

THE BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), a component of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs (OJP), disseminates state-of-the-art knowledge and practices across America's justice systems and provides grants at the national, state, local, and tribal level to fund the implementation of these crime-fighting strategies. BJA provides proven leadership and services in grant administration and criminal justice policy development to make our nation's communities safer.



Let BJA Assist YOU!

National Training and Technical Assistance Center

If you or your agency is facing a unique criminal justice need, BJA may be able to provide no-cost assistance. The services, offered through BJA's National Training and Technical Assistance Center (NTTAC), include assistance with implementing evidence-based programs, curriculum development, data analysis, onsite and distance learning training, peer-to-peer visits, research and information requests, strategic planning, and more. NTTAC coordinates the provision of BJA's rapid, expert, and data-driven TTA to support practitioners as they work to reduce crime, recidivism, and unnecessary confinement in state, local, and tribal communities.

To submit a request for TTA services, organizations should complete the [TTA request application](#) form found on the NTTAC web site at www.bjatrain.org.

For more information about BJA, visit www.BJA.gov.

To learn more about NTTAC or to submit a TTA request, visit www.bjatrain.org or call 1-855-BJA-TTAC.



BJA Strategies to Support Tribal Reentry

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) offers strategies that can support tribes and states interested in implementing effective post-reentry assessment, supervision, and services for tribal members serving in federal, state and local settings, as well as pre-reentry services in tribal and state prisons and jails. Most post-release sentences in tribal jails are short; thus, these strategies can be coordinated within existing tribal court and corrections services.¹ This will change with tribes who exercise enhanced sentencing authority under the Tribal Law and Order Act (TLOA) and the new special domestic violence jurisdiction pilot under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) reauthorization. BJA and its training and technical assistance (TTA) partners are leading efforts in this area to support tribes.

However, cases involving the highest risk offenders, including violent offenders, will be prosecuted by the United States Attorneys under the Major Crimes Act and in some cases, by state prosecutors. Thus, these tribal members will serve their prison time in federal or state facilities that are often not close to the reservation. They are also more likely to live in a transitional housing setting post-release in an urban setting and not on the reservation. Many of these tribal members are concentrated in the system-serving in a small number of federal facilities, composing significant proportions of federal probation and pretrial caseloads, and within tribes. Thus, coordination with federal, state, and tribal partners to support informationsharing; support for cultural programming, reentry, and safety planning; and capacity for services on the reservation are feasible and effective ways to ensure the successful reentry of high-risk tribal members to their reservations, while protecting the safety of the tribe.

Grants Coordination

BJA will examine its current grants under the Consolidated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS) and the Second Chance Act (SCA) reentry solicitations and share examples of collaborative efforts involving tribes that are enhancing tribal reentry strategies. Where examples exist, BJA will support informationsharing to enhance coordination with critical federal and state partners. Finally, BJA will also explore strategies to cross cut this information with the strategic plans developed with tribes by the United States Attorneys' Offices in Indian Country.

BJA currently has several TTA grants which can assist tribes interested in planning or implementing a tribal reentry program:

- CTAS: under CTAS, grantees can propose to implement or enhance reentry strategies and will be given intensive technical assistance during the grant period.
- SCA (Reentry): under SCA reentry funding, grantees will receive intensive technical assistance during the life of the grant, but given the limited number of tribal grantees and caps on TTA resources, TTA specifically targeted on tribal issues may be limited.

Reference

1. The estimated average time incarcerated in tribal jails is 5.4 days. This increases to 9.9 days for those held in facilities with 50 or more beds. *Jails in Indian Country*, Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) June 2013, NCJ 242187.

ONEIDA TRIBE OF INDIANS OF WISCONSIN

With Second Chance Act funding, the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin is participating in the Wisconsin Tribal Community Reintegration Program, which works with offenders from all correctional institutions within the State of Wisconsin. The program focuses on correcting general causes of recidivism while emphasizing social and cultural responsibility both with the individual and the community. The program also provides support and services on issues specific to American Indians –such as reconciliation with generational/historical trauma, community reconciliation, reintegration through the use of ceremonies, access to tribal services—and encourages each community to address other issues facing reintegrating American Indians.



- **Tribal Probation:** BJA sponsors an intensive tribal probation academy to build core skills for tribal probation officers. Training is also available for tribal probation supervisors and for tribes considering enhancing tribal probation capacity that focuses on building collaborative partnerships with federal, state, and local counterparts on sharing information about high-risk tribal members and developing joint supervision agreements.
- **Intergovernmental Collaboration:** BJA has a range of TTA partners who support training, joint forums, and technical assistance in supporting intergovernmental collaborations between tribes and federal, state, and local criminal justice agencies and programs.
- **Enhanced Sentencing Authority:** BJA sponsors TTA for tribes seeking to implement the TLOA enhanced sentencing authority. This TTA includes webinars, publications, and offsite TA on topics, such as implications for corrections including incarceration and supervision.
- **Special Domestic Violence Juris:** BJA sponsors TTA for the three tribes approved for a pilot of the new special domestic violence jurisdiction in the VAWA reauthorization. This is being implemented jointly with Office of Violence Against Women.
- **National Training and Technical Assistance Center (NTTAC):** BJA is also interested in considering other TTA requests from the field including strategies to enhance reentry through BJA's NTTAC.

Support for Planning

CTAS Strategic Planning (Purpose Area 2): provides funding to tribes, working intensively with DOJ's TTA partner, to engage in comprehensive justice systemwide strategic planning to improve tribal justice and community wellness and safety, including activities outlined in TLOA such as strategic planning and the development of a Tribal Action Plan (TAP). After a required assessment and planning process, some tribes may identify issues and strategies related to reentry. BJA would then refer the grantees to other potential resources for coordination and implementation.

