NAICJA's 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting & National Tribal Judicial and Court Clerks Conference Oct. 19, 2012

# Tribal Court Funding & Technical Assistance Opportunities

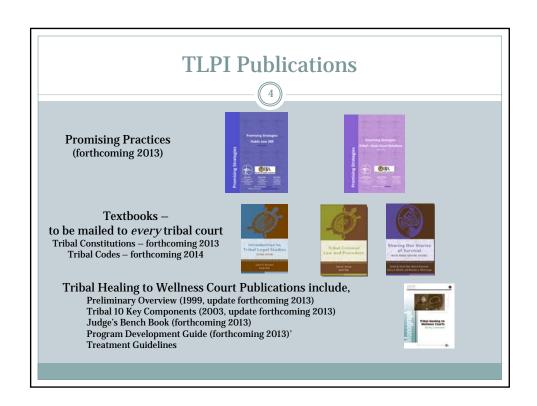


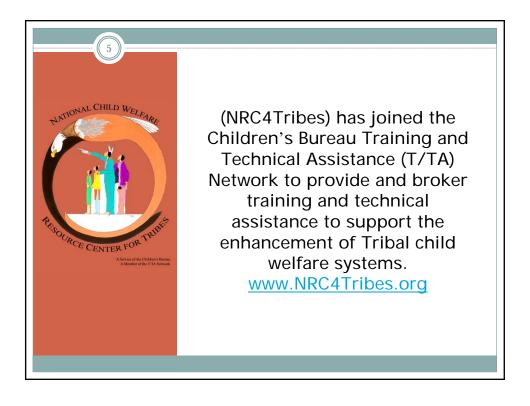
This presentation stems from a TLPI-provided March 2, 2012 Webinar: Funding Opportunities for Tribal Wellness Courts

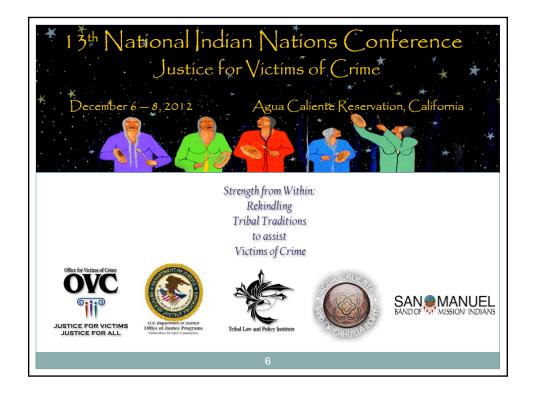
Focused on FY 2012 CTAS RFP and
BJA Adult Drug Courts RFPs
Audio and Full PPTs available through <a href="https://www.TLPI.org">www.TLPI.org</a>
TLPI anticipates providing similar webinar(s) in 2013











(including Joint BJA/SAHMSA RFP): PROs and CONs					
	few PROs for Tribal Healing to Wellness Court nding under BJA Adult Drug Court RFPs:	A few CONs for Tribal Healing to Wellness Court Funding under BJA Adult Drug Court RFPs:			
•	Drug court specific RFP/funding source	25% match requirement			
• 5	Specific reference to Tribal Wellness Courts	Not tribal specific RFPs			
•	Peer reviewers will have substantial drug court specific knowledge	Tribes have to compete with state drug courts under these RFPs			
•	In recent years, at least 5 tribes per year have received funding under the general BJA Adult Drug Court RFP	<ul> <li>No guarantee that any Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts will be funded under these RFPs</li> </ul>			
•	More grant awards under general BJA Adult Drug Court RFP than under any other drug court specific RFP (such as OJJDP and SAHMSA RFPs)	Violent Offender Prohibition			

# **BJA Drug Court RFPs:**Common Problems with Tribal Applications



- Not providing all requested information
- Not providing the requested information in relevant section where peer reviewers could easily locate it
- Failed to draw adequate connection between problems identified in "statement of the problem" section and solutions proposed in "Program Design and Implementation" section
- Does not demonstrate adequate understanding of drug court concepts
- Inconsistencies within proposal different writers by section
- Does not address all 10 key components
- Copied key components but did not adequately explain how they were going to implement or apply each component (who, what, why, where, when, and how)
- Did not provide specific measurable targets for performance measures
- Did not provide adequate sustainability info (only "we will apply for more funds" or "we have a good grant writer") or address sustainability beyond \$\$\$ alone
- Failure to adequately link programmatic activities with budget items

#### **CTAS**

# (Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation)

The Department of Justice launched CTAS in Fiscal Year 2010 in direct response to concerns raised by Tribal leaders about the Department's grant process that did not provide the flexibility tribes needed to address their criminal justice and public safety needs. Through CTAS, federally-recognized Tribes and Tribal consortia are able to submit a single application for most of the Justice Department's Tribal grant programs. The Department of Justice designed this comprehensive approach to save time and resources and allow tribes and the Department to gain a better understanding of the Tribes' overall public safety needs.

