

OJJDP FY 2009 Tribal Youth Program Applicant Call Transcript

**Moderator: Patrick Dunckhorst
April 23, 2009
1:00 pm CT**

Operator: Good afternoon. My name is Rebecca, and I will be your conference operator today. At this time, I would like to welcome everyone to the Tribal Youth Program grant solicitation conference call.

All lines have been placed on mute to prevent any background noise. After the speaker's remarks there will be a question and answer session. If you would like to ask a question during this time, simply press star then the number 1 on your telephone keypad. If you would like to withdraw your question, press the pound key.

Thank you. I will now turn the conference over to Mr. Patrick Dunckhorst.

Dunckhorst: Good afternoon, or good morning, as it may be for those in Alaska. This is Patrick Dunckhorst from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. And on behalf of our Acting Administrator, Jeff Slowikowski, I'd like to welcome you, along with Laura Ansera, our Tribal Programs Coordinator here in the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

We're very please and excited to have this opportunity to share with you a little bit about the solicitation for this year's Tribal Youth Program as well as to hear your questions and give you some guidance along the way. But I do want to go into a little bit of overview before we kick into those questions. So, if you'll just bear with me just a little bit.

I want to remind you that the Tribal Youth Program appropriation is part of the Indian Country Law Enforcement Initiative, a joint initiative of the Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of the Interior to improve law enforcement and the administration of criminal and juvenile justice in Indian country.

OJJDP's Tribal Youth Program supports and enhances tribal efforts to prevent and control delinquency and strengthen the juvenile justice system for American Indian and Alaska Native youth.

This program is authorized by the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 as amended and the Department of Justice Appropriations Act 2009; Public Law 111-8.

OJJDP will award grants for direct service prevention programs to federally recognized tribes to develop and implement culturally sensitive delinquency prevention programs, interventions for court-involved youth, improvements to the juvenile justice system, alcohol and substance abuse prevention programs, and mental health program services.

I want to say that for those of you who have had a Tribal Youth Program grant in the past or who have never had one but have applied in the past, this is not the same solicitation you reviewed or applied for back then. I caution all of you to please read this solicitation front to back and then to read it again before you start filling out your application.

In this regard, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention will make awards of up to \$450,000 for a project period of 4 years. The award amount will cover the entire requested project period. All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.

It is anticipated that any awards that may be made under this solicitation will be awarded no later than September 30, 2009. Okay. With that, I will open it up for questions. And again, please tell us who you are and which tribe you're with and then please state your question. Thank you.

Operator: At this time if you would like to ask a question, please press star 1 on your telephone keypad.

Once again if you have a question, please press star 1.

Your first question comes from Denise Fitch.

Denise Fitch: Hello.

Dunckhorst: Hello.

Denise Fitch: Hi. I apologize. I got on just a wee bit late and just — whatever it was that you shared previously — I just got the money amount and 4 years.

Dunckhorst: Okay. Well we'll work you through this. I just gave a preface, a little bit about the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act that created the Tribal Youth Program and then a little bit of the overview on the five categories and then the amounts that we're offering up to \$450,000 over 4 years.

Denise Fitch: Okay.

Dunckhorst: That's it in a nutshell.

Denise Fitch: Okay. Thank you.

Operator: Your next question comes from the line of Daniel Mittan.

Daniel Mittan: Greetings Patrick and Laura.

Dunckhorst: Hello...

Laura Ansera: Hi.

Dunckhorst: ...Daniel. How are you?

Daniel Mittan: I'm doing really well. We're down in Mississippi with the Mississippi Choctaw.

Dunckhorst: I'm very familiar with that.

Daniel Mittan: And our tribal team corps is still roaring strong.

Laura Ansera: Great.

Dunckhorst: Excellent.

Daniel Mittan: We appreciate the help that you gave us and really got us off to a great start. We are — we have been operating in an adult healing to wellness court through a TCAP grant for the last 3 years and are definitely ready to expand into the youth for a youth healing to wellness. And I think that's what we will be applying if that is an eligible thing.

Dunckhorst: Was that your question?

