The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, supports law enforcement, courts, corrections, treatment, victim services, technology, and prevention initiatives that strengthen the nation’s criminal justice system. BJA provides leadership, services, and funding to America’s criminal justice systems by emphasizing local control; building relationships in the field; developing collaboration and partnerships; promoting capacity building through planning; streamlining the administration of grants; increasing training and technical assistance; creating project accountability; encouraging innovation; and ultimately communicating the value of justice efforts to decision makers at every level.

BJA works with the Office of Tribal Justice, the Office of Justice Programs American Indian and Alaska Native Desk, and other federal agencies, in addition to many culturally appropriate organizations, to maintain focus with the fund and to ensure the program’s goals and objectives are achieved.

For more information contact: Kim Norris
Senior Policy Advisor for Adjudication
Phone: (202) 307-2767
Email: Kim.Norris@usdoj.gov

Past TCAP Grant Recipients

2004 TCAP Recipients
Al Chin Indian Community of Passage Indians of the Metripuc, Al Chin Community, Arizona
Apgar Native Village, Ak-Chin, Arizona
Chippewa-Cree Indians of the Rocky Boy’s Reservation, Montana
Chocktaw Nation of Oklahoma Caddo-Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma, Oklahoma
Chippewa Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Washington
Crow Tribe of Montana
Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, Montana
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians of Michigan
Hopewell Band of Ohio, Ohio
Kamiah Indian Tribe of Idaho
La Coute Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation of Wisconsin
Naknek Indian Tribe of the Naknek Indian Reservation, Alaska
Pawnee Band of Oklahoma, Oklahoma
Native Village of Scissors Bay, Alaska
Oglala Sioux Tribe of the Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota
Pawnee Band of Oklahoma, Oklahoma
Redding Rancheria of California
Resolutions Sioux Tribe of the Rosebud Indian Reservation, South Dakota
Shoshone Tribe of the Wasco Reservation, Oregon
Seminole Tribe of Florida, Miami
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Lower Breaks, Idaho, Nevada
Siskiyou Tribe of California
Sioux Tribe of Oklahoma, Oklahoma
Suquamish Tribe of Washington
United States of America, United States
Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California
Western Band of Cherokee Indians, Oklahoma
Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Court of Oklahoma

2005 TCAP Recipients
Alician Pribitkin Indians Association, Alaska
Chippewa-Cree Indians of the Rocky Boy’s Reservation, Montana
Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma
Caddo Nation, Oklahoma
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Caddo-Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma, Oklahoma
Chippewa-Cree Indians of the Rocky Boy’s Reservation, Montana
Crow Tribe of Montana
Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, Montana
Muskogee Tribe of Oklahoma
Muskogee Nation, Oklahoma
Onondaga Nation of New York
Oglala Sioux Tribe, South Dakota
Pawnee Band of Oklahoma, Oklahoma
Pawnee Band of Oklahoma, Oklahoma
Pawnee Band of Oklahoma, Oklahoma
Pawnee Band of Oklahoma, Oklahoma
Pawnee Band of Oklahoma, Oklahoma
Tribal Courts Assistance Program

History
The Tribal Courts Assistance Program (TCAP) was first announced in FY 1999 through a competitive application process to assist federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native communities. It yielded 76 grants that allowed small, medium, and large tribes to plan single and smaller, smaller tribal court systems and to implement tribal court systems, laws and enhancements projects. This was followed by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) administering competitive processes in FY 2001 through FY 2007 that resulted in more than 361 grants totaling nearly $30 million to support tribal justice systems. Another 38 project sites were funded in FY 2008, totaling more than $5.5 million in additional funding.

