

Federal Victims in Indian Country Working Group (FedVIC)



FedVIC Mission

The Federal Victims of Crime Working Group (FedVIC) aims to ensure that victims* of federal crime in Indian Country receive the highest quality services by enhancing federal responsiveness and collaboration.

*As defined in the *Attorney General Guidelines for Victim and Witness Assistance (2011)*

FedVIC Goals

- ▶ To identify gaps in services to victims, and develop proposed solutions.
- ▶ To identify and promote promising/best practices for communication and collaboration among federal and tribal criminal justice system personnel and allied partners.

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FedVIC Goals (cont.)

- ▶ To identify training needs of federal and tribal criminal justice system personnel and allied partners, and develop proposed solutions.
- ▶ To identify policy proposals to promote the highest quality service to victims in Indian Country.

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FedVIC Core Organizers

- ▶ EOUSA – Katharine Manning
- ▶ EOUSA (Detail) – Benjamin Whittemore
- ▶ FBI – Shannon May
- ▶ OTJ – Marcia Good
- ▶ OVC – Allison Turkel

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FedVIC Members

1. BIA Special Agent – Algin Young (SD)
2. BIA Victim Specialist – Gwen Adakai (AZ)
3. BIA Victim Specialist – Arlene Armijo (NM)
4. FBI Special Agent – Brandon Walter (MT)
5. FBI Victim Specialist – Paula Bosh (ND)
6. FBI Victim Specialist – Jessica Stewart (ID)
7. AUSA/Tribal Liasion – Deirdre Aanstad (MN)
8. AUSA/Tribal Liaison – Dimitra Sampson (AZ)
9. USAO Victim/Witness Coord. – Janet Strahan (MI)
10. USAO Victim/Witness Coord. – Debbie Lee (WA)

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Most Pressing Issues Identified

- ▶ Enhancing Communication
- ▶ Improving Federal Victim Assistance
- ▶ Improving Federal Prosecution
- ▶ Privacy/Confidentiality

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Most Pressing Issues Identified (cont.)

- ▶ Witness Advance Fees
- ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Increasing Tribal and/or Local Victim Assistance Resources
- ▶ Limitations on Funding to Tribes

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Discussion

Are there other issues you would suggest we consider?

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Proposals

- ▶ Policy
- ▶ Training
- ▶ Funding

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Issues: Enhancing Communication and Improving Federal Victim Assistance

Proposals:

- Specific guidance to federal employees addressing communication
- Collaborative meetings/training for victim assistance personnel

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Issues: Elevating Federal Prosecution and Privacy/Confidentiality

Proposal:

- Specific guidance to USAO employees addressing prosecution processes and the protection of victims' privacy and confidentiality

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Issue: Witness Advance Fees

Proposal:

- Specific guidance to USAO and U.S. Marshal Service employees detailing best practice approaches for securing/administering advances

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Issue: Transportation

Proposal:

- Identify and share innovative ways to support the transportation needs of victims

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Issues: Tribal/Local Victim Assistance Resources & Limitations on Funding to Tribes

Proposals:

- Tribal set-aside in VOCA
- Changes to federal grant solicitations
- Changes to allowable expenses

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Discussion

Are there other proposals you would recommend for the identified issues?

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Enhancing Communication

- ▶ Proposals?

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Improving Federal Victim Assistance

- ▶ Proposals?

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Improving Federal Prosecution

- ▶ Proposals?

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Privacy/Confidentiality

- ▶ Proposals?

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Witness Advance Fees

- ▶ Proposals?

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Transportation

- ▶ Proposals?

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Increasing Tribal and/or Local Victim Assistance Resources

- ▶ Proposals?

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Limitations on Funding to Tribes

- ▶ Proposals?

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Discussion: Improving Federal Response

- What do you wish federal employees knew about working with Tribes?
- What do you wish federal employees would do during the investigation, prosecution, and response to crime in Indian Country?

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Final Thoughts/Suggestions

Do you have any other thoughts on gaps in services, possible solutions, or what federal employees/agencies should know or do?

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Thank You!

We appreciate your time and welcome your feedback.

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