

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE - TRIBAL CONSOLIDATED GRANTS INITIATIVE
TRIBAL LEADERS CONSULTATION TELECONFERENCE CALL
DECEMBER 23, 2009
2:30 – 4:30 P.M. (EST)**

DOJ Attendance:

Karol Mason (Deputy Associate Attorney General)

Marylou Leary (Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General)

Eugenia Tyner Dawson (Senior Tribal Advisor, OJP)

Andrew Dorr (Assistant Director, COPS)

Tracy Toulou (Director, OTJ)

Anna Martinez (Special Policy Advisor, OVW)

I. DOJ INTRODUCTIONS

Eugenia Tyner-Dawson, Senior Tribal Advisor to Assistant Attorney General Laurie Robinson began by addressing and welcoming Distinguished Tribal Leaders and Tribal Policy Expert Designees, noting that both she and Tracy Toulou, Director for the Office of Tribal Justice, would be facilitating the U.S. Department of Justice, Tribal Consolidated Grants Initiative – National Tribal Consultation Teleconference Call.

Ms. Tyner-Dawson continued with an introduction of Department of Justice representation on the call. These people included: Deputy Associate Attorney General Karol Mason, Deputy Assistant Attorney General Mary Lou Leary, Andrew Dorr, COPS, Anna Martinez, OVW. Ms. Tyner-Dawson mentioned that other Department representatives from the various grant components were on the call to listen and address questions if necessary.

After the brief introduction, Ms. Tyner-Dawson summarized the main topics proposed on the agenda, which are as follows:

- II. Tribal consultation call purpose
- III. Tribal Leaders/Designees Introductions & Call Protocols
- IV. Tribal Consolidated Grants Initiative Goals
- V. Tribal Grants Initiative Proposal

- VI. DOJ Education and Outreach
- VII. Tribal Action Readiness
- VIII. Next Steps
- IX. Adjourn

Ms. Tyner-Dawson then gave a brief background on the dialogue, listening sessions and consultation provided to date.

She noted that the DOJ received tribal recommendations from the Office of Justice Programs Tribal Justice Advisory Group that developed a Tribal Policy paper for the Obama Administration, and worked with the National Congress of American Indians to develop a Consultation Matrix detailing tribal priorities.

In August and September 2009, DOJ traveled to Seattle, WA and Albuquerque, NM, where they engaged tribal policy experts and Tribal leaders from these areas to solicit their views for public safety and tribal justice issues.

In October, 2009 noted Ms. Tyner-Dawson, the Department's leadership, Attorney General Holder, Deputy Attorney Ogden, and Associate Attorney General Thomas Perrelli, met with Tribal leaders and their tribal designees to discuss tribal law enforcement and public safety issues at a two-day listening session held in St. Paul, Minnesota.

On October 30, 2009, the Department held the Annual Violence Against Women Tribal Consultation in St. Paul, Minnesota to hear the tribal views in accordance with DOJ statutory requirements to consult with tribal leaders.

On Friday, December 18, 2009, Deputy Associate Attorney General Karol Mason and other DOJ leadership staff held the first national tribal leaders teleconference call.

Ms. Tyner-Dawson said that at this session there was participation from most of the regions and a full two-hour discussion on the tribal consolidated grants initiative. As the Executive Director for the Tribal Justice Advisory Group, Ms. Tyner-Dawson coordinated closely with the National Congress of American Indians throughout their development of the Tribal Consultation Matrix.

Without any question, noted Ms. Tyner-Dawson, tribal leaders have asked for the DOJ to improve the tribal grants process, increase tribal access to DOJ resources, and simplify the funding streams for tribes.

Ms. Tyner-Dawson said that the second conference call was a reflection of the DOJ's desire to be responsive to tribes to take action and not simply talk about it; and, to develop a process that will work for everyone affected. She noted the importance of involving the tribes as early as possible in this FY2010 process.

Ms. Tyner-Dawson focused on the significance of the Consolidated Grants Initiative. As the proposal develops from consulting to working in partnership with the tribes, the DOJ's hope is to achieve safer Native communities.