Daniel Mittan: Yes.

Dunckhorst: You know, I think you have to go by what's in the solicitation and see how it fits to your particular needs to meet the requirements of the solicitation.

Daniel Mittan: Okay.

Dunckhorst: You still have to pick a category.

Daniel Mittan: Sure. All right.

Operator: Your next question comes from the line of Pete Peschang.

Pete Peschang: Hi Patrick and everybody. I'm with the Cheesh'na Tribal Council in Alaska. And Patrick you opened by saying that — if you had a Tribal Youth Program grant in the past you need to pay attention to the solicitation because there will be some differences.

And I'm just wondering if you could share what differences there are in the new solicitation.

Dunckhorst: Yes, I can. I think the fact that we have layered, if you will, the award to meet the needs of the size of the tribes. I think we've been really responsive in trying to make that a little more accessible to more tribes.

In addition, we have a mandatory planning year that we've added to the program. So those are probably the two largest changes.

Laura Ansera: Evaluation.

Dunckhorst: And evaluation. We've kind of made some adjustments — if you notice we have quite a menu there of performance measures that correlate to the five categories. And then with our emphasis on evaluation, which will better enable us to have the kind of data that helps us not only promote your programs but also communicate with Congress to ensure that we continue to be funded.

Pete Peschang: If I may just a quick follow up Patrick.

Dunckhorst: Sure

Pete Peschang: One of the things that I was looking at and wondering, can we work with you folks in developing our evaluation? You know, in other words during year one of our planning, can we work with you to set up our evaluation tools?

Dunckhorst: Well, one of the processes of the planning year is we want you to have an idea of where you're going. And that's why we give you the five categories. And I might emphasize we prefer you pick just one.

But in that planning year process we're going to work with you to help you in that evaluation process. We're not asking you to seek out an expensive process here.

Pete Peschang: Okay. So that was — that was basically my worry was whether we were supposed to describe our evaluation process in our proposal.

Dunckhorst: Yeah. You should — you should have a plan.

Pete Peschang: Okay.

Dunckhorst: You should be able to share with us what data you're going to be collecting. Again, those performance measures provide a clue on the effectiveness of your program. It's a projection. Remember strategic planning is a projection.

So it's not something that we want you to be afraid of, but by the same token, we want you to give us more or less an assessment of where you're at and where you hope to be over 4 years.

Pete Peschang: Okay. Thank you.

Dunckhorst: Thank you.

Operator: Your next question comes from the line of Karen Harden.

Karen Harden: Hi guys. This is Karen from Lac Courte Oreilles.

Dunckhorst: Hi Karen. How you doing?

Karen Harden: Just great. I have a question about the planning year. It wasn't clear— I had applied for the TYP last year and had gotten some great feedback, although I didn't receive the grant. In that feedback, some of the strengths and weaknesses kind of counteracted each other.

For instance, what one person put as a strength, another person put as a weakness. So it was a little confusing for me to go through. But one of the things I think I was unclear about was that in the planning year that we are still supposed to be doing some sort of activity.

My take on it when I was writing our application was that the planning year was the planning year. And then after the plans were put in place or whatever came out of that planning, then we're to put those activities into — put whatever came out of that, the focus groups and stuff I had in here and implement those things rather than starting something during the planning year. Can you clarify that for me?

Dunckhorst: During the planning year that we are working with the tribe on and developing is a process of where you get strategic planning training specifically with us and our provider. It is— it's an offsite where we spend 3 days building the strategic plan, if you will, the foundation for it.

And then over the next, say, 6 or 7 months over that period you will ultimately — you'll have some milestones or benchmarks, if you will, that will ultimately lead to the approval of your strategic plan, timeline et al and allow you to begin implementation of your program on 1 October and possibly sooner. But that is the planning year.

Karen Harden: Okay. So we will get some assistance through you initially. And then to include a consultant in there is certainly appropriate. Is that correct?

Dunckhorst: No. You're going to have hands on the whole time you're with us. This is mandatory training and then we have technical assistance specialists who are assigned to each tribe.

