

Office of Juvenile Justice
and Delinquency Prevention

TRIBAL HEALING TO WELLNESS COURTS

PERFORMANCE REPORT

January-June 2018

ENHANCING SAFETY • ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY • EMPOWERING YOUTH

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INTRODUCTION

The Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts (THWC) grant program, administered by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), enhances the capacity of tribal courts to respond to substance use disorders of tribal youth under the age of 21. THWC is a unique problem-solving court, which utilizes the juvenile drug court framework and integrates traditional tribal healing techniques with western substance use treatment. Tribal Nations encounter varying challenges and have needs that impact their ability to intervene and treat tribal youth when necessary. Through the THWC program, OJJDP supports efforts to understand the unique cultural differences of tribal youth and to promote accountability and healing. The primary goals of the THWC program include the development of comprehensive and culturally appropriate intervention services for high-risk tribal youth and to provide opportunities for individual rehabilitation.¹ THWC grantees create, expand, and strengthen culturally-specific approaches within their local juvenile justice system.

Highlights

847
NUMBER OF
YOUTH SERVED

Youth Demonstrating
Positive Behavior
Change



Youth
Offending



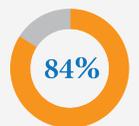
Youth
Reoffending



Evidence-based
Programs



Youth Improving
Substance Use
Related Behavior



OVERVIEW OF AWARD INFORMATION

During the January–June 2018 activity period, OJJDP’s THWC program funded 36 grants. Eighty-one percent of grantees completed their reporting requirements. The total available funding during the period exceeded \$9 million, with 87 percent of grants awarded to tribal government agencies and 13 percent of grants awarded to juvenile justice organizations. Of the specific types of programs implemented by grantees, the majority implemented tribal juvenile justice system programs (38 percent) and interventions for court-involved tribal youth (38 percent).

Figure 1. Award Details

36

Total Grant Recipients



81%

Compliant with
Reporting Requirements

87%

Grantees from Tribal Government

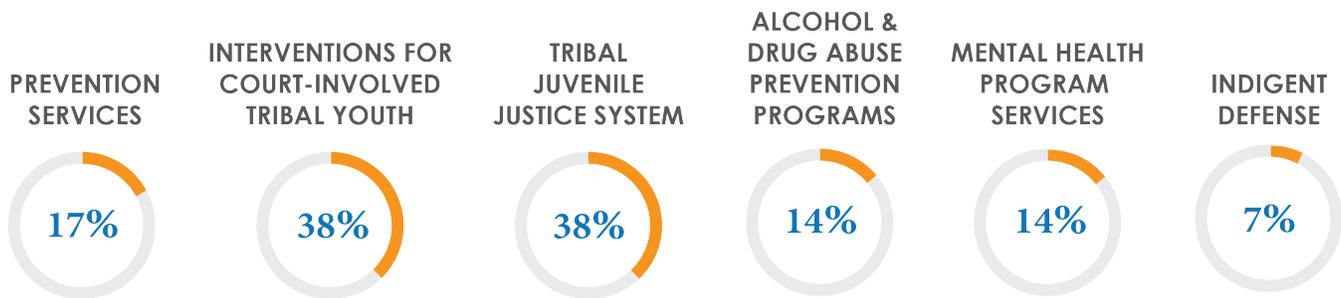


\$9.1

Total Funding (in millions)

¹ Tribal Law and Policy Institute. 2017. *Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts: Treatment Guidelines, 2nd edition*. Prepared for the Bureau of Justice Assistance. http://www.wellnesscourts.org/files/Treatment%20Guide%202nd%20ed_%202017.pdf.

Figure 1. Types of program activities reported by grantees²



GRANTEE PERFORMANCE

Performance measurement data help OJJDP determine whether the THWC program achieved its goals and objectives and to improve policy decisions. OJJDP requires grantees to report on several core measures, including youth served, target behaviors, offending, and reoffending outcomes. THWC grantees also report planning activities during their first year of receiving their award, which include training activities and partnership development.

YOUTH AND FAMILIES SERVED

Grantees provide information on the number of youth and families served during each activity period. During the January–June 2018 activity period, THWC program grantees served a total of 951 youth and families. Eighty-nine percent of individuals served were youth (n=847), while 11 percent of those served were family members (n=104).

847
Number of Youth Served

EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS

OJJDP encourages grantees to use evidence-based programs. Evidence-based programs include program models shown, through rigorous evaluation and replication, to be effective at preventing or reducing juvenile delinquency or related risk factors. THWC grantees utilize evidence-based programs that implement culturally based strategies to address individual tribal needs.³ During the January–June 2018 activity period, 52 percent of THWC grantees used federal funds to implement an evidence-based program. Existing research on evidence-based programming in tribal communities are limited because empirically supported treatments are primarily developed with non-native populations. Additionally, the implementation of evidence-based practices among tribes continue to be challenging, due to the diversity of tribal culture and values.⁴

² Twenty grantees selected more than one program activity.