Ms. Tyner-Dawson then asked the callers to please bear with her as she covered a few protocols with everyone for the call, before turning the call over to Deputy Associate Attorney General Karol Mason.

Ms. Tyner-Dawson announced the established agenda for the session to conclude at 4:30 p.m. and notified the callers of the utilization of a note taker in order to capture issues and challenges. She then asked the representatives to state their name, title and Tribal affiliation when speaking.

Ms. Tyner-Dawson directed her attention to the press, informing those on the call that the call was primarily for tribal leaders and asked that comments be held and directed to Sheila Jerusalem at 202-616-3227 or written to Sheila.jerusalem@usdoj.gov.

Ms. Tyner-Dawson said that the DOJ representatives on the call were available to respond to requests for specific responses; otherwise, they remained active listeners.

Ms. Tyner-Dawson stated that the goal of the DOJ was to present the proposal, and to have a dialogue; not just listen, without giving comment where appropriate.

Finally, Ms. Tyner-Dawson asked the callers to please afford speakers the full opportunity to be heard. She asked callers to mute their telephones unless speaking and avoid all background conversations that could interfere with the teleconference conversations.

Next, Deputy Associate Attorney General Karol Mason began her remarks about the grant initiatives and objectives. She noted that upon consideration of the comments at the October Listening Sessions in St. Paul, the planning sessions in Seattle and Albuquerque and the Consultation on Violence Against Native Women held on October 30, 2009, the Department of Justice began implementing a new approach to Tribal specific grants solicitations and applications.

In response to concerns, Ms. Mason noted the consideration of developing a single solicitation and application form for all of the Department's Tribal specific discretionary grant programs.

She noted the goal of implementing this new approach for the fiscal year which began on October 1, 2009, and which will end on September 30, 2010. Ms. Mason informed callers that the purpose of conducting the consultation by conference call was to enable the DOJ to implement the new approach this current fiscal year.

Ms. Mason clarified that the new approach will NOT apply to any existing/continuing grants and will NOT apply to requests for supplemental funding for existing grants. This new approach will NOT apply to training and technical assistance grant programs. The new approach will apply only to new requests for grant funding, for grant programs specifically for Tribal governments. Ms. Mason also clarified that the new approach would not apply to new Tribal specific grant programs funded in the FY 2010 budget, and would only apply to existing Tribal specific grant programs. Ms. Mason also stated that in response to concerns raised on the December 18th Consultation call, the Department is re-considering how to deal with OVW's Tribal Coalitions grant program, and that an announcement would be made when this issue is resolved.

Ms. Mason encouraged Tribal Leaders to continue to apply for all other non-Tribal specific grant programs offered by the Department, such as the Bureau of Justice Assistance's Drug Court Grants Program, the Office on Violence against Women's Legal Assistance to Victim's Grant Program, and COPS general Hiring Grants Program.

She stated that the DOJ was consulting with Tribal Leaders at the beginning of the process, prior to developing the solicitation form.

Ms. Mason cited the Department's goal as one intended to design a single solicitation and application, to eliminate the need for Tribes to become familiar with multiple solicitations and to submit multiple applications.

The combined solicitation is to be comprehensive, noted Ms. Mason, so that all the Tribes are educated about all of the Tribal specific grant programs available to Tribal governments. Each Tribal government will be required to submit a single application for all grants that it would like to receive.

All of the Department's Tribal specific discretionary grant programs will be described in a single solicitation, and will provide a single application form. Each Tribe will select the grant programs the Tribe needs to address its criminal justice issues.

Ms. Mason noted that the Department is in the process of developing a single budget form, which will require a budget for each grant selected by the Tribe.

Ms. Mason continued by stating that grants will continue to be awarded separately by each component. If a Tribe applies for multiple grants, the grants will be awarded separately by component. The grants will be managed by the awarding component in the same manner grants are currently managed. Tribes will be required to file the reports required for each specific grant awarded. Ms. Mason said that applications will be accepted electronically, using GMS, and by Fax and by overnight courier, postmarked no later than the date the solicitation is due.

She encouraged Tribes to begin community assessment and planning efforts now, so that they can begin the process of developing a single grant proposal.