Karen Harden: Oh. Okay. So we actually don't have to go out and find — I had a real issue trying to find...

Dunckhorst: Oh no. We don't want you to go out. We want you to work with us and allow us to help you work through this process.

Karen Harden: I see. Because I had in here hiring of a consultant to do the process and help with the evaluation, the data collection and the evaluation during the course of this — of this, you know, the four years.

Dunckhorst: No. We ask you to give us a plan because we want to know if you pick prevention as a category then we're going to want to know, okay, what is it you're — you want to prevent? Okay, let's say it's truancy. Then we want to know again what is your plan to mobilize your [unintelligible]? What is the process you intend to use?

But we're going to help you ultimately put those words or put that vision on paper so that you have a construct to operate from. And then we're going to be with you every step of the way in this planning process.

Karen Harden: Okay. Does that include the logic model like...

[crosstalk]

Dunckhorst: Yes.

Karen Harden: ...comes with...

Dunckhorst: Yes. Now some applicants may have a logic model. That's fine. But we're going to help you build one.

Karen Harden: Okay. Because that was noted as a weakness in my application. But I didn't include it as something to come out of the first year planning. So I'm a little confused about — should I put that — should I get one and put it in the application or should that be a part of my planning year?

Dunckhorst: Well I think if you stick to the requirements on page 14. I think those are the kinds of things we're looking to build in this process so that you at least address those in your application.

We want to be able to say that this is my concept, my plan, if you will, and while it may or may not be ready for approval, we're looking to help you build it so that it reaches that point after the planning year and that it'll be ready for implementation.

Karen Harden: Okay. Thank you.

Dunckhorst: Thank you.

Operator: At this time you have no further questions — I'm sorry. Your next question comes from the line of Denise Fitch.

Denise Fitch: Skokomish Tribe. Now when you're talking about logic model, is the logic model that you're using similar to the one that SAMHSA is using in their planning processes?

Dunckhorst: No.

Denise Fitch: Okay. Just curious.

Operator: Your next question comes from the line of Kimberly Traversie.

Traversie: Hi Patrick. I'm calling from the Chippewa Cree Tribe in Montana.

Dunckhorst: Hi. Welcome.

Traversie: Thank you. On page 13 of the solicitation, you were just talking about the designated planning year, it says that it requires first time TYP grantees to have this planning year and we have had TYPs in the past. So are we still held to this requirement?

Dunckhorst: Yeah. We're holding everyone to that requirement.

Traversie: Okay. Thank you.

Operator: If you would like to ask a question, please press star 1 on your telephone keypad.

Your next question comes from Curt Shuey.

Curt Shuey: Yes. Hello. This is Curt Shuey with the Kenaitze Tribe in Alaska.

Dunckhorst: Hi Curt.

Curt Shuey: Hi. We do have an existing program. And the previous question answered one I had as well. But another question is calculation of our population, our resident populations served here, you've got the three layers I see of population sizes that are related to the grant amount.

And while we are in a centuries old native village here it's now approximately 10% native population roughly and completely intermixed with non-native population here.

And we've ended up serving non-native as well as native in our program and necessarily so because the school district, the state juvenile justice programs, et cetera, have great difficulty segregating out native individuals and referring them to our population without just offering the service to — referring them to our program without offering the service to everyone.

So who do we actually count in looking at our served population here?

Laura Ansera: I'll answer that. My name is Laura Ansera. I'm the Tribal Youth Programs Coordinator here at OJJDP. Hold on a second. Thanks. I wanted to turn to the right page. And if you look at page 5, this is an issue that we encounter in many communities because there are — it's communities that are based on whoever is living within the boundaries now and in many cases it's no longer just the American Indian, Alaska native populations within that.

What we have to have is a guideline. Something we use as a standard. And so here in OJJDP we find that the BIA American Indian population labor force report, right now we're using the 2005 edition, is the most accepted document at this point.

We used to use census, the U.S. Census, and that gave us breakout but by community and we didn't get the Indian population. And while we have many tribes that are small and we need to acknowledge every member or enrolled member in that group so that it supports the application numbers, we have very large groups that cause difficulty in calculating that amount as well.