Program Overview
The Tribal Courts Assistance Program is one of the U.S. Department of Justice’s primary initiatives for providing court-related support to tribal justice systems. Initially authorized under the Indian Tribal Justice Technical and Legal Assistance Act of 2000 (25 U.S.C. § 3681), the program is sponsored through the Department’s Indian Country Law Enforcement Initiative, which provides federal aid to American Indian and Alaska Native communities with resources (funding, technical assistance, etc.) to develop, implement, enhance, and continue the operation of tribal judicial systems. This flexible funding resource for tribal courts enables tribes to plan, implement, and enhance court services and programs that meet the unique needs of their respective communities.

BJA, as part of the Department’s Indian Country Law Enforcement Initiative, administers grants to support the development, implementation, enhancement, and continuation of operation of tribal judicial systems. Federally recognized tribes may apply in one of three categories:

Category I: Planning and Implementing a Single-Tribes or an Intertribal Court System. Funds may be used to facilitate the development and initial implementation of a single-tribe court system or an intertribal court system to meet the needs of more than one tribe in the same geographic region.

Category II: Enhancing the Operation of Tribal Courts. Funds may be used to enhance the operation of existing tribal courts, such as establishing a core structure for a tribal court, improving case management, training court personnel, developing civil and criminal codes, acquiring equipment and software, enhancing prosecution and indigent defense, supporting probation diversion and alternative sentencing, designing services and multidisciplinary protocols for juvenile victims of physical and sexual abuse, and structuring intertribal or appellate tribal systems.

Category III: Planning and Implementing Tribal Justice Strategies. Funds may be used to plan and implement tribal justice strategies to address crime and safety issues in tribal communities in cooperation with other tribal justice components including law enforcement and corrections. Grantees are required to design and implement a comprehensive 2-year plan through an established Strategic Planning Advisory Board.
Program Plans must be approved by BJA upon completion of the first year of the project and prior to the beginning of the second year of the project. The Tribal Judicial Institute and other providers also offer on-site technical assistance in the form of code drafting, court assessments, and other technical assistance services. These actions foster new partnerships in support of the evolving needs of tribes as they develop culturally relevant justice systems. Key steps taken:

- Maximize the delivery of technical assistance and training services.
- Lower the number of grants to provide organizations to reduce overhead.
- Identify an organization (Tribal Judicial Institute at the University of North Dakota School of Law) to coordinate technical assistance and training activities through subcontract agreements for select services in support of a wide array of national, regional, and local training.
- Establish a cadre of culturally competent consultants to respond to service requests.
- Provide relevant training and technical assistance for tribal justice systems. These collective efforts result in a high level of customer satisfaction. Tribes choose from a menu of services to meet their specific program development needs.

The menu of training courses available to support tribal court development includes:

- Essential Skills for Tribal Court Judges
- General Jurisdiction
- Alternate Forms of Justice
- Traditional Circle Peacemaking and Restorative Justice
- Conduct Training for Tribal Court Judges
- Tribal Court Clerks Certification Training
- Advanced Tribal Court Clerk/Administrator Training
- Contemporary Issues for Tribal Justice Systems
- Practical Approaches to Family Law Cases in Tribal Court
- Judicial Strategies for Addressing Domestic Violence

BJA interacts with the field and department officials, as well as regional and national tribal court advisory boards, to assess challenges, recommend modifications, and recognize accomplishments. These actions foster new partnerships in support of the evolving needs of tribes as they develop culturally relevant justice systems.

Accomplishments

- Indian Child Welfare Act
- Lay Advocacy Training
- Alternative Judicial Approaches to Address Substance Abuse
- Recognize and Respond to Gangs and Drugs in Indian Country
- Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts
- Tribal Court Planning and Code Development
- Judicial Responses to Methamphetamine
- Tribal Courts and the Child Support Enforcement
- Tribal Court Administration

From FY 2005 through 2008, the Tribal Judicial Institute delivered more than 103 training events with 3,778 tribal judicial personnel in attendance. Attendees included judges, peacemakers, clerks, probation officers, prosecutors, and public defenders throughout the nation. The Tribal Judicial Institute offers a number of scholarships to non-tribe staff to attend training events offered in conjunction with the Tribal Courts Assistance Program.

