

Office of Juvenile Justice  
and Delinquency Prevention

# TRIBAL YOUTH PROGRAM

## PERFORMANCE REPORT

### July-December 2019

**ENHANCING SAFETY • ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY • EMPOWERING YOUTH**

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# INTRODUCTION

The Tribal Youth Program (TYP), administered by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), seeks to enhance tribal efforts to address juvenile delinquency and increase the number of tribal youth with safe, productive lives. A primary goal of TYP is to develop comprehensive, culturally appropriate prevention and treatment services for at-risk and other court-involved tribal youth.<sup>1</sup>

OJJDP requires grantees to report on performance measures to demonstrate whether the TYP achieved its goals. This report presents the TYP program activities occurring between July and December 2019 and highlights grantee results achieved with OJJDP funding.

## Highlights

**6,381**  
NUMBER OF  
YOUTH SERVED

Youth Demonstrated  
Positive Behavior  
Change



Youth  
Offending



Youth  
Reoffending



Grantees who Implemented  
an Evidence-based  
Program or Practice



## OVERVIEW OF AWARD INFORMATION

Between July and December 2019, OJJDP’s TYP funded 62 awards, with 92 percent of grantees completing their reporting requirements (figure 1). Of 62 funded awards, 58 TYP awards were operational (expending grant funds during the period). The total available funding during the period exceeded \$20 million. Of the types of activities implemented by grantees, the majority (91 percent) implemented prevention services (figure 2).

Figure 1. Award Details



**62**

Total Awards

**58**

Operational Awards  
(provided services during the period)



**92%**

Compliant with  
Reporting Requirements



**>\$20**

Total Funding (in millions)

Figure 2. Types of program activities reported by grantees<sup>2</sup>

PREVENTION  
SERVICES



INTERVENTIONS FOR  
COURT-INVOLVED TRIBAL YOUTH



TRIBAL JUVENILE  
JUSTICE SYSTEM



ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE  
PREVENTION PROGRAMS



MENTAL HEALTH  
SERVICE



<sup>1</sup> Coordinated Youth Tribal Youth Solicitation. 2016. <https://www.justice.gov/jmd/file/934626/download>

<sup>2</sup> No grantees reported indigent defense program activities.

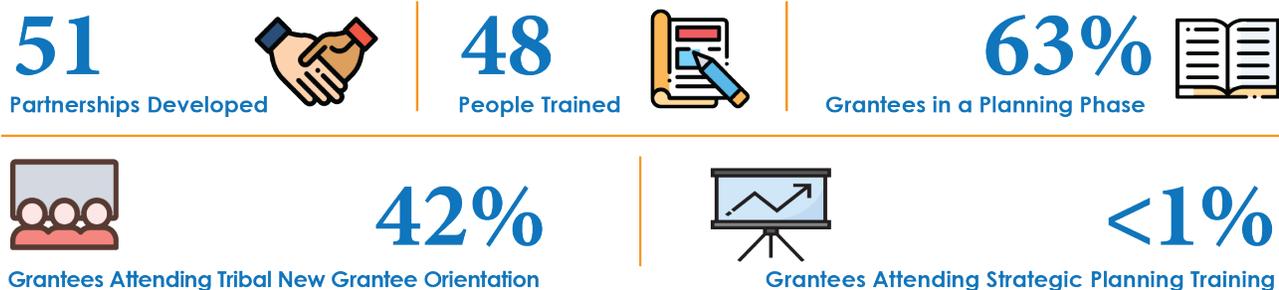
## EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS<sup>3</sup>

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. TYP grantees implement specific evidence-based programs and practices that use culturally based strategies to address individual youth needs. During the July–December 2019 activity period, 40 percent of TYP grantees used OJJDP funds to implement an evidence-based program or practice. Existing research on evidence-based programming in tribal communities is limited because empirically supported practices are developed for non-native populations. Additionally, tribes adapt evidence-based programs and practices from traditional models, to represent tribal culture and values.<sup>4</sup>

## PLANNING YEAR ACTIVITIES

OJJDP requires TYP to engage and report on planning activities during their first year, which includes strategic planning, collecting data, establishing activities, attending OJJDP sponsored trainings, and partnership development. This planning phase supports grantees through a strategic planning process that is designed to identify potential challenges, strategies, and create the partnerships necessary for program implementation and sustainability. During the July–December 2019 activity period, 63 percent of grantees engaged in planning activities (figure 3). Collectively, grantees in this planning phase developed 51 new partnerships and trained 48 people.