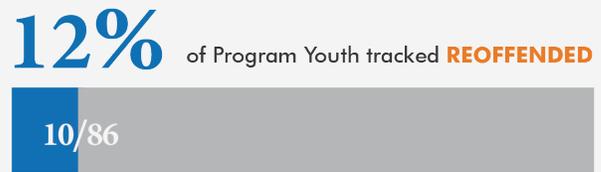
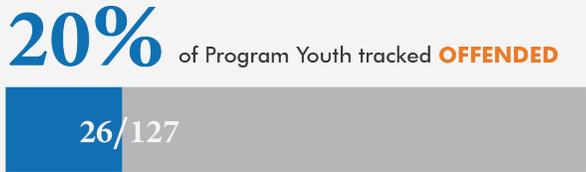
³ Tribal Law and Policy Institute. 2014. *Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts: The Key Components*. Prepared for the Bureau of Justice Assistance. <http://www.wellnesscourts.org/files/Tribal%20Healing%20to%20Wellness%20Courts%20The%20Key%20Components.pdf>

⁴ Development Services Group, Inc. 2016. *Tribal Youth in the Juvenile Justice System*. Literature review. Washington, D.C.: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. <https://www.ojjdp.gov/mpg/litreviews/Tribal-youth-in-the-Juvenile-Justice-System.pdf>

PROGRAM YOUTH OFFENSES AND RECIDIVISM

Grantees report short-term data for program youth who offend and recidivate to gauge the program’s success at reducing delinquency and improving outcomes for participants. During the January–June 2018 activity period, 20 percent of the youth who were tracked, offended in the short-term (figure 3), and 12 percent of the youth who were tracked, reoffended in the short-term (figure 3).

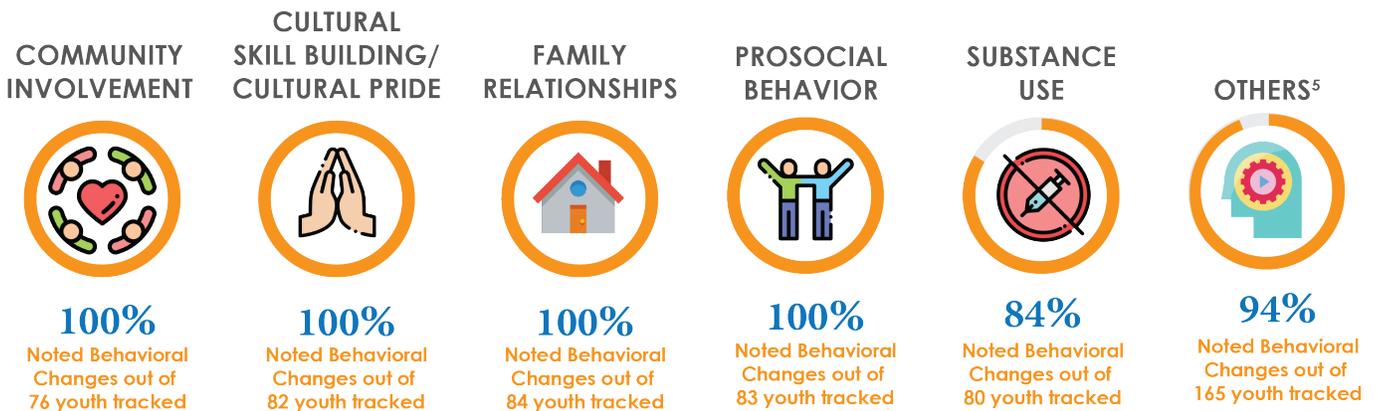
Figure 3. Short-term Offending and Reoffending Data



TARGET BEHAVIORS

Youth participating in the THWC program are tracked for short-term behavior changes to measure the program’s impact on youths’ performance in several targeted areas, such as substance use and community involvement. During the January–June 2018 activity period, community involvement, cultural skill building/cultural pride, family relationships, and prosocial behavior each showed behavioral improvement in 100 percent of youth tracked. Additionally, 84 percent of youth exhibited a decrease in substance use behaviors. Overall, 96 percent of program youth exhibited a desired change in a targeted behavior.

Figure 4. Outcome Percentages for the Specified Target Behaviors



⁵ Other target behaviors include antisocial behavior; social competence, school attendance, job skills, family functioning, and high school completion.

PLANNING YEAR ACTIVITIES

OJJDP requires THWC grantees to engage in planning activities during the start of their grant award. The planning phase supports grantees through a strategic planning process to identify program challenges and strategies and create partnerships necessary for implementation and sustainability. During this phase it is typical for grantees to attend Strat Pak strategic planning sessions. During Strat Pak, grantees develop a comprehensive plan for their program which includes a mission and vision statement, logic model, establishment of an advisory board, and sustainability planning.⁶ During the January–June 2018 activity period, 21 percent of grantees engaged in planning activities. Collectively, grantees in this planning phase developed 38 new partnerships and trained 104 people. Additionally, 67 percent of grantees attended OJJDP’s Tribal New Grantee Orientation and 67 percent of grantees attended Strat Pak.



CONCLUSION

The THWC grant program combines traditional tribal healing techniques with western substance use treatment. THWC utilizes the juvenile drug court model and incorporates concepts of wellness to address the specific substance use needs of individual tribal youth. The goal of the THWC program is to enhance the capacity of tribal courts to respond to substance use issues of youth younger than age 21. OJJDP funds expand culturally-specific approaches through the support of intervention services, as well as provide opportunities of rehabilitation for youth.

During the January–June 2018 activity period, 29 THWC grantees served a total of 951 youth and families. Eighty-nine percent of those served (n=847) were youth and 11 percent of those served (n=104) were family members. Overall, 96 percent of program a youth exhibited a desired change in the targeted behavior during short-term, with youth demonstrating the greatest improvement in community involvement, cultural skill building/cultural pride, family relationships, and prosocial behaviors. Furthermore, 84 percent of youth tracked for substance use showed behavioral improvement. Twenty percent of youth tracked in the short-term offended, while 12 percent of youth tracked in the short-term reoffended. In addition, 21 percent of grantees conducted planning activities, which resulted in 38 new partnerships and training for 104 individuals.

⁴ Tribal Youth Program: Fact Sheet Purpose Area 9. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. <https://www.justice.gov/tribal/file/818046/download>.