So the layered population level is meant to provide support to the tribes and the tribes have told us that they think that the Bureau of Labor Statistics report is the best document that exists right now. And granted it's 2005 and they update it every three years.

It's still numbers that are coming— it represents numbers that are coming from the tribe. And it breaks it down so that we are able to see who or how many — what the numbers are for the federally recognized tribes.

I'm sorry. It took a long time for me to answer that but — so if you go to that document and you have Kenaitze Tribe then that's the population that we would be looking at.

Curt Shuey: Okay.

[crosstalk]

Laura Ansera: You can give us a figure. We're going to go back to that document that tells us what the population is. We're looking at what has been submitted by the tribe and is

considered to be native. We understand that the services overflow and at this point for this question we're only looking at the population that's listed in that document.

Curt Shuey: Okay. And I don't know if this is the place to discuss this further but it does — it has created a quandary for us because if we were only serving our native population then the grant amount would be adequate but — for instance our last grant was looking at serving 15 a year with our circle process.

As it is now we're getting referrals from the district court alone looking at something like one a week at this point. And it's on the verge of overwhelming us. And we can't — we've gotten no referrals at all when we've — when we've asked them to simply refer native individuals. They just — these intermixed administrations, courts, school district, et cetera, simply stop referring anyone. So it puts us in a bit of a bind.

Dunckhorst: Yeah. We can appreciate those circumstances and clearly there's some partnership. But statutorily we can only provide funding to support Native American Indian/Alaska Native youth.

Curt Shuey: Okay. Then we might — we might be — find it necessary to look for additional funding to cover the others that are being served as well.

Dunckhorst: Understood. And maybe that's resources the circuit court can kick in for you.

Curt Shuey: Thank you.

Dunckhorst: Thank you.

Operator: Your next question comes from the line of Bing Santamour.

Bing Santamour: Yes. Good morning. This is Bing Santamour with the Orutsararmiut Native Council in Bethel, Alaska.

[crosstalk]

Dunckhorst: Hello. Welcome. I'm glad you were able to get through.

Bing Santamour: Me too. Thank you. I worried there for about half an hour. Anyway, Denise asked about the logic model and you answered no, it's not like SAMHSA. Could you cover that part?

[crosstalk]

Dunckhorst: Probably not in great detail. I think...

Bing Santamour: No. Not in great — just more general than what I've read in here. I know there was some reference to the SMART thing on Web and when I tried to get into that, I were not about to register or get into it so I need somebody's name and phone number to contact...

[crosstalk]

Dunckhorst: If you go to your solicitation, let me see, it's on page — bear with me. I'm trying to find it.

Bing Santamour: Oh, take your time.

Dunckhorst: Do you see Dennis' name?

Laura Ansera: Did she take it out?

Dunckhorst: Yeah. I think the best reference I can give you on logic models is if you go to the OJJDP Web site and what is it now? It's www.ojjdp.ncjrs.gov. And when you get to the Web page if you look on the bottom left and you click on training and/or technical assistance. It will take you to a series of tools that will have some logic model examples.

Bing Santamour: Okay.

Dunckhorst: And that's probably a good...

[crosstalk]

Dunckhorst: ...orientation for you.

Bing Santamour: Okay.

Dunckhorst: We try to simplify our process but sometimes it does get complicated. We do understand that. But I think that's a good orientation for you.

Bing Santamour: Okay. Thanks.

Dunckhorst: You're welcome.

Operator: If you would like to ask a question, please press star 1 on your telephone keypad.

Your next question comes from Fathi Zabaar. Your line is open.

Fathi Zabaar: Oh, I'm sorry. I was — I muted myself. So sorry about that. So my question is about the application and then the implementation. I heard earlier you saying that OJJDP will be providing technical assistance. And we're planning to support one of the tribes who applied for this grant and we are a nonprofit organization.

And I was wondering to what extent during this implementation part of the grant period tribes can partner with other known process to provide services or is it that the tribes need to have their own programs and they do it alone?

