



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

Bureau of Justice Assistance

Washington, D.C. 20531

May 10, 2024

Dear Tribal Leader,

We are honored to invite you to participate in the Bureau of Justice Assistance's (BJA) Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation, to be conducted in person on November 18, 2024, at the Hilton Santa Fe Buffalo Thunder, Santa Fe, NM. The BJA Consultation will take place the day immediately prior to the Office on Violence Against Women's 19th annual Violence Against Women Act Consultation. The Department of Justice will continue to implement measures to protect the safety and health of tribal leaders and others who attend this Tribal Consultation in person.

The Bureau of Justice Assistance strengthens the nation's criminal justice system and helps America's tribal, state, and local justice systems reduce and prevent crime, reduce recidivism, and promote a fair and safe criminal justice system. BJA oversees a range of funding programs for which federally recognized tribes are eligible, and BJA also oversees the Tribal Assistance appropriation specifically for tribal justice systems. The purpose of the BJA Consultation is to solicit recommendations from tribal leaders on the following four topics:

- 1) BJA's Tribal Assistance funding, including input on the current funding opportunities and any additional areas of focus that BJA should consider. Tribal Assistance grants, administered through the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS) and the Tribal Civil and Criminal Legal Assistance program, support efforts to help tribes improve the capacity of their criminal and civil justice systems. BJA is consulting to determine how funds can support a range of activities such as tribal justice facilities, such as multipurpose justice center and detention facilities, including outdated detention facilities that are unfit for detention purposes and beyond rehabilitation; courts; alcohol and substance use programs; civil and criminal legal assistance; and other priorities.
- 2) Feedback on ways that BJA can make its funding more accessible to federally recognized tribes, including funding other than Tribal Assistance.
- 3) Feedback on BJA adding a new Purpose Area to CTAS to support the development, implementation, and enhancement of treatment courts supported with non-tribal-specific appropriations. This would set aside a portion of those funding streams for awards made through the CTAS solicitation. Tribes would still be eligible to apply for BJA's non-tribal-specific programs.
- 4) Currently, federally recognized tribes and tribal consortia are the only eligible applicants for BJA's programs in CTAS, and BJA seeks feedback on whether there is interest in BJA allowing tribes to designate nonprofit organizations to apply for BJA's CTAS

Purpose Areas on behalf of tribes. (Designation would require a signed tribal resolution or similar legal document.)

BJA will email and post any consultation framing papers and briefing materials at: <https://bja.ojp.gov/program/bja-tribal-consultation/overview> Logistical information about the Tribal Consultation and registration will be available soon. We look forward to seeing and hearing from you in November 2024. If you have questions about the BJA Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation, please contact: Trish Thackston at m.patricia.thackston@usdoj.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karhlton Moore".

Karhlton Moore
Director
Bureau of Justice Assistance