

Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS) Community Profiles Report (N=40)

This report provides a summary of the funding needs reported by a sample of 2011 Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS) applicants. The purpose of this report is to identify the needs of CTAS applicants and determine whether meaningful differences exist between applicants who received BJA funding and those who did not.¹ A review of these applicants' community profiles revealed important information about their needs related to substance abuse and crime throughout their tribal lands.

Methodology

Of the 196 CTAS applications submitted in 2011, 111 applied for Tribal Courts Assistance Program (TCAP)/Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program (IASAP) (Purpose Area 3) funding, 39 of which were funded. There were 47 applications for Tribal Construction (Purpose Area 4) funding, of which 13 were awarded. There were 38 applications for funding in one or both of these applications that were not funded for either.

The 2011 CTAS applications were stratified by purpose area and funding decision, then 40 applications were randomly selected for review. The sampling procedure produced a representative sample of 2011 CTAS applicants. The distribution of reviewed applicants is as follows:

20 were funded

- 14 for Purpose Area 3 only
- 3 for Purpose Area 4 only
- 3 for both purpose areas

20 were not funded

- 13 for Purpose Area 3 only
- 5 for Purpose Area 4 only
- 2 for both purpose areas

Profile Review

The 40 CTAS applicants' community profiles were reviewed and summarized into the following eight thematic categories: (1) ubiquitous alcohol and substance abuse, (2) infrastructure problems, (3) inadequate treatment services, (4) inadequate secured facilities, (5) inadequate court resources, (6) problematic legal codes, (7) perceptions of fairness for criminal justice system, and (8) a lack of culturally appropriate community alternatives to corrections.²

¹ Some areas are included in the report for information purposes only, as BJA does not provide funding in such as areas. These topical areas are highlighted below.

² Excerpts from a select number of CTAS applicants are used to provide context to the overall findings associated with each of the eight topical areas.

Ubiquitous Alcohol and Substance Abuse

80 percent (32) of CTAS applicants reported a need to address the drugs and crime nexus in tribal lands (16 were funded and 16 were not).

Most of these applicants reported that alcohol and substance abuse were linked to juvenile justice crimes that occur in their tribal lands. Some applicants, however, reported problems with substance abuse and other types of crimes. For example, one reported that “meth trafficking and sales on the reservation has increased with the growth in gang membership” and “over 90% of adult arrests on our reservation are related to alcohol and substance abuse”; another reported that “88% of calls for assistance have the common denominator of alcohol and substance”; one reported that “DUI is 4.2 x the Colorado rate, Drug abuse charges are 2.4 x the Colorado rate,” and all others reported the emergence of crime with the use of such prescription drugs as methamphetamine, marijuana, cocaine, opiates, black tar heroin, and designer drugs like ecstasy.

Infrastructure Problems³

22 percent (9) of CTAS applicants reported a need to improve their infrastructure to effectively target drugs and crime in their tribal lands (4 were funded and 5 were not).

Although fewer applicants cited infrastructure problems, those who did reported that these problems served as a serious impediment to targeting substance abuse and crime in certain regions in the tribal lands. For example, one reported that “there are parcels with thousands of acres that are not patrolled”; another reported that “over 12 miles of heavily utilized gravel roads and over a hundred miles of adjacent off road trails” are unpatrolled; one reported that “large remote reservation areas are unpoliced and unmapped,” while another reported “in one shift, an officer could easily be in a high density residential area, on a beach, on boat, in the woods, and responding to a bank robbery.” One reported, “Police spend one day a week patrolling tribal lands located in hard-to-reach mountainous areas,” while another noted multiple infrastructure problems: “Tribe has one boat that is suitable for the lower river,” or “The tribe’s methadone clinic, smoke shop and its Natural resources department are located in the flood plain,” and “The Police Department also has a limited ability to respond to issues facing Tribal hunters when they are in the rugged and remote areas.”

