



Office on Violence Against Women – Indian Country Funding

The FY 2022 President’s Budget for the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) totals \$1 billion, which is \$486.5 million more than FY 2021 Enacted Budget. Included in this amount is \$104.0 million in funding that supports programs and initiatives in Indian country. That is a \$46.0 million increase from the FY 2021 Enacted Budget.

Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program (Tribal Governments Program) – \$71,950,000 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 domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and sex trafficking; enhance victim safety, and develop education and prevention strategies. Congress authorized the program in Title IX of VAWA 2005 to replace OVW’s STOP Violence Against Indian Women Program. 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. 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 victims 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. The Tribal Governments Program is funded by set-asides from seven other OVW grant programs: STOP Formula, Improving Criminal Justice Response Program, Rural, Legal Assistance for Victims, Justice for Families, Consolidated Youth, and Transitional Housing.

Tribal Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalitions Grant Program (Tribal Coalitions Program) – \$12,142,857 funded by set-asides: The Tribal Coalitions Program, first authorized by VAWA 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 Program, Improving Criminal Justice Response Program and Sexual Assault Services Program. VAWA 2013 changed the program from discretionary to a combination of discretionary and formula funding.



Tribal Sexual Assault Services Program (TSASP) – \$10,000,000 funded by set-aside:

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 – \$1,000,000: 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.

In FY 2020, NIJ will support other extramural and intramural research and evaluation studies that will examine violence and victimization experienced by AI/AN women and expand the body of criminal justice policy-relevant research. Results from all of these studies are expected to help support the criminal justice system in reducing crime and addressing the needs of victims.

Indian Country Sexual Assault Clearinghouse – \$500,000: OVW has funded the establishment of a national clearinghouse on the sexual assault of AI/AN women. OVW entered into a cooperative agreement with the Southwest Center for Law and Policy to develop this clearinghouse. The National Indian Country Clearinghouse on Sexual Assault (NICCSA) website (www.niccsa.org) was launched in February 2014. The site is a valuable tool for professionals promoting safety, justice, and healing for AI/AN victims of sexual violence. NICCSA is designed as a one-stop shop for information on sexual violence against AI/AN women and teen girls and includes a toll-free hotline to provide personalized assistance in solving complex legal, forensic, and programmatic challenges for tribal callers. The website also hosts a directory of all certified Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) in the country (searchable by state).

The project offers technical assistance to individual tribes in assessing the feasibility of developing and implementing a SANE/SART response in their communities. A limited number of tribes receive on-site assistance with developing and implementing a systemic response to sexual assault.

Tribal Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction – \$5,500,000: The Tribal Jurisdiction Program, authorized by Congress in the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013, provides grants to tribal governments to support tribal efforts to exercise “special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction” (SDVCJ) over non-Indian offenders who commit violence against AI/AN spouses, intimate partners or dating partners, or who violate certain protection orders, in Indian country. Tribes can use funding to exercise their sovereign power to investigate, prosecute, convict, and sentence both Indians and non-Indians who assault AI/AN spouses or dating partners or violate protection orders in Indian country.



Tribal Special Assistant United States Attorneys - \$3,000,000: Tribal Special Assistant United States Attorney originally developed in response to a 2009 listening session with tribal nations, OVW's Violence Against Women Tribal SAUSA initiative has proven to be a popular strategy for improving public safety in Indian country. Beginning in FY 2012, and in alternating fiscal years since then, OVW has made anywhere from two to five awards 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 SAUSA. These cross-designated prosecutors maintain active violence against women 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 victims coming forward with confidence that their cases will be taken seriously. One SAUSA reported: "There is a longstanding and unspoken epidemic of domestic violence on [the reservation]. Women are coming forward and informing [us] that previously they stayed quiet, figuring no one would care, prosecute, or advocate for them...The Assistant DV Prosecutor and SAUSA position established the institutional integrity needed for victims to come forward, abusers to be held accountable, and survivors to get coordinated justice, care, and a chance at surviving the menacing rate of abuse that faces Native women [on this reservation]."

OVW has pieced together funding for these awards from carryforward balances and partnerships with other agencies, but this creates an annual uncertainty that has undermined the program's stability: grantees lose experienced prosecutors when it is unclear that grant funding will be extended.



Indian Country Funding <i>(\$ in thousands)</i>		
Office on Violence Against Women Grant Program	FY 2021 Enacted	FY 2022 President's Budget
Tribal Government Program	41,590	71,950
Tribal Coalitions Program	6,899	12,142
Tribal Sexual Assault Service Program	4,100	10,000
Research on Violence Against Indian Women	1,000	1,000
Indian Country - Sexual Assault Clearinghouse	500	500
Tribal Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction	4,000	5,500
Tribal Special Assistant United States Attorneys (TSAUSA)	0	3,000
TOTAL	58,089	104,092