Ms. Mason notified the callers of an education and outreach committee that will work closely with the Tribes, before the solicitation is released, to educate them about this new approach.

Ms. Mason reached out to leaders to enlist their help in identifying conferences and other gatherings which will give the DOJ the opportunity to explain this new approach.

She stated the overall goal of working in partnership with Tribes as the DOJ works to simplify the grant application process.

The combined single solicitation will help educate the Department as a whole about the needs in Native communities, Ms. Mason noted. It will also help continue to improve the grant process and will help identify gaps to create better funding models in the future.

Tracy Toulou asked Tribal Leaders to give a brief introduction, taking a roll call by each region.

Alaska Region :

- Michel, Native Village of Barrow, Rose Dominic in Bethel, Klingit-Haida Gary Harrison, Chickaloon Village, Carol Sunday, Traditional Village, Michelle, Manilaq, Angela, Eaak, Native Village of Savoonga,

Eastern Region: Seminole Tribe of Florida, Robert Bryant, TJAG Member, Penobscot Nation, Brenda Fields Norscott, Ashlee Brown, Lula Jackson, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Shah Lewis

East Oklahoma Region Re: Carol Swank Choctaw Nation, (Chickasaw Nation, Grant Dates, Chickasaw Nation

Great Plains Region: Roxanne TwoBulls, Oglala Sioux Tribe, Representative, Turtle Mountain, Kellie Bass, Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, Trenton Service Area, United Tribes Technical College

Mid West Region: Terry Snowball, Jerry Johnson, David Thundereagle, Little Ottawa Band of Ojibwe Indians, Bill Montgomery, State of Wisconsin, Representative, Lac Du Flambeau, Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe Indians, Forest Band of Pottawatomi Indians, Ho-Chunk Nation, David Thundereagle, Mach-e-be-nash-she-wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians of Michigan, President Keeweenaw Bay Indian Community, Cindy, Turtle Mountain, Keeley Clark.

Navajo Region: Hope MacDonald Lone Tree, TJAG Chair, Misti and Darrel Van, NM, Navajo Nation Home for Women and Children, Misty, Navajo Nation Home for Women and Children.

Northwest Region: Confederated Tribes of Umatilla, Tulalip Tribes, Desiree Cruz, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Gerald Smith, Chief, Spokane Tribe, Chairman Cagey, Lummi Nation, Ralph Anderson, Skokomish Tribe,

Pacific Region: Connie White, Loretta, Inter Tribal Council CA, Darrell , Hoopa Valley Tribal Coalition representative, Hopland Band of Miwok Indians.

Rocky Mountain Region: None

Southern Plains Region: Rhonda Butcher, Citizen Band Potawatomi Nation, Marilyn Eposy, Tonkawa Tribe of OK

South West Region: Fort Mahoney, SW Incidence Women's Coalition,

Western Region Representation: Patrick McMullin, Intertribal Council of Arizona, Darrell Crawford Inter Tribal Council NV, Lisa Anser, Fort Mojave Tribe, Governor Coeoyate, Zuni Pueblo, Rose Quilt, SW Indigenous Women's coalition representative, Tohono O'Odham Nation, Cheryl, Phoenix, Kris Harnsforthe, Daniel Maskin,.

National Tribal Organizations:

National Native American Law Enforcement Association, Gary Edwards, Executive Director
National Congress of American Indians, John Dossett, Senior Counsel, Katy Jackman, Attorney Advisor

Tracy Toulou, OTJ, Opened the Floor by Region: Tracy asked all of the tribal representatives to identify issues on a region-by-region basis, rotating speakers one-by-one to give everyone an opportunity to speak for their tribal/regional concerns. The conversation would rotate with each regional speaker of the 12 BIA regions until everyone had an opportunity to speak.

Alaska Region:

- Various representatives from Alaska then voiced some concerns about the consolidated grant application process.
- Unknown: concerned about how this is going to work for indigenous tribes?
- It might turn into more writing during the application process.
- A speaker from Native Counsel in Bethal wondered how many components for funding there would be and requested more information on how each component would be designed. Karol Mason then noted that Tribal applications would be rated on the needs of each individual tribe.

