



**American Indian Development Associates, LLC**

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Dear Colleague:

American Indian Development Associates, (AIDA) LLC will be holding a listening session during the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) pre-conference institute at the [15<sup>th</sup> National Indian Nations Conference](#) entitled *Together We Can Solve Problems – A Listening Session on Youth Violence Research* on Wednesday, December 7, 2016, from 3:00 to 4:30 PM PST at the Renaissance Palm Springs Hotel in the Ventura Room. The goal of this session is to obtain input from tribal leaders, researchers, evaluators, program personnel, and citizens on a NIJ funded methods study to design and test a survey examining violence and victimization experienced by young American Indian (AI) and Alaska Native (AN) youth and young adults (12-20 year olds).

There is a dire need for a better understanding about violence and victimization experienced by young AI and AN people. National level studies seldom include AI and AN youth and young adults or examine the unique issues they face. Often AI and AN communities lack the time and resources to identify and understand the problem. Ultimately, this survey, study materials, and protocols will be available for AI and AN tribes and communities to use to gather their own data and/or to support a national level study. For this effort to be meaningful to AI and AN populations, input is needed on various aspects of the research design, community engagement, and participation.

The areas of inquiry include:

***Compensation for Participation in Research*** – The use of compensation is a controversial topic in research. Some believe compensation should be used and some believe it should not for various reasons. We need your input on this issue.

***Engagement of Tribes Communities, Parents/Guardians, Youth and Young Adults*** – It is important that tribes and communities, parents, guardians, youth and young adults know about the research to be able to make an informed decision about participation. We need your input and thoughts on how to communicate and promote interest and engagement in the research process, especially with parents/guardians, youth, and young adults.

***Modes of Administration*** – Testing of the survey instrument will include multiple ways to administer the survey such as pencil and paper and computer-assisted systems with and without audio support. We would like your thoughts on the most appropriate methods to give youth and young adults this survey.

***Survey*** – The survey will include questions on: 1) Respondent Characteristics (e.g., age, gender, tribal affiliation); 2) Health and Wellness (e.g., social support, mental health, sexual behavior); 3) School, 4) Household Makeup; 5) Community Environment; 6) Exposure to Violence (e.g., self, friends/peers, family); 7) Substance Use & Other Behaviors; 8) Respondent's Victimization Experiences; 9) Respondent's Perpetration of Violence; and 10) Resiliency (e.g., cultural identity and activities, faith/spirituality, future aspirations). Your input is needed to ensure we ask the questions in the right way.

Some framing questions that we are particularly interested in getting your feedback on are:

- What tribal/community considerations should we think about in providing or not providing compensation?
- Based on best practices or experience within your community, what are some ways to engage parents/guardians, youth, and young adults in participating in the research process?
- How should the survey be administered with youth and young adults (12-20 year olds) and why?
- What are the best ways to ask important but often sensitive questions, particularly among different age groups?

We hope you will be able to attend this listening session and share your input with us and with other stakeholders. The feedback we receive will be *essential* to the success of the Tribal Youth Victimization Methods Study. All input will be considered carefully and greatly appreciated as we continue to plan and implement this study. If you are unable to attend this session, please provide any suggestions and feedback by emailing us at [info@aidainc.net](mailto:info@aidainc.net).

Sincerely,



Ada Pecos Melton,  
AIDA President