

INFOCUS



Caren Harp, Administrator

May 2020

Tribal Youth Initiatives

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) supports American Indian and Alaska Native communities as they work to reduce juvenile delinquency, prevent victimization, and strengthen the juvenile justice system for tribal youth.

The Office participates in the Justice Department's Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation, which allows any of the 574 federally recognized tribes to submit a single application for most of the Department's tribal grant programs. OJJDP supports two purpose areas within the solicitation—the Tribal Youth Program and Tribal Juvenile Healing to Wellness Courts. OJJDP also encourages tribes to apply for other funding opportunities to support their work in the areas of child protection, delinquency prevention, and juvenile justice system enhancement. The Office recently participated in a series of workshops to provide rural and tribal communities with guidance to increase their access to federal grants.

To bolster the grantees' efforts, the [Tribal Youth Resource Center](#) and the [Alaska Native Youth Training and Technical Assistance Project](#) offer comprehensive, culturally relevant support to all tribes and to rural Alaska Native communities, respectively. The Office also funds research and convenes tribal consultations and youth summits to help promote the success and well-being of tribal youth.

Programs

Tribal Youth Program

Grants awarded through this program help tribes improve their juvenile justice systems and support prevention, intervention, and treatment approaches that benefit youth. OJJDP designed the funding to be flexible to accommodate the unique needs of each tribe since tribes' cultures, needs, and capacities vary widely.

Tribal Juvenile Healing to Wellness Courts Program

These grants help participating courts develop or strengthen policies, procedures, and services that address underage drinking and substance use. Tribal juvenile healing to wellness courts often combine judicial intervention with tribal values, such as spirituality and connection to the family and community, to treat youth.

For More Information

Access more information about OJJDP's programs for tribal youth at <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/programs/tribal-youth-programs-and-services>.

Funding

Between fiscal years 2017 and 2019, OJJDP awarded nearly \$27 million to help improve outcomes for tribal youth.

- ▶ Fiscal Year 2019—\$6.6 million
- ▶ Fiscal Year 2018—\$7.2 million
- ▶ Fiscal Year 2017—\$13 million

From the Field

Supported by OJJDP funding, the Lower Sioux Indian Community created the Wawokiya Mentoring Program to address the high rates of victimization, substance use, and mental health issues among Lower Sioux youth.

The research-informed program promotes a sense of belonging, independence, and generosity in youth through cultural teachings and a coming-of-age ceremony. An advisory committee comprised of respected community members supports and guides the program's work.

"What's really amazing about this whole initiative is that [what] the research points to as effective mentoring is literally embedded in our Dakota ways!" says Dr. Teresa Peterson, an advisor to the program. "We only need to remember that and work toward restoring [those values]."



Office of Juvenile Justice and
Delinquency Prevention
ojjdp.ojp.gov