Eastern Oklahoma Region:

- Grant Dates of the Choctaw Nation asked how the Department was planning on combining requests. Karol Mason responded that the new approach would combine the Department's grant programs into a single solicitation, which would describe the eligibility and details of each of the Department's Tribal specific discretionary grant programs. Each Tribe will be asked to identify the grant programs they are applying for funding on the application form.
- Carol Swank then posed a question about transitional housing. Ms. Mason replied that this new approach only applies to Tribal specific discretionary grant programs, and that OVW's transitional housing grant program would not be part of this consolidated process.

Eastern Region:

- Robert Bryant noted that better feedback could be provided when and if a Tribe has been awarded a grant or not awarded a grant. Ms. Mason promised to add that to the grant improvement process review at a later date, along with technical assistance.
- Shah Lewis asked the question of whether or not the feedback and ratings could be condensed. Tracy Toulou responded that the reason for consolidating the grants is to try to provide better feedback.
- Unknown: Voiced a concern that Karol Mason seems to not know how many programs there are; there seems to be no set number. Ms. Mason responded that it was somewhat in the neighborhood of twenty programs and that the plan is to have this grant program available only to Tribal specific discretionary grant programs. She also noted that we will not know the precise number until we resolve the OVW Tribal Coalitions grant issue. Tracy Toulou added in response that the Department is limited to the grant programs created by Congress. Ms. Mason made the point that no new grant programs were being created in this process.

Great Plains:

- Dept of Public Safety, Roxanne TwoBulls, Oglala Sioux Tribe, noted that Tribal leaders attended the Conferences; they normally go through the application process. Ms. Mason responded that Tribes will continue to go through the normal application eligibility process.
- Kellie Bass of the Winnebago Tribe voiced a concern that with a 15 month planning grant, this would end the end of FY2010. If the program is started in March, Tribes run the risk of falling into a funding gap. Ms. Mason responded that the DOJ will have to further look into that issue and determine how to address because each grant has separate eligibility requirements.
- Unknown: Asked a question about applying for a single grant and forgetting to apply for another. Ms. Mason responded that the Department is developing an education and outreach process to help the Tribes understand the new process, and that the purpose of the single solicitation is to make the Tribes aware in a single solicitation of all of the Department's Tribal specific discretionary grant programs available.
- Another comment was raised to ask if there is there a way to make funding more available so the Tribes themselves are not charged. Tracy Toulou then responded that the DOJ can only make available grant funds that Congress makes available for them.

Midwest Region:

- Cindy of Turtle Mountain noted that the Juvenile Detention Centers and Police Forces are concerns of the Grant Process. Gena Tyner-Dawson responded that the DOJ offers non-tribal programs, which she would be happy to go over with @ 202-353-3442. Ms. Mason then noted the importance of submitting a narrative for each grant program that the tribes are applying for.
- Unknown: With regard to the application process, will there be enough bandwidth for these large file attachments? Ms. Mason responded that the DOJ is working with their technical people as the combined solicitation form and application is being

developed. Ms. Mason also pointed out that hard copies or faxed copies of the application would also be accepted.

- Unknown: Said that they were pleased to find out that Tribes are moving into the one application for all of the programs. And then asked, if Tribes were to submit an application for multiple grants, is it possible if you have applied for 3 programs, would they be able to get 3 or 1 etc? Ms. Mason responded that if a Tribe applies for multiple grants, it's possible to be awarded one, multiple grants or possibly none.
- Keeley Clark brought up the topic of Detention Center Planning, knowing it was a personal question and wondering who to contact. Gena Tyner-Dawson then volunteered to go over the particulars of the meeting on 1/12.

Navajo Region:

- Misty from the Navajo Home for Women and Children asked if the solicitation applied to their tribe. Ms. Mason responded that each Tribe would be required to submit a single consolidated application, and that it's important for Tribes to begin planning now to submit a single application. The Tribe can apply for grants at multiple communities within the Tribe, but this must be done in the single application form. Questions were then directed to Gena Tyner-Dawson.

