



Office on Violence Against Women – Funding for Tribal Communities

The fiscal year (FY) 2023 President’s Budget for the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) totals \$1 billion, which is \$486.5 million more than the FY 2021 Enacted Budget and equal to the FY 2022 President’s Budget request. Included in this amount is \$99.2 million in funding that supports programs and initiatives in Indian country and Alaska Native villages. That is a \$41.1 million increase from the FY 2021 Enacted Budget and a \$4.9 million decrease from the FY 2022 President’s Budget.

Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program (Tribal Governments Program) – \$68,250,000 funded by set-asides: The Tribal Governments Program is designed to enhance the ability of tribes to respond to violent crimes against American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) women including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and sex trafficking; enhance survivor safety; and develop education and prevention strategies. The Tribal Governments Program awards funds to tribal governments and their designees to develop a comprehensive, multi-faceted response to violence against AI/AN women. The Tribal Governments Program is funded by set-asides from eight other OVW grant programs: STOP Formula; Improving Criminal Justice Responses; Rural; Legal Assistance for Victims; Engaging Men and Youth; Justice for Families, Children and Youth; and Transitional Housing.

Funds may be used for a broad spectrum of activities: developing and enhancing tribal governments’ response to violence against AI/AN women; strengthening tribal criminal justice systems; improving services for AI/AN women who are survivors of violence; creating community education and prevention campaigns; addressing the needs of children who witness domestic violence; providing supervised visitation and safe exchange programs; providing transitional housing assistance; providing legal advice and representation to survivors of violence; developing and promoting legislation, policies, and best practices; and addressing teen dating violence. Funds can also be used to develop, strengthen, and implement policies, protocols, and training for law enforcement regarding cases of missing or murdered Indians and to compile and annually report data to the Attorney General related to missing or murdered Indians.

Tribal Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalitions Grant Program (Tribal Coalitions Program) – \$10,971,429 funded by set-asides: The Tribal Coalitions Program, first authorized by the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) in 2000 and amended by subsequent legislation, builds the capacity of survivors, advocates, AI/AN women’s organizations, and victim service providers to form nonprofit, nongovernmental tribal domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions to end violence against AI/AN women. Tribal Coalitions Program grants are used to increase awareness of domestic violence and sexual assault committed against AI/AN women; enhance the response to violence against AI/AN women at the tribal, federal, and state levels; assist Indian tribes in developing and promoting legislation, policies, and best practices; and identify and provide technical assistance to coalition membership and tribal communities to enhance access to essential services. The program is funded by statutory set-asides from the STOP Formula, Improving Criminal Justice Responses, and



Sexual Assault Services Programs. VAWA 2013 changed the program from discretionary funding to a combination of discretionary and formula funding.

Tribal Sexual Assault Services Program (TSASP) – \$10 million funded by set-asides: TSASP provides funding to tribes, tribal organizations, and nonprofit tribal organizations to create, maintain, and expand sustainable sexual assault services programs and activities within Indian country and Alaska Native villages.

Analysis and Research on Violence Against Indian Women – \$1 million: VAWA 2005, as amended by VAWA 2013, calls for the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) to conduct research on violence against AI/AN women living in Indian country and in Alaska Native villages. In conducting its analyses and research, the statute directs NIJ to focus on dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking, stalking, and murder, and to evaluate the effectiveness of responses to those violations.

National Tribal Clearinghouse on Sexual Assault (NTCSA) – \$500,000: OVW has funded the establishment of a national clearinghouse on the sexual assault of AI/AN women. NTCSA funding may be used to establish, sustain, and/or expand a repository that provides resources, training opportunities, educational materials, and training and technical assistance on issues related to sexual assault of AI/AN women. NTCSA is also designed to improve victim services for AI/AN survivors of sexual assault, as well as increase offender accountability for such crimes. OVW currently funds the International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN) to oversee the NTCSA.

Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction (Tribal Jurisdiction Program) – \$5.5 million: The Tribal Jurisdiction Program, as reauthorized by Congress under VAWA 2022, provides grants to tribal governments to support tribal efforts to exercise special tribal criminal jurisdiction (STCJ) over non-Indian offenders who commit violence against AI/AN spouses, intimate partners, or dating partners; who violate certain protection orders; or who commit child violence, sexual violence, sex trafficking, stalking, obstruction of justice, or assault of tribal justice personnel in Indian country. Tribes can use Tribal Jurisdiction Program funding to exercise their sovereign power to investigate, prosecute, convict, and sentence Indians and non-Indians who commit these crimes.

Tribal Special Assistant United States Attorneys (TSAUSA) Program – \$3 million: VAWA 2022 established the TSAUSA Program as a new, permanent program. Tribal Special Assistant U.S. Attorneys facilitate communication and collaboration between tribal and federal law enforcement and prosecution offices, in addition to bringing cases, thereby improving prosecution of domestic violence and sexual assault offenders as well as improving outcomes for survivors. OVW's Violence Against Women Tribal SAUSA initiative was originally developed in response to a 2009 listening session with tribal nations and has proven to be a popular strategy for improving public safety in Indian country. Beginning in FY 2012, OVW has made anywhere from two to five awards in alternating fiscal years to federally recognized tribes to work with their local United States Attorneys' Offices (USAOs) to hire or retain a mutually agreed upon tribal prosecutor to be cross-deputized as a TSAUSA. These cross-designated prosecutors maintain active VAWA crimes caseloads in tribal court, federal court, or both, while also helping to promote higher quality investigations and better inter-governmental



communication. Reported benefits have included successful prosecution of cold cases, stronger relationships between tribes and USAOs, and survivors coming forward with confidence that their cases will be taken seriously.

Funding for Tribal Communities <i>(\$ in thousands)</i>		
Office on Violence Against Women Grant Program	FY 2022 President's Budget	FY 2023 President's Budget
Tribal Governments Program	\$71,950	\$68,250
Tribal Coalitions Program	\$12,143	\$10,971
Tribal Sexual Assault Service Program	\$10,000	\$10,000
Analysis and Research on Violence Against Indian Women	\$1,000	\$1,000
National Tribal Clearinghouse on Sexual Assault	\$500	\$500
Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction Program	\$5,500	\$5,500
Tribal Special Assistant United States Attorneys Program	\$3,000	\$3,000
TOTAL	\$104,093	\$99,221