For more information on CTAS – see <a href="www.justice.gov/tribal">www.justice.gov/tribal</a>/open-sol.html

Application Due Date:

**April 18, 2012** 

# **CTAS: Application Timeline**

FY 2012 CTAS Purpose Areas



#### FY 2012 Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation Purpose Areas

- 1. Public safety and community policing (COPS Tribal Resources Hiring Grant Program and Tribal Resources Grant Equipment/Training)
- 2. Comprehensive Planning Demonstration Project
- 3. Justice systems, and alcohol and substance abuse (OJP/BJA—Tribal Courts Assistance Program and Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention Program)
- 4. Corrections and correctional alternatives (OJP/BJA—Correctional Systems and Correctional Alternatives on Tribal Lands Program)
- 5. Violence Against Women (OVW-Tribal Sexual Assault Services Program-TSASP)
- 6. Violence Against Women (OVW—Tribal Governments Program Tribal Governments Program)
- 7. Victims of Crime (OJP/OVC—Children's Justice Act Partnerships for Indian Communities)
- 8. Victims of Crime (OJP/OVC-Comprehensive Tribal Victim Assistance Program),
- 9. Juvenile Justice (OJP/OJJDP—Tribal Juvenile Accountability Discretionary Program)
- 10. Tribal Youth Program (OJP/OJJDP—Tribal Youth Program TYP)

## **CTAS Purpose Area #3:**

Justice Systems and Alcohol and Substance Abuse (BJA)

## **Purpose Areas #3:**

#### Justice Systems, and Alcohol and Substance Abuse

- o Tribal Courts Assistance Program (TCAP)
- o Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention Program (IASA)

Purpose Area	Estimated Amount of Funding Available	Estimated Number of Awards to be Made; Estimated Award Amounts	Length of Award
3) Justice systems, and alcohol and substance abuse (BJA)	\$16.8 million	Approximately 25-35 awards; approximately \$250,000-750,000 per award, including 2-4 awards for developing and implementing correctional alternatives	3 years

#### BJA Point of Contact:

Trish Thackston: (202) 307-0581 m.patricia.thackston@usdoj.gov

# CTAS Purpose Area #3 Narrative Template Applicant Name: Purpose Area #3 Justice Systems and Alcohol and Substance Abuse Narrative Purpose Area #3 Narrative (15-page limit including template text) Primary implementing agency (if different from the applicant's legal jurisdiction name): Purpose Area Point of Contact: Phone #: Describe the focus of the project (i.e., alcohol and substance abuse prevention; law enforcement; pretral services; risk and needs assessment development and implementation; diversion programming: the lower services; healing to wellness count intervent ion and/or treatment; detention programming; community corrections; reentry planning and programming; thick system infarentent endancement; lustice system information staring; etc. Projects may focus on one or more than one area). a. If the project has more than one focus, describe how the different aspects of the project are connected. 2. Describe the project goals and objective. 3. Describe the project's design and implementation strategy. Describe specific tasks and activities that will help accomplish each project goal and objective. Describe how the project will improve the functioning of tribal justice system and/or assist the community in addressing issues related to alcohol and substance abuse or other priorities related community safety and wellness. 6. Describe how the community will be part of the project. Explain how the Tribe plans to address victim safety concerns that may arise from the use of technology, such as protecting victim confidentiality, helping victims create safety plans, and seeking informed consent from victims and offenders. Describe the Strategic Planning Advisory Board, including key stakeholders and decision makers in the Tribe. Describe the management structure, staffing, and in-house or contracted capacity to complete each of the proposed projects. a. How it will ensure successful project planning and/or implementation b. How will communication and coordination be implemented throughout the project?