Northwest Region:

- Ralph Anderson asked if the Tribes would be contacted about outreach. Ms. Tyner-Dawson responded that the Tribes will be contacted via email, field trainings, webinars, maxing out all available opportunities to get the word out.
- Mark voiced a concern that March 15 is an overly ambitious deadline; the consultation period is being done a disservice. He then asked if the DOJ was looking at unifying the grant award administration. Ms. Mason responded that each component would award its own grants, and that each grant awarded would be administered by that component. Ms. Mason explained that each component would

conduct its own peer review process by grant program, as it's done in prior years.

Ms. Mason noted that this new approach will help the components understand a Tribe's overall needs better, and, hopefully, help the Department make better funding decisions with more complete information.

- Patrick from the Intertribal Council of Arizona brought up the topic of individual tribes that will participate in applying for a grant on someone's behalf. Tracy Toulou responded that the DOJ is not attempting to change the grant program, only simplify the process.
- Confederate Tribes of Warm Spring voiced a concern about the small 60 day time frame, and wondered if the grant consolidation includes the OVC VOCA Dollars. Ms. Mason responded that her understanding was that there are no Tribal specific VOCA grant funds available this year.
- Tribal Development Office wondered if the new process was going to be for 1, 3, or 5 years, stating that Grants.gov is not always accurate. Ms. Mason responded that hard copies as well as faxed copies will be accepted, and that each grant program will have its own criteria for the length of the grant award. The Tribal Development Office then asked how Tribes were going to add this process to existing grants. Ms. Mason responded that this process only applies to new applications for grants, not applications for supplemental or continuation grants.

Pacific Region:

- Inter Tribal Council of California: Representative asked that during the education and information phase, the Department consider regional training of trainers to expand the effort, noting that training the trainers is helpful.
- Hawklaw Indians: Noted the importance of beginning now with community assessments process to determine needs, in order to better inform on how the sessions go. Ms. Mason responded that beginning a community needs assessment process now was just a suggestion, not a requirement, so that Tribes could begin to identify

their needs before the solicitation is released. Ms. Tyner-Dawson suggested that Social Services, Law Enforcement, Grant Writing staff, Construction, gather together and discuss needs.

Rocky Mountain Region: None

Southern Plains Region:

- A question was then posed about separate budgets for each grant. Ms. Mason responded that there will be one budget form, but that the Tribe would be required to submit budget information for each grant selected on this single form.
- Rhonda: TCAP, Ms. Mason noted that technical assistance grant programs will not be included in the combined solicitation.

Southwest Region:

- The Zuni Governor noted that he had been with Tribal Consultation and does not feel that this is considered Tribal Consultation. He stressed the need for Regional Teleconference Calls with a proposal about changing something that has already been established. He was concerned that he has no written document explaining the process. Ms. Mason responded that the Department was developing the consolidated grant solicitation approach to respond to requests from Tribal representatives for a more simplified grant process. Ms. Mason noted that as described in the letter sent by Thomas Perrelli, the Consultation was held by phone so that the Department could find a way to get input from the Tribes early in the process, before actually developing the combined solicitation form. She added that this was just a first step to address the many issues with the Tribal grant process. Tracy Toulou then said that the consultation is a process and that this was one of the topics in all consultation meetings; that the DOJ grant program is difficult to apply for. Ms. Tyner-Dawson included that this is a major step forward to improve grant making.

Western Region:

- Cheryl from Phoenix, noted that Tribal coalition funds twenty-two tribes in Arizona and said that the option to apply for funds should be kept out of this process.
- Kris Harnsforthe then noted he would like a copy of the notes from this listening session and Ms. Tyner-Dawson identified that they would be posted online, thanking him for the suggestion.
- Daniel Maskin said that he did not agree with lumping all the grants into one for Tribal. The concern is that Tribes will still have the opportunity to apply for non-profit, as some live in small communities
- Arizona Inter Tribal Council asked how long the process is good for. Ms. Mason responded that the process only applies to Fiscal Year 2010 Tribal specific grants, and that no decisions have been made about how to handle the FY 2011 grant process. DOJ will continue to explore how to improve the Tribal grant process in the future, in partnership with the Tribes.

IX. ADJOURN

Tracy Toulou noted the two hour time had expired for the call duration and thanked everyone for their participation. The call concluded at 4:30 p.m. (EST).