

Grants to Support Tribal Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalitions

The Grants to Support Tribal Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalitions (Tribal Coalitions Program) builds the capacity of nonprofit, nongovernmental tribal coalitions, to end domestic/sexual violence in American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities.

COALITIONS CONSIST PRIMARILY OF ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS (e.g. sexual assault programs, domestic violence programs, tribal victim services agencies, and other victim services agencies) but may also include individual members. The Tribal Coalitions Program enhances the safety of victims by supporting projects uniquely designed to address domestic/sexual violence amongst American Indian and Alaska Native women.

23 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017, 23 unique grantees reported activities funded by the Tribal Coalitions Program.

11,697 People Trained

Grantees trained a total of 11,697 people.

4,847 Technical Assistance Activities

Grantees provided 4,230 consultations and 617 site visits.

Tribal Coalition grantees play a number of roles in responding to domestic/sexual violence: they serve as governing or organizing bodies for local agencies; advocate for policy, legislation, or practice changes; and support collaboration between agencies to improve access to critical services for American Indian and Alaska Native women.



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

The Montana Native Women's Coalition funding is critical to all tribal programs to improve the services, safety, and response to native women and girls in Montana's Indian Country. This funding provides a statewide communication center for tribal programs to communicate with each other, gain resources, and assist in their tribal communities. This improves relationships, coordination of services, and work with tribal governments to understand the necessary program efforts allowed under VAWA 2013.

MONTANA NATIVE WOMEN'S COALITION



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

With the grant funding, Wabanaki Women's Coalition (WWC) is able to bring trainings to each community to meet their needs in responding to the crimes of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, and trafficking. WWC provides opportunities for survivors from all the tribal communities to attend a weekend healing retreat. This funding has changed the landscape of the response that Native women can expect to receive in tribal communities throughout Maine.

WABANAKI WOMEN'S COALITION



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

The Tribal Coalitions funds allow us to maintain a staff of five, which helps us provide awareness materials and training to service providers to help restore the harmony within our Indigenous communities.

SEVEN DANCERS COALITION

Grantees engage in the following purpose areas:

- Increase awareness of domestic/sexual violence in AI/AN communities;
- Enhance the response at the tribal, federal, and state levels; and
- Identify and provide technical assistance (TA) to coalition members and tribal communities to improve access to critical services.

VAWA 2013 added the following new purpose areas to the program:

- Assist Indian tribes and tribal leadership in developing and promoting state, local, and tribal legislation and policies that enhance best practices for responding to these forms of violence.

This purpose area was implemented in FY 2014, meaning that grants made on or after October 1, 2014 could specifically address it. If an activity falling under the added purpose area could not be captured in sections of the existing form that grantees use to report, they could describe their accomplishments in narrative sections of the form.

General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **23** individual grantees for the July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2017 progress reporting period.

- The majority of grantees (**91%**) were dual sexual assault/domestic violence coalitions.
- Grantees most frequently addressed the following purpose area:
 - Increase awareness of domestic/dating violence and sexual assault against American Indian and Alaska Native women.

Staff

Grant-funded staff provide training, education, and technical assistance to help end domestic/sexual violence in AI/AN communities and hold offenders accountable. **Being able to hire staff is critical to the overall function and success of programs.**

- **22** (96%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **50** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds to support administrators and program coordinators.

Table 1 | Staff supported with Tribal Coalitions grant funds, July 2015–June 2017: **Selected groups**

Staff funded	6-month average	
Total FTE staff funded	50	
Administrators	14	28%
Program coordinators	12	24%
Support staff	9	18%
Trainers/educators	6	12%
Communications specialists	3	6%

NOTE: Data presented for the most frequently reported categories only (≥5%).

Training

Grantees train professionals to improve their response to AI/AN victims of domestic/sexual violence. **This training improves the professional response to victims and increases offender accountability.**

- **21** (91%) grantees used funds for training.
- Grantees convened a total of **426** training events.
- Grantees trained a total of **11,697** people.
- Most often these trainings reached domestic violence program staff (**26%**), multidisciplinary staff at the same training (**9%**), tribal government/tribal government agency staff (**8%**), and tribal community groups (**7%**).

Community Education

Grant-funded staff provide information and outreach to communities to increase awareness of domestic/sexual violence. Outreach activities can include distributing information at community gatherings such as powwows, basket-weaving and beading circles, bake sales, and parades. **Community education and outreach activities can be used as a tool to connect people who have a common goal of building safe, supportive, and accountable communities.**ⁱ

- **22** (96%) grantees used funds for community education.
- Grantees convened a total of **608** education events.
- Grantees educated a total of **24,609** people.
- Most often this education reached community members (**47%**), students (**28%**), victims (**5%**), community groups (**5%**), and tribal government/tribal government agency staff (**5%**).

ⁱ Community education involves providing general information that will increase public awareness of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Community education is not the same as training. Training involves providing information on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking that enables an individual to improve his or her response to victims as it relates to their role in the system.



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

The coalition did not exist prior to OVV funding and would not continue to do the crucial work we are engaged in if the funding stopped. The Restoring Ancestral Winds(RAW) staff is so engaged in the work we do that during this period, RAW staff spent 152 days on the road meeting our partners, attending meetings, delivering training and technical assistance, and providing information about our organization and how we can be a free and responsive resource for our partners, stakeholders, and the community.

RESTORING ANCESTRAL WINDS, INC.



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Without funding to support our work, our communities both off and on the reservation would have to depend on dominant culture programs to provide adequate services that are culturally relevant and appropriate for survivors. Dominant culture programs work from a western lens of perception that is inclusive of their values. These values are contrary and in competition with our own beliefs and standards. These values impact the quality of services that our women and children receive when accessing support and help from mainstream domestic violence and sexual assault programs. Relationships with Native women keep us informed on the violence being perpetrated against Native women and the systems response they are receiving when ending the violence. It also helps us to identify gaps in services and to model what is working throughout tribal communities, when it comes to crime victim services. When we find gaps, this funding allows us to develop and implement training, curriculum, and resources to help increase leadership and capacity building amongst tribal domestic violence and sexual assault programs, both on and off the reservation.

MENDING THE SACRED HOOP



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

The funding allows our organization to provide training, technical assistance and support to advocates, law enforcement, members of the judiciary, child welfare professionals, and others who may encounter victims and families experiencing domestic and sexual violence

NATIVE ALLIANCE AGAINST VIOLENCE



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

The Tribal Coalitions funding has provided a forum for tribal DV programs, community members, and others to address needs for victims of sexual and domestic violence. This funding provides the Montana Native Women's Coalition the ability to provide the necessary training and/or provide scholarships for tribal DV programs to improve response to sexual and domestic violence victims. Without this funding there would be very limited training available for the tribal programs and there would be no training available that addresses culturally specific concerns and/or issues.

MONTANA NATIVE WOMEN'S COALITION



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women (CSVANW) has been working diligently to ensure that community partners understand the resources in their communities, so that they feel more comfortable making referrals and seeking out assistance when needed. CSVANW has also been working towards implementing stronger and more comprehensive Native youth violence prevention and early intervention. Native youth exposure to violence and/or perpetuation of violence is a persistent and complex problem within the state of New Mexico. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention reports that within the past year more than 60% of Native youth have been exposed to violence in different sectors of their lives: at home, at school, and within their communities. Violence is the most common and earliest trauma that Native youth experience, often occurring within