant in Fiscal year 2010. Through these funds, the Tribe developed a Tribal Sex Offender Registration Code and the AST Police Department maintains and operated it pursuant to the provision of the code. The funding allow for training for four officers and the purchase of equipment; LSCAN 500P Palm Scanner and others to manage the program with state-of-the-art computer software. Currently there are six sex offenders and one Police Officer is assigned to the program. A SORNA continuation grant (FY13) was funded for another 24 months. The additional funding has allowed the Tribe to set up a Five Member Response Team, made up of other Police and Sheriff’s Departments. Again, in (FY14) another 24 months has been funded to allow the AST Police to set up Kiosk through-out the Tribal Community, that includes the County Sheriff’s Office so the Tribal members and other Law Enforcement agencies have easy access to checking on Offenders and others moving into their neighborhoods.

3. Describe the significant tribal justice, community safety, juvenile delinquency, and victimization issues (e.g., child abuse, elder abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking, dating violence, and stalking) facing the tribal nation and explain why these issues are the most pressing. *Ensure that the problems described are connected to the purpose area(s) for which the tribe is applying. For example, if the tribe is applying for Purpose Area #1 (COPS Tribal Resources Grant Program-Hiring and Tribal Resources Grant Program-Equipment/Training), the tribe should discuss law enforcement related issues. If the tribe is applying for multiple purpose areas, all of the relevant issues should be identified in this portion of the profile.*

The Tribal Justice issues that are listed below have been a concern for many years. The Tribe has **not** been able to resolve these problems because there has **always** been a severe lack of funds in Indian Country. In Oklahoma there are political and jurisdictional issues to resolve, as well.

The most pressing Tribal Justice issues are:

- The AST Police has had inadequate salaries, equipment and training;
- The lack of a data-informed planning process for Strategic Planning.
- There is very little Domestic Violence acknowledgement in the Tribal Community.
- The Lack of culturally appropriate assistance to Native Children who are victims of crime.
- Juveniles' are dropping out of school and are involved in substance use.

a) Explain why these issues are the most pressing.

The lack of data retrieval and the importance of its use has been a draw-back to the Tribal Justice System as a whole. By integrating a data-informed Strategic Planning process, it will allow the Tribal Justice leadership to make better decisions and address the more important problems of the Tribal Community.

Law Enforcement is underfunded an average of 20% compared to other Tribal Officers in Oklahoma and it is difficult retaining a well-trained department. Not all of the equipment the Officers are using has been updated.

The Tribal Community has very little acknowledgement that Domestic Violence issues are a violent act and should be prosecuted in a court of law. In Native Culture, these are family issues and are to be left to the family to resolve. Native women are abused and will not speak out for help.

Indian Child Welfare depends on the State of Oklahoma to provide desperately needed services to the Native Children of Crime. Indian Child Welfare has many concerns the services that are delivered are not culturally appropriate for the Native Children. The Native Child is usually placed in a culturally inappropriate Foster Care Home.

The school drop-out rate for Native Children in the State of Oklahoma in FY11 was 52%. The teenage pregnancy rates for Pottawatomie County were 31.1% and Cleveland County was 12.9% according to statics from the State of Oklahoma, 2011. The Tribal Youth are experiencing bullying in the schools and increased domestic violence in their homes. There are more and more substance abuse occurring in younger children and complaints from parents and the schools about defiance and disciplinary problems.

4. Describe current and future plans to comprehensively address the tribe's public safety, criminal and juvenile justice, or victimization issues (e.g., violent crime, drug-related crime, child abuse, elder abuse, and domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking).

a) AST Public Safety

i) Current Plans for Public Safety – The Tribal Court was funded a BJA FY-12 grant that has allowed the Tribal Justice System to secure the building and scan the records (1982) into a software that allows for instant access to new case and old case records. The new computers and software designed for their use, have given the Attorney General, Court Clerk and Police Department to work cases via a closed internet system.

The Police Department has been funded COPS grants so they have been able to replace old vehicles and some equipment. They have also set up a Sex Offender Program through funds received through the Adam Walsh grants.

There has been some training of Program Directors over the past two years in Strategic Planning and failed efforts to receive funding for a Tribal Five Year Plan to be developed.

The Domestic Violence Program has received grant funding over time and has a mature program well developed that includes, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking and a Referral component. Referrals are made to the Tribal Youth Program, Behavioral Health for Mental Health and Substance Abuse issues, and so on.

Indian Child Welfare currently has Foster Care Homes, the “Promoting Safe and Stable Families” program. They are forced to make Referrals on the Children who are Victims of Crime due to lack of funding.

Currently the Tribal Youth Program is funded through a very small Tribal Budget which limits interaction with the Youth. Through an Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) through the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), an ACA Campground is under construction. The Tribe has committed 200 Acres of land toward the effort, which is a \$1,000,000.00 first phase project. There is three phases.

ii) Future Plans for Public Safety - The Tribal Court System, through the use of the newly installed software system will have the capacity to collect data for the Tribal Leadership so they will make data-informed plans for the future of the Tribal Justice System.

The Tribal Police Department will have a Mobile Command Center that will move the Police Department into the future by having the latest equipment and technology to serve the rural community in times of Crime and Natural Disasters. It will allow them to have teaching tools to go to the new ACA Campground and work with the Youth and their families to spread their work in Community Policing.

The Comprehensive Tribal Justice Systems Strategic Planning will fund a Five Year Plan for the future needs of the Justice System. The Tribe will move forward and be prepared to meet the needs of the Tribe in a holistic approach.

A Reentry Program is a part of the future plans. A grant application was made in 2012 to the BJA Smart Probation and was not funded. However, in the coming year it will be addressed again.

The Domestic Violence Program is working to develop a Five Year Strategic Plan to aggressively pursue ways to address the complacency of the Tribal members to recognize Domestic Violence as a violent crime. The future will see the Native Woman speak out for help when she and other family members are being abused.

The future of Indian Child Welfare will have a Children of Violent Crime program embedded into their department that will be culturally appropriate and the Child will be in a Native Family Foster Care Home. The Child will receive all the loving care and encouragement it so rightly deserves.

The Tribal Youth Program will have a home at the ACA Campground and will be able to grow and flourish in an environment of support and with positive role models. The program will be structured and give the Youth alternatives to Substance Use and Destructive behaviors.

iii) Criminal/Juvenile Justice – The future plan is to create a Reentry Program that will address the needs of the Probation and Parolee Population of the Native Americans who live in our jurisdictional area. There will be funds available to provide transportation, life skills training, and G.E.D. classes if needed. Efforts will be made to help them access Medical, Dental, and Eye Glasses and Mental Health treatment.

iv) Victimization Issues – The victims of crime and other issues will receive culturally appropriate services immediately and at the same time, see justice prevail. The Perpetrators will receive swift prosecution.

5. Discuss any additional information about your tribe that would be important in the understanding and evaluating your application.

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma and the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Services entered an agreement four years ago for the Tribe to build a 79,000 square foot Medical Clinic to provide medical services to a large Service Area. The Medical Clinic is in full operation in the Little Axe Community and the older small Medical Clinic in the Shawnee area is still in operation and oversight is provided by the Tribe.

The Tribe is operating two accredited Day Care Facilities that are funded through the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.

The Tribe operates two Casinos providing full facilities in the Little Axe and Shawnee Communities.