Laura Ansera: Well I want to thank you for your question. This is Laura. We want to make sure that it's understood that the tribe is the applicant. And a tribe can develop any partnerships that they see as necessary to implement their program.

So there's nothing I can tell you that would limit you. It would be the tribe that is the applicant. If they list you as one of the partners or recipient of a consultant sub grant to what they're doing that's how you would present the information in the application.

So the tribe is still presenting what is going to get done. And you would describe how you or the nonprofit partners would describe what their involvement would be. Is that — can you hear me? Hello. Are you there?

Fathi Zabaar: Hello. Yeah. I am there but can you hear me?

Dunckhorst: Couldn't hear you just now.

Laura Ansera: Now we can hear you.

Fathi Zabaar: Oh okay. I think I was muted. Yeah. That definitely answers my question. Thank you so much Laura.

Laura Ansera: Okay.

Operator: Your next question comes from the line of Kimberly Traversie.

Traversie: It's me again Patrick.

[crosstalk]

Traversie: Chippewa Cree Tribe. I'm wondering what the full appropriation is for TYP and the number of anticipated grants to be awarded this year.

Dunckhorst: It's hard to say right now. I think the — it seems like a lot of people are energized. We hope we've been doing a good job marketing our program. So we're anticipating a good healthy amount of applications. I really don't want to give a projection because it's always been a competitive program every year.

And as you know, we always have more applications than we have awards because we don't have the kind of money to fund everyone. So I'm pretty sure it's going to be very robust. There's a lot of interest in this program.

Laura Ansera: Let me add. Historically we've been up and down on the number of awards that have been given and that's based on obviously the appropriations we've gotten.

We have other administrative costs that are applied to our monies immediately and so once we get the final number then we look at what's available. But I will tell you that we've always had many more applications that are fundable than we have had monies to support.

Last year we had 18 funded and we had over 36, closer to 40 that were eligible for funding. So it is very competitive at this point. And that is why you need to follow the solicitation and make sure all the parts that are there are there so that it won't be considered as being left out.

Things that are discussed with regard to number of pages, the font, et cetera, making sure that anything that is not part of the program description, et cetera, is being put in as an attachment so that we're able to view everything you want.

So please keep that in mind. And we really want to fund as many tribes as possible. And we are getting fundable applications that score well and we just keep moving forward. And we anticipate this year that there will be probably more than ever in terms of funding unless people are just sidetracked with stimulus funding.

So I don't think that will happen because we have many folks that are very interested in TYP. So that's just a note on my part.

Traversie: Thank you.

Laura Ansera: Thank you.

Operator: Your next question comes from the line of Denise Fitch.

Denise Fitch: A question on award information. Now so the award up to \$250,000, I'm just using the top bullet, would mean that they would get that spread out over the four year period.

Dunckhorst: That's correct.

Denise Fitch: Okay. That was the clarification I needed. Thank you.

Dunckhorst: That's the total amount for four years.

Denise Fitch: Okay. Got it. Thank you.

Dunckhorst: Yeah. Good question.

Operator: If you would like to ask a question, please press star 1 on your telephone keypad.

At this time you have no questions.

Dunckhorst: Okay. We'll give it maybe two minutes or so.

No other comments or questions?

Operator: No sir. You have no questions at this time.

Dunckhorst: Okay. Okay. Well if there are no more questions or comments then I will go ahead and close out the session. I would like to again thank everyone for participating and attending and listening. You have my email on the front of the solicitation. If you don't have it, it's Patrick.Dunckhorst, that's D-U-N-C-K-H-O-R-S-T at USDOJ, as in United States Department of Justice, dot Gov as in government.

Again, I thank you for your participation. Our next session will be on May 6 at 2:00 Eastern Time. Thank you. And oh, by the way, I want to add we will be posting transcripts on our Web site that you can go to. Give me — give me a little time and you'll be able to go in and review the questions and the answers that we received along with a frequently asked questions listing as well.

Okay. And just one parting shot. Please pay attention to the checklist at the back of the solicitation. Okay. Thank you.

Operator: This concludes today's conference call. You may now disconnect.