CTAS Overview

The Department of Justice (DOJ) launched its Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS) in FY2010 in direct response to concerns raised by tribal leaders about the DOJ’s grant process that did not provide the flexibility tribes needed to address their criminal justice and public safety needs.

Through CTAS, federally recognized tribes and tribal consortia were able, for the first time ever, to submit a single application for most of DOJ’s tribal grant programs. DOJ designed this comprehensive approach to save time and resources and allow tribes and DOJ to gain a better understanding of the tribes’ overall public safety needs. The first coordinated tribal grant process was launched, through the collaborative efforts across many DOJ components, bureaus, and offices, including:

- Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)
- Executive Office for United States Attorney’s (EOUSA)
- Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)
- Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison (OIPL)
- Office of Justice Programs (OJP)
- Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)
- Office of Tribal Justice (OTJ)
- Office for Victims of Crime (OVC)
- Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)

IASAP Overview

In FY2001, the Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 106-553) appropriated resources for the Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program (IASAP). BJA initiated the program in FY2002 through a competitive application process distributed to all federally recognized Indian tribes. IASAP supports grantees to plan and implement system–wide strategies that address crime issues related to alcohol and substance abuse.

During the program’s first year, three funding categories provided tribes with opportunities to develop strategies that addressed law enforcement and treatment together, or either area separately. Based on feedback from the field, the program was modified in year two so that submissions could focus on comprehensive, system-wide strategies involving multi-disciplinary teams led by law enforcement to reduce and prevent crime associated with the distribution and abuse of alcohol or other controlled substances. Program goals and objectives remained similar, award amounts were increased, and the project period was extended to three years.

In subsequent years, goals and objectives remained the same; however, the funding periods and award amounts were adjusted based on the availability of funding each year.
As a result of CTAS implementation, the Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program was assigned to purpose area 3 – Justice Systems, and Alcohol and Substance Abuse.

In FY2013, BJA awarded 17 grants totaling more than $8.8 million to tribes in the states of Alaska (2), Arizona (2), Louisiana (1), Michigan (1), Montana (1), New Mexico (2), Oklahoma (2), Oregon (2), and Washington (4). The IASA Program supports tribal communities for the planning, implementation, and enhancement of multi-jurisdictional and multi-disciplinary strategies.

Since 2002, over 155 American Indian and Alaska Native communities received IASAP funding to support their alcohol and substance abuse programs. See page 4 for a listing and map of funded projects. For tribes applying for but not receiving awards the National Criminal Justice Training Center (NCJTC) will provide technical services, as approved by BJA, to those tribes applying for but not receiving awards.

**IASAP Training & Technical Assistance**

NCJTC of Fox Valley Technical College is the lead training and technical assistance (TTA) provider for IASAP. NCJTC provides regional training and workshops at national conferences. Technical assistance is also available to IASAP grantees and tribal non-grantees to provide assistance in planning, implementing, and enhancing tribal justice strategies to address crime issues related to alcohol and substance abuse.

Support can be provided through onsite assistance, onsite specialized training, peer-to-peer support, webinars, virtual meetings, and written resources. There is typically little or no cost to the community for TTA services provided through IASAP funding. Additional TTA information is available at [www.ncjtc.org/iasap](http://www.ncjtc.org/iasap).

Frequently requested technical assistance through IASAP includes:

**Onsite Assistance**
- Strategic planning
- Community development and assessment strategies
- Capacity and team building

**Onsite Training**
- Drug Identification to Support Tribal Justice
- Drug Trends
- Community Assessment Process for Planning Strategies

**Virtual Meetings/Conference Calls/Webinars**
- Project questions
- Peer-to-peer virtual collaboration
- Written resources
- Sample templates (community assessments, consent forms, tribal resolution, etc)
- Publications and fact sheets
In FY2000, the Indian Tribal Justice Technical and Legal Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. § 3681) authorized the Tribal Courts Assistance Program (TCAP).

The TCAP was first announced in FY 1999 through a competitive application process, in accordance with the Indian Tribal Justice Act (P.L. 103-176). TCAP was created to assist federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes with the development, implementation, and enhancement of tribal judicial systems that are culturally appropriate. The first year the program yielded 76 grants to small, medium, and large tribes to plan tribal court systems or to enhance existing court systems.

In FY 2000, the Indian Tribal Justice Technical and Legal Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. § 3681) reaffirmed the TCAP program and included provisions to support training and technical assistance to support such efforts as the development, enhancement and continuing operation of tribal justice systems, tribal courts, and tribal codes. One of the primary purposes of this training and technical assistance was to provide assistance with the development and enhancement of tribal justice systems and complement prior Congressional efforts such as the Indian Tribal Justice Act (25 U.S.C. § 3601). Beginning in FY 2001, TCAP received separate authorizing legislation pursuant to 25 U.S.C. § 3689(a). To date, TCAP continues to be one of DOJ's primary initiatives for providing court-related support to tribal justice systems.

In FY 2010, when DOJ created CTAS to combined existing tribal government-specific competitive solicitations into one, TCAP was assigned to purpose area 3 – Justice Systems and Alcohol and Substance Abuse.

In FY 2013, BJA awarded 9 grants to tribes in the states of Alaska (1), California (1), Kansas (1), Minnesota (2), Nebraska (1), New Mexico (1), Oklahoma (1), and Washington (1).

Since 1999 more than 400 American Indian and Alaska Native tribes received TCAP funding to support the development of their tribal courts. See page 4 for a listing and map of funded projects. The Tribal Judicial Institute (TJI) will provide technical assistance, as approved by BJA, to those tribes that applied for but did receive awards.

TCAP Training & Technical Assistance

TJI at the University of North Dakota School of Law is the lead TTA provider for TCAP. TJI provides a number of training opportunities and also offers technical assistance support to tribes pertinent to the planning, implementation and enhancement of tribal courts. More specifically TJI offers trainings and conferences both regionally and nationally covering a wide variety of topics including but not limited to:

- Tribal court planning and development
- Diversionary courts and programs
- Tribal court administration and clerk certification
- Code development
- Peacemaking and indigenous justice
- Juvenile delinquency
- Child welfare
- Indian Child Welfare Act
- Domestic violence and sexual assault
- Elder abuse
- Criminal and civil jurisdiction
- Code development research and assistance
- Legal research (law clerks)
- Regional or local trainings for tribal justice personnel (issue specific)
- Resource materials
- Court assessments
- Grant support

TJI provides TTA to tribes that are TCAP grantees and to non-TCAP grantee tribes. Support can be provided through onsite assistance, onsite specialized training, peer-to-peer support, webinars, virtual meetings, and written resources. There is typically little or no cost to the community for TTA services provided through TCAP funding. For additional information or to request TTA, contact (701) 777-6192 or visit [http://law.und.edu/tji/tcap.cfm](http://law.und.edu/tji/tcap.cfm) to download a Technical Assistance Request Form. Technical assistance services include but are not limited to:
The map below illustrates the tribes receiving FY2014 funding under the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation, Purpose Area 3.

This project was supported by Grant No. 2013-AC-BX-K001 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes 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 SMART Office. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.