Inadequate Treatment Services

75 percent (24) of CTAS applicants reported a need to improve treatment services to address crime in their tribal lands (14 were funded and 10 were not).

There was general consensus among these applicants that the lack of treatment services for juveniles and adults was a major concern.

³ BJA does not provide funding for applicants that have needs in this area.

Inadequate Secured Facilities

25 percent (10) of CTAS applicants reported a need to construct or improve secured facilities to address justice concerns in their tribal lands (8 were funded and 2 were not).

The reported problems with inadequate secured facilities were varied among these applicants. For example, one reported that “high costs being spent off the reservation, transporting juvenile defenders back and forth for the 85-miles trip one-way, incurs valuable lost staff time for our tribal law enforcement officers”; one grantee reported that they “lack transitional housing”; one reported they “need a space to hold inmates awaiting Tribal Court proceedings and to house prosecutorial and probationary offices”; one reported “no detention facilities for adults or juveniles”; and one reported the need to “develop and construct a specific Facility in the Deming Area to support police, community corrections services and emergency operations center.”

Lack of Court Resources

40 percent (16) of CTAS applicants reported a need to improve court resources to address justice concerns in their tribal lands (6 were funded and 10 were not).

The lack of staffing and a tribal court system were cited as major needs for applicants who reported inadequate court resources. Some applicants reported that additional staff was needed to make court operations more efficient. Others reported tribal courts systems were needed; and one reported that “a significant need is that the law library was last updated in 1995 making it useless for Court Officers in their research of cases coming before this Court”; and one reported a need to develop a 24 hour warrant system because “WSP and Courts will not honor arrests warrants and protection orders that are not verifiable in person on a 24 hour basis.”

Nonexistent, Conflicting, or Ambiguous Legal Codes

32 percent (13) of CTAS applicants reported a need to improve legal codes to effectively address justice concerns on their tribal lands (6 were funded and 7 were not).

Most applicants reported a need to develop written legal codes to address crimes in their tribal lands. Some reported a lack of understanding of existing codes in their tribal lands; and one reported “currently there is conflicting jurisdiction with the State of Alaska and over time, changing levels of recognition and support from the State of Alaska executive branch.”

Perceptions of Fairness for Criminal Justice System⁴

15 percent (6) of grantees and applicants reported the need to improve tribal members' confidence in the criminal justice system to address concerns with justice in their tribal lands (4 were funded and 2 were not).

The needs related to improving tribal members' confidence in the criminal justice system varied among applicants. For example, one reported that "sexual assault and domestic violence cases are underreported due to embarrassment or the belief that the justice system will not work for the victim"; one indicated "Tribal community members' hesitation to access off-Reservation family law systems"; and one reported that it was "difficult for tribal members to seek the help they need due to lack of transportation, lack of cultural sensitivity, lack of understanding of the challenges Indian people face, lack of community education about court services"; and one reported that "community members either call for help through the Sheriff's Department or not because they believe there will not be an adequate response."

Lack of Culturally appropriate community alternatives to corrections

22 percent (9) of applicants reported a need to develop culturally appropriate crime prevention programs to address justice concerns in their tribal lands (7 were funded and 2 were not).

Fewer applicants reported the need to develop culturally appropriate community alternatives to address crime in their tribal lands. For those that did, some reported that "traditional cultural approaches for prevention with tribal juveniles are needed to reduce recidivism." Others reported a "lack of tribally relevant alcohol and substance abuse prevention programs"; and one reported that "training and outreach programs on elder abuse awareness are not culturally specific."

Summary

The analysis revealed no meaningful differences related to the needs of applicants who received funding and those who did not. However, for activities that BJA funds, some notable findings emerged during this analysis. For example, 50 percent (16) of applicants who reported a need to address ubiquitous drug abuse were not funded; 62 percent (10) of applicants who reported a lack of resources were not funded; and 53 percent (7) of applicants who reported a problem with conflicted legal codes were not funded.

⁴ BJA does not provide funding for applicants that have needs in this area.