The Institute and its partners have also conducted on-site needs assessments in Alaska and California, and conducted a number of on-site court assessments for tribes throughout the nation. In addition to providing national training and on-site support, the Tribal Judicial Institute has assisted tribes through regional orientation sessions to support planning, developing, and enhancing tribal courts.

Training and technical assistance needs are often diverse and complex. Many of the funded tribes need assistance in planning for tribal justice systems, while others have had justice systems in place for centuries and have sought BJA funding to increase court capacity. Other tribes have indicated a desire to restore traditional dispute resolution methods to support their community members to participate in a justice system that is consistent with tribal values and traditions.

Note: This is not an exhaustive list of Tribal Court Initiatives.

Accomplishments, continued from page 1

Program Overview, continued from page 1

To assist these tribes, BJA, through its working group partners, has developed a process where each tribal application funded is reviewed and partners develop a series of technical assistance trainings to enable the tribal grantees to achieve their goals in a culturally appropriate manner. The result of these efforts has been the development of training curriculums designed to meet the diverse needs of tribal grantees. The Tribal Judicial Institute and other providers also offer on-site technical assistance in the form of code drafting, court assessments, and input on court policies and procedures. In addition to these efforts, technical assistance builds help capacity for tribes to compete for and better manage BJA and other federal grants.

Strategies for Developing, Implementing & Enhancing Tribal Courts

Tribal Courts Assistance Program funds have been used to develop, implement, and enhance tribal courts throughout Indian Country. Tribes have used TCAP funding to:

- Plan a court system of either limited or general jurisdiction
- Develop or amend Tribal Codes
- Create a diversionary or alternative system such as wellness courts
- Funding essential court personnel such as judges, clerks, prosecutors, public defenders, and probation officers
- Improve court capacity and efficiency through technology
- Improve data management through electronic record management systems
- Enhance court services by training key court personnel
- Develop post-adjudication services such as probation and parole
- Conduct court assessments and employ strategic planning

Current TCAP Grant Recipients

2004 TCAP Recipients
Huron Potawatomi, Inc., Michigan

Category Two

Native Village of Kwigillingo, Alaska
Eastern Band of Cherokee, North Carolina
Hopi Tribe, Arizona
Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma
Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, Michigan
Toh-Mak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians, Nevada

Category One

Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, Wisconsin
Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), Massachusetts

2005 TCAP Recipients

2006 TCAP Recipients

Alabama Coushatta Tribe, Texas
Chippewa Cree Tribe, Montana
Match-E-Be-She-Wi Band of Pottawatomie Indians, Michigan

Category Two

Bishop Indian Tribal Council, California
Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians, California
Hastings Band of Wisconsin Indians, Maine

Category Three

Burns Paiute Tribe, Oregon
Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes, Oklahoma
Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Oklahoma
Crow Tribe of Indians, Montana
Hanahan Indian Community, Oklahoma
Hoopa Valley Tribe, California
Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Michigan

[Current TCAP Grant Recipients, continued on page 4]

[Accomplishments, continued from page 2]

University of North Dakota, Tribal Judicial Institute
215 Centennial Drive, Stop 9003 | Grand Forks, ND 58202
Phone: (701) 777-6106 | Web: www.law.und.edu/trib
Program Plans must be approved by BJA upon completion of the first year of the project and prior to beginning implementation goals. Plans must demonstrate coordination and collaboration with tribal and non-tribal agencies and organizations as well as the enhancement of data criminal justice system data collection and dissemination.