# CTAS Purpose Area #3 Narrative Template Applicant Name: Purpose Area #3 Instite Systems and Alcohol Medicine their roles in the proposed project. 11. Identify key community partners and define their roles in the proposed project. 12. Explain how the applicant will know if the program works. 13. How will success be determined and measured? 14. Describe how data will be collected and assessed to measure the impact of proposed efforts: a. How will you meet timelines and deliverables? b. How will be measured? Who is responsible for providing How will the information be done reasurement data? What will be measured? Who is responsible for providing How will the information be done reasurement data? 15. How will evaluation and/or collaborative partnerships be used to leverage ongoing receives and facilitate a long-term strategy to navisin the project when the believing gazar conder? 16. Describe any challenges you anticipate in sustaining the program beyond the grant funding. 17. For applicants who received funding from the FY 2011 CTAS Purpose Area #3 (Justice Systems and Alcohol and Statunce Abuse): a. Explain how the activities contained in this proposal do not daplicate your current BIA-funded grant project(s); and b. Explain how the activities contained in this proposal do not daplicate your current BIA-funded grant project(s).

# CTAS Purpose Area #9: TJADG (OJJDP/OJP)

# (14)

#### Purpose Area #9:

Juvenile Justice Tribal Juvenile Accountability Discretionary Program (TJADG)

Purpose Area	Estimated Amount of Funding Available	Estimated Number of Awards to be Made; Estimated Award Amounts	Length of Award
9) Juvenile Justice (OJP)	Under \$1.0 million	Estimated 2-3 awards; approximately \$250,000-\$300,000	3years

#### **OJJDP Points of Contact:**

Patrick Dunckhorst: (202) 514-4158 Patrick.Dunckhorst@usdoj.gov Kara McDonagh: (202) 305-1456 Kara.McDonagh@usdoj.gov

\*Specific budget requirements apply including 10% match- see pages 24-25 of CTAS RFP

# CTAS Project Area #10:

**OJJDP Tribal Youth Program (TYP)** 



#### Purpose Area #10:

#### Tribal Youth Program (TYP)

Purpose Area	Estimated Amount of Funding Available	Estimated Number of Awards to be Made; Estimated Award Amounts	Length of Award
10) Tribal Youth Program	\$8 million	Estimated 12-15 awards; Approximately \$300,000- \$500,000 per award	3 years

#### **OJJDP Points of Contact:**

**Patrick Dunckhorst:** (202) 514-4158 Patrick.Dunckhorst@usdoj.gov **Kara McDonagh:** (202) 305-1456 Kara.McDonagh@usdoj.gov

# CTAS RFP:

## **Pros and Cons**



#### A few PROs for Tribal Healing to Wellness Court Funding under CTAS RFP:

- More time to prepare application the due date is not until April 18, 2012
- Tribal specific RFP/funding source
- Specific references to Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts in purpose areas #3, 9, and 10
- Peer reviewers will have tribal court specific knowledge
- Under BJA purpose area #3 (TCAP/IASAP), there is substantial funding (\$16.8 million) and many grant awards annually (approximately 25-35 awards; approximately \$250,000-\$750,000 per award; 3 year project period)
- Under OJJDP purpose area #10 (Tribal Youth Program), there is substantial funding (\$8 million) and many grant awards annually (approximately 12-15 awards; approximately \$300,000-\$500,000 per award; 3 year project period)
- Potentially more flexibility to design a Tribal Healing to Wellness Court to meet the specific needs
  of an individual community (for example Violent Offender Prohibition does not apply to CTAS
  and program design not as specifically required to adhere to the drug court key components)
- No match requirement
- Tribal Healing to Wellness Court objectives can be better incorporated into an overall tribal plan through CTAS
- Most tribes are already planning to submit CTAS proposal so a Tribal Healing to Wellness Court
  proposal could simply be added to the overall Tribal CTAS proposal (that is, stand-alone Tribal
  Healing to Wellness Court proposal not required)

#### **CTAS RFP:**

#### **Pros and Cons**



#### A few CONs for Tribal Healing to Wellness Court Funding under CTAS RFP:

- Not a Tribal Healing to Wellness Court specific RFP/Solicitation
- Peer reviewers may not have adequate drug court specific knowledge
- Since each CTAS purpose area incorporates a very wide range of possible projects and programs in addition to Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts, there will likely be a great deal of competition with each tribe and tribal court concerning which possible programs to include in the tribe's CTAS application
- Very complex CTAS application process with many moving parts requiring substantial intratribal coordination especially within larger tribes
- The page and format limitations of CTAS may not provide enough space to adequately describe a project as complex as a Tribal Wellness Courts – especially if other programs are included in a tribe's specific purpose area proposal
- No guarantee that any Tribal Wellness Courts would be funded under CTAS RFP/Solicitation

