U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20531

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Dear Tribal Leaders and Tribal Colleagues,

The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) strives to address the priorities and issues raised in our conferences and meetings. You emphasized the need to improve tribal capacity and infrastructure through tribal training and technical assistance (TT&TA) to tribal communities. I have been working steadily on responding to your stated needs and have now made available a series of four TT&TA sessions that will be held across the country, beginning in December 2006 and concluding in August 2007.

These sessions will focus on tribal priorities related to public safety for your families and communities, and address drugs, tribal court systems, multi-jurisdictional coordination and communication, sexual offender registry, and other law enforcement areas. We will also offer sessions on the fiscal year 2007 grant application solicitations, serve as a forum to evaluate and improve this process and plan for the FY 2008 programs and applications. The December session will focus primarily on the 2007 grant application solicitations underway. The remaining sessions will transition toward the 2007 evaluation, grants management, and planning for 2008.

We will bring together elected Tribal leaders and key policy decision-makers, Tribal administrators, executive directors, finance and grants administration officers, Tribal planners, grant writers, justice and law enforcement personnel, and Tribal program project coordinators and grantee officers.

In an effort to make these sessions as useful as possible, OJP has invited other U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) agencies and other Federal agencies to join us for the TT&TA series. We are pleased that our first partner is the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Agency (SAMHSA). Together we will continue to work on solving the many issues of joint concern, especially methamphetamine use and suicide prevention.

This is the current schedule:

December 5-6, 2006 – Palm Springs, California

March 27-29, 2007 – Minneapolis, Minnesota

June 4-6, 2007 – Jacksonville, Florida

July 29-August 1, 2007 – Phoenix, Arizona

Below is a preliminary list of the proposed general session topics and sessions that are being planned for the T&TA series:

- About DOJ — Public Safety for Indian Country
- About HHS — Public Health for Indian Country
- Public Safety Challenges and Priorities in Indian Country
- American Indian/Alaska Native/Native American Barriers to Accessing Federal Resources
- Issues Sessions — Methamphetamine, Sex Offender Registry, AMBER Alert, Suicide Prevention, Effective Multi-Jurisdictional Partnerships and Strategies
- Grants Sessions — Application Submission and Grants Management Process
- Tribal Model Best Practices
- Grants.Gov Training

Current DOJ/OJP grantee funds are eligible for travel and participation at the TT&TA sessions. If you are not a DOJ/OJP grantee, limited scholarships are available for your travel and attendance on a case-by-case basis.

To sign up for the TT&TA sessions, please go to **http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/topics/ttta.htm.** Or, if you have any questions about the TT&TA sessions and scholarships, please contact Bob Brown at (202) 616-3297 or robert.brown@usdoj.gov.

The first TT&TA session is being held in conjunction with our Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), 10th National Indian Nations Conference: Justice for Victims of Crime, which will be held December 7 — 9, 2006, also in Palm Springs California, with the theme, "Hope for All Generations: Weaving a Network of Safety, Justice and Healing." It will bring together Native American victims, victim advocates, tribal leaders, victim service providers, community volunteers, prosecutors, judicial and law enforcement personnel, family violence and sexual assault specialists, medical providers, social services and mental health personnel, probation/corrections, criminal justice and juvenile justice personnel, as well as federal and state agency representatives to share their knowledge, experiences and ideas for developing programs that serve the unique needs of crime victims in Indian Country. You may find more information about their conference at **www.tribal-institute.org/ovc**.

I look forward to continuing to work with you to keep our Native American communities safe.

Sincerely,

Regina B. Schofield

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