Accomplishments

BJA interacts with the field and department officials, as well as regional and national tribal court advisory boards, to assess challenges, recommend modifications, and recognize accomplishments. These actions foster new partnerships in support of the evolving needs of tribes as they develop culturally relevant justice systems. Key steps taken:

- Maximize the delivery of technical assistance and training services.
- Lower the number of grants to provide organizations to reduce overlap.
- Identify an organization (Tribal Judicial Institute at the University of North Dakota School of Law) to coordinate technical assistance and training activities through subcontract agreements for select services in support of a wide array of national, regional, and local training.
- Establish a cadre of culturally competent consultants to respond to service requests.
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The menu of training courses available to support tribal court development includes:

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- General Jurisdiction
- Alternate Forms of Justice
- Traditional Circle Peacemaking and Restorative Justice
- The Tribal Court Program for Tribal Court Judges
- Tribal Court Clerks Certification Training
- Advanced Tribal Court Clerk/Administrator Training
- Contemporary Issues for Tribal Justice Systems
- Practical Approaches to Family Law Cases in Tribal Court
- Judicial Strategies for Addressing Domestic Violence

- Indian Child Welfare Act
- Lay Advocacy Training
- Alternative Juridical Approaches to Address Substance Abuse
- Recognize and Respond to Gangs and Drugs in Indian Country
- Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts
- Tribal Court Planning and Code Development
- Judicial Responses to Methamphetamine
- Tribal Courts and the Child Support Enforcement
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The Institute and its partners have also conducted on-site needs assessments in Alaska and California, and conducted a number of on-site court assessments for tribes throughout the nation. In addition to providing national training and on-site support, the Tribal Judicial Institute has assisted tribes through regional orientation sessions to support planning, developing, and enhancing tribal courts.

Training and technical assistance needs are often diverse and complex. Many of the funded tribes need assistance in planning for tribal justice systems, while others have had justice systems in place for centuries and have sought BJA funding to increase court capacity. Other tribes have indicated a desire to restore traditional dispute resolution methods to enable their community members to participate in a justice system that is consistent with tribal values and traditions.

The Tribal Assistance Hotline has assisted tribes as they develop culturally relevant justice systems and accomplishments.

Accomplishments, continued from page 1

Accomplishments, continued from page 2

To assist these tribes, BJA, through its working group partners, has developed a process where each tribal application funded is reviewed and partners develop a series of technical assistance trainings to enable the tribal grantees to achieve their goals in a culturally appropriate manner. The result of these efforts has been the development of training curriculums designed to meet the diverse needs of tribal grantees. The Tribal Judicial Institute and other providers also offer on-site technical assistance in the form of code drafting, court assessments, and input on court policies and procedures. In addition to these efforts, technical assistance helps build capacity for tribes to compete for and better manage BJA and other federal grants.

Strategies for Developing, Implementing & Enhancing Tribal Courts

Tribal Courts Assistance Program funds have been used to develop, implement, and enhance tribal courts throughout Indian Country. Tribes have used TCAP funding to:

- Plan a court system of either limited or general jurisdiction
- Develop or amend Tribal Codes
- Create a diversionary or alternative court such as wellness courts
- Fund essential court personnel such as judges, clerks, prosecutors, public defenders, and probation officers
- Improve court capacity and efficiency through technology
- Improve data management through electronic record management systems
- Enhance court services by training key court personnel
- Develop post-adjudication services such as probation and parole
- Conduct court assessments and employ strategic planning

Note: This is not an exhaustive list of Tribal Court Initiatives.

Current TCAP Grant Recipients

2006 TCAP Recipients

Category One
- Kooten Traditional Council, Alaska
- Shipshewana Mennonite Community, Indiana
- Cheyenne River Tribal Council, South Dakota

Category Two
- Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
- St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, New York
- San Carlos Apaches, Arizona

Category Three
- Colville Nation of Washington
-_scale:large

2007 TCAP Recipients

Category One
- Alabama-Coushatta Tribe, Texas
- Chippewa Cree Tribe, Montana
- Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation, Montana

Category Two
- Bishop Paiute Tribe, California
- Crow Tribe of the Fort Belknap Reservation, Montana
- Chickasaw Nation, Oklahoma
- Hupa Tribe, California
- Hoopa Valley Tribe, California
- Little Traverse Bands of Odawa Indians, Michigan

2004 TCAP Recipients

Huron Potawatomi, Inc., Michigan

2005 TCAP Recipients

Category Two
- Native Village of Kwigillingok, Alaska
- Comanche Nation of Oklahoma
- Eastern Band of Cherokee, North Carolina
- Hoopa Tribe, Arizona
- Pueblo of Zuni, Indian Tribe, Arizona
- Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, Michigan
- Tohono O’odham Nation, Arizona
- Te-Mak Tribe of Western Shoshone, Nevada

Category Three
- White Earth Band of Chippewa Indians, Minnesota
- Teton Band of the Shoshone, Wyoming
- Roam Native American Corporation, Nevada
- Chickahominy Tribe, Virginia
- Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, New York
- Saint Regis Band of Mohawk Indians, New York
- Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
- Navajo Nation, Arizona
- Paskapoo Band of Pottawatomie Indians, Michigan
- Pueblo of Taos, New Mexico
- Seminole Nation, Oklahoma
- Seneca Nation of Indians, New York
- Stockbridge-Munsee Community, Wisconsin
- Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), Massachusetts
- Otoe Missouri River Native American Corporation, Nebraska
- Sault Tribe, Michigan
- Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Mississippi
- Lower Brule Sioux Tribe, South Dakota
- Hoopa Valley Tribe, California
- Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Washington
- Wyandote Tribe of Oklahoma
- Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Oregon
- Makah, Washington
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Oklahoma
- Osage Nation of Oklahoma
- Hupa Tribe, California
- Hoopa Valley Tribe, California
- Little Traverse Bands of Odawa Indians, Michigan

[Project Overview, continued from page 1] [Accomplishments, continued from page 3] [Accomplishments, continued from page 2] [Current TCAP Grant Recipients, continued on page 4]
Tribal Courts Assistance Program

History

The Tribal Courts Assistance Program (TCAP) was first announced in FY 1999 through a competitive application process to assist federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native communities. It yielded 76 grants that allowed small, medium, and large tribes to plan single and smaller intertribal court systems and to implement tribal court programs.

The program is sponsored through the Department's Indian Country Law Enforcement Initiative, which provides federal recognition and ongoing funding.

The Tribal Courts Assistance Program (TCAP) was first announced in FY 1999 through a competitive application process to assist federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native communities. It yielded 76 grants that allowed small, medium, and large tribes to plan single and smaller intertribal court systems and to implement tribal court programs. This flexible funding resource for tribal courts enables tribes to plan and implement, enhance court services and programs that meet the unique needs of their respective communities.

BJA, as part of the Department of Justice's Indian Country Law Enforcement Initiative, administers grants to support the development, implementation, enhancement, and continuation of tribal court systems. Federally recognized tribes may apply in one of three categories:

Category I: Planning and Implementing a Single-Tribal or an Intertribal Court System

Funds may be used to facilitate the development and implementation of a single-tribe or an intertribal court system to meet the needs of more than one tribe in the same geographic region.

Category II: Enhancing the Operation of Tribal Courts

Funds may be used to enhance the operation of existing tribal courts, such as establishing a core structure for a tribal court, improving case management, training court personnel, developing civil and criminal codes, acquiring equipment and software, enhancing prosecution and indigent defense, supporting probate diversion and alternative sentencing, designing services and multidisciplinary protocols for juvenile victims of physical and sexual abuse, and structuring intertribal or tribal appellate systems.

Category III: Planning and Implementing Tribal Justice Programs

Funds may be used to plan and implement tribal justice strategies to address crime and safety issues in tribal communities in collaboration with other tribal justice components including law enforcement and corrections. Grants are required to design and implement a comprehensive 2-year plan through an established Strategic Planning Advisory Board.