Figure 3. Planning Activities



## YOUTH AND FAMILIES SERVED

TYP grantees are required to report on the number of youth and families served during each activity period. During the July–December 2019 activity period, TYP grantees served a total of 18,157 youth and families, 35 percent of which were youths ( $n = 6,381$ ), and 65 percent were families ( $n = 11,776$ ).

**6,381**  
Number of  
Youth Served

<sup>3</sup> Existing research is limited on the success of evidence-based programming in tribal communities. Widespread usage of evidence-based practices among tribes is difficult to implement and track due to varying tribal cultures and values. <https://www.ojjdp.gov/mpg/litreviews/Tribal-youth-in-the-Juvenile-Justice-System.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Tribal Youth in the Juvenile Justice System. 2016. <https://www.ojjdp.gov/mpg/litreviews/Tribal-youth-in-the-Juvenile-Justice-System.pdf>, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

# PROGRAM YOUTH OFFENSES AND RECIDIVISM

Grantees report short-term<sup>5</sup> data on program youth who offend and recidivate to help gauge the program’s success at reducing delinquency and improving outcomes for participants. During the July–December 2019 activity period, 6 percent of tracked youth offended in the short term (figure 4), and 11 percent of tracked youth reoffended in the short term (figure 4).

**Figure 4. Short-term Offending and Reoffending Data**



## TARGET BEHAVIORS

Youth participating in TYP programs are tracked for short-term behavior changes to measure the program’s impact on youths’ performance in several targeted areas, such as family relationships, social behaviors, and cultural skill building. During the July–December 2019 activity period, 100 percent of youth served for GED, gang resistance, and occupational skills improvement demonstrated the most positive change. Additionally, 90 percent of youth exhibited an improvement in job skills. Overall, 70 percent of program youth exhibited a desired change in a targeted behavior.

**Figure 4. Short-term Outcome Percentages for the Specified Target Behaviors**



<sup>5</sup> Short-term includes youth tracked for the behavior of interest who received services during the activity period or youth who exited the activity period.

<sup>6</sup> Other target behaviors include grade point average, high school completion, family relationships, antisocial behavior, community involvement, school attendance, and substance use.

## CONCLUSION

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OJJDP recognizes that tribes present varying challenges and strengths, which impact their ability to respond to the needs of tribal youth. Tribes use OJJDP funds to expand culturally appropriate approaches to provide prevention and intervention services for at-risk tribal youth and court-involved youth, and systems improvement for juvenile justice and tribal youth-serving systems. Through TYP, OJJDP supports efforts to understand the disproportionate representation of American Indian and Alaskan native youth in the juvenile justice system, and their lack of access to direct service resources.<sup>7</sup> The services may include developing intake and vulnerability assessments, implementing mental health treatment and trauma-informed programs, and training and technical assistance for juvenile justice and other tribal youth-serving systems.

During the July–December 2019 activity period, 58 TYP operational awards served a total of 18,157 youth and families. In addition, 63 percent of grantees conducted planning activities, which resulted in 51 new partnerships and training for 48 individuals. Of those served ( $n = 6,381$ ), 35 percent were youths and 65 percent ( $n = 11,776$ ) were families. Overall, 70 percent of program youth exhibited a desired change in targeted behaviors in the short term, with GED, gang resistance, and occupational skills showing the greatest improvement. Lastly, 93 percent of youth did not offend in the short term and 89 percent did not recidivate.

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<sup>7</sup> Tribal Youth Program Fact Sheet. 2016. <https://www.ojjdp.gov/mpg/litreviews/Tribal-youth-in-the-Juvenile-Justice-System.pdf>