Grants to Support Reentry

CTAS Tribal Justice Systems (Purpose Area 3): provides funding to tribes to develop, enhance, and continue a range of tribal justice system's needs. This could include some reentry strategies, such as risk and needs assessment development and implementation, intervention and/or treatment, detention programming, community corrections, reentry planning, and justice system informationsharing. Specific activities include developing, implementing, and enhancing culturally appropriate reentry programs, including the provision of treatment, aftercare, and other reentry supportive services to offenders reentering communities from tribal, local, state, and federal correctional facilities.

CTAS Tribal Justice Infrastructure/Buildings (Purpose Area 4): provides funding to tribes to renovate buildings to enhance conditions or to change the use of a building to a range of tribal justice purposes, including some related to reentry: single jurisdiction or regional tribal correctional facilities, multipurpose justice centers (including police

MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION

The Muscogee Creek Nation received Second Chance Act funding in 2011 to implement the Reintegration Program which is designed to assist Creek citizens with making the transition from prison back into society. The purpose of this project is to forge a comprehensive and integrated local recovery-oriented substance abuse system of care to expand and enhance the provision of substance abuse services to American Indian adults who reside within the targeted area of Oklahoma served by the tribe. In 2013, the tribe received Tribal Justice System Infrastructure Program funding to build a Regional Transitional Living Facility for male and female offenders who have been released. The regional facility will serve two tribes, the Muscogee Creek Nation and the Kialegee Tribal Town. This Regional Transitional Living Facility would allow clients to engage in a positive, structured atmosphere where they can earn a quality education, gain skills to seek out and retain employment, and develop life sustaining needs.



Grants to Support Reentry (Cont.)

departments, courts, and corrections), and transitional living facilities (halfway houses) associated with the incarceration and rehabilitation of juvenile and/or adult offenders.

Second Chance Act (SCA): provides funding to state, tribal, and local governments to plan and implement programming to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes for incarcerated offenders. There are several programs funded under SCA, including programs for offenders with co-occurring substance abuse and mental health disorders, for family-based treatment, for comprehensive programs, and to build offenders, with technology skills. Currently the following solicitations are open and each has a separate category for tribes, so these applications will be reviewed only against other tribal applications:

- **SCA Reentry Program for Adult Offenders with Co-Occurring Substance Abuse and Mental Health Disorders:** provides resources to state, local, and tribal governments to establish or enhance the provision of co-occurring treatment to adults reentering the community from prison or jail.
- **SCA Reentry Program for Technology Career Training:** supports the provision of technology career training and services to incarcerated individuals to help facilitate the successful reintegration of prisoners as they return to their communities.
- **Second Chance Act Two-Phase Adult Reentry Demonstration Program – Planning and Implementation:** provides resources for demonstration projects to promote the safe and successful reintegration into the community of individuals who have been incarcerated or detained.
- **Second Chance Act Comprehensive Community-Based Adult Reentry Program Utilizing Mentors Program:** provides funding for mentoring grants to nonprofit organizations and Indian tribes. BJA is seeking applications for funding under the Second Chance Act for mentoring grants to nonprofit organizations and Indian tribes.

Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation (BCJI): The BCJI program was created as part of the Administration's national Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative (NRI) efforts to help local and tribal communities develop place-based, community-oriented strategies to change neighborhoods of distress into neighborhoods of opportunity. This interagency effort aligns programs of the following agencies:

- Department of Education (Promise)
- Department of Justice (BCJI)
- Housing and Urban Development (Choice)
- Health and Human Services (Community Health Centers and Behavioral Health Services) and
- Department of the Treasury

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE GRAND RONDE COMMUNITY OF OREGON

As the result of receiving FY 2011 BJA Tribal Justice System Infrastructure Program funding, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon was able to renovate and furnish a tribal-owned house to serve as a women's transition house and provide post-treatment services to women returning from prison or drug treatment as well as their young children. When women emerge from prison or residential drug and alcohol programs, many who are from the Tribe, descendents of Tribal members, or from the larger Indian community, they will come to the transition house, some with children, to start over. The program expects the women to become independent and to learn skills that they never learned or learned and have forgotten. The transition program will help them re-learn the skills to be independent, and, in many cases, to be reunited with their children, as well as find their own housing and employment.



Grants to Support Reentry (Cont.)

Starting in 2013, the BCJI program also supports the Promise Zones designation process. BCJI funding supports efforts of local, tribal, and non-profit partners to plan and implement place-based, community-oriented strategies to address targeted crime issues by targeting hot spots of crime where a significant proportion of crime occurs as compared to the overall jurisdiction. BCJI enhances the capacity of local and tribal communities to effectively address significant crime issues through collaborative cross-sector approaches that help advance broader neighborhood development goals. Strategies can include managing high-risk offenders in place due to the research showing that they tend to return to certain locations in concentrated amounts.

BJA Resource Webinars and Other Potential Areas of Work

BJA can support a webinar or conference call to stakeholders to educate them about tribal reentry resources.

A key gap in resources is providing opportunities to kick start collaboration with training of teams (at a minimum, prosecution, institutional corrections, community corrections and post-release coordination of services) to support initial planning that assists tribal nations and their partners to more effectively leverage resources and partners to address this critical issue. We are exploring leveraging existing meetings and conferences to sponsor specific training for teams of tribal, federal, and state partners.

BJA's Leadership

Denise E. O'Donnell was sworn in as the Director of BJA on June 6, 2011, after being nominated for the post by President Obama and confirmed by the United States Senate. Under the leadership of Director O'Donnell, the work of BJA is guided by one overarching principle: "to reduce crime, recidivism, and unnecessary confinement, and promote a safe and fair criminal justice system."