# Common CTAS Problems: Biggest Reasons for Unsuccessful CTAS Applications Overall



- Not responding to all of the requested information
- Failed to draw connection between pressing problems identified in the "tribal community and justice profile" and programmatic activities proposed in the "purpose area narrative."
- Not providing the requested information in relevant section where peer reviewers could easily locate it
- Failed to draw the connection between the proposed budget and the programmatic activities requested in the "purpose area narrative."
- Inconsistencies within proposal different writers by section
- Did not provide specific measurable targets for performance measures

# Tips for Submitting a CTAS Proposal



- Read the Solicitation. Read entire solicitation and follow all instructions carefully. No
  detail is too small and no instruction should be ignored. Be sure to respond to all
  questions and requirements in the solicitation.
- Check all of the resources available through the Online CTAS website. Many required forms – such as the vital narrative questions by purpose area – are only available through online CTAS website.
- 3. Don't wait until the deadline to apply! Avoid connection issues with the Internet or the Grants Management System (GMS) and apply early. GMS runs slowly on the deadline day because of increased website traffic. Apply at least 72 hours before the deadline!
- 4. Go back and review the "tribal community and justice profile" after completing the purpose area narratives: Make changes as needed to ensure that the connection is clearly drawn between pressing problems identified in "tribal community and justice profile" and programmatic activities requested in "purpose area narrative."
- 5. **Go back and review the budget after completing the purpose area narratives:** Make changes as needed to ensure that the connection is clearly drawn between proposed budget and programmatic activities requested in the "purpose area narrative."

# Tips for Submitting a CTAS Proposal



- 1. **Contact the relevant agency/personnel** if you have any questions about the solicitation, eligibility or purpose areas.
- 2. Submit a single application for each Tribe. The Tribe's single application should request funding from all available DOJ Tribal government-specific grant programs, according to the Tribes' needs.
- 3. **Include all required documents** listed in the checklist by the deadline.
- Complete a budget that justifies what the application is proposing for each Proposal Area requested.
- 5. Include additional documents as required by each Purpose Area!
- 6. **Follow Directions!** Pay close attention to formatting, file name, spacing, margins, and page length requirements.

# **General Approach to Federal Grants**



- 1. Plan Ahead Do Not Wait until the RFP is out
- 2. Regular Annual Rhythm/Pattern for most Federal Grants

(RFP in January-April with Grant Award not until September)

- 3. Contact Agency Grant Managers
- 4. Contact Tribal Technical Assistance (TA) Providers
- 5. Review Online Resources and Prior Proposals
- **6. Serve as Peer Reviewer (**or at least Mock Peer Review Exercise)
- 7. Register on Grants.gov and GMS well ahead

# If You Have Applied Unsuccessfully:



- Always ask Agency to provide you with strengths and weaknesses comments
- ➤ **Keep prior proposals & comments** (although different review panel each time)
- Ask Agency what other services can be provided such as:
  - > Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) without grant
  - Capacity Building
  - > Scholarships for Conferences/Trainings
- Ask Agency who was funded and for copies of successful applications
- > Ask Agency for TA Provider contact information

# Request for Proposal (RFP) Questions/Issues



- Contact Agency contact person listed on RFP
- Document any information / advice from Agency (email confirmations)
- Where applicable, footnote relevant information / advice from Agency in proposal itself so that peer reviews are informed
- Ask for TA Provider contact information and contact TA Provider
- Ask for samples / templates and / or successful applications
- Ask if Agency provides TA for potential applicants
- Ask about the odds of funding by program:
  - How many usually apply
  - How many are usually funded

# **Tips for Writing Grants**



- > Focus on deadline and any necessary attachments (tribal resolutions, support letters)
- > Focus on scoring criteria (think of it as a checklist because it is)
- > Use scoring criteria as a general guide for how many pages you devote to each section
- > Always answer every question / address every issue
- > Use all available pages
- > Utilize attachments if at all possible (timeline, support letters, etc.)
- Follow all format directions (such as labeling sections/page numbering)
- Make it easy for the reviewer to read and score
- Have staff internally review and score
- Always PDF everything
- > Always label clearly
- Do something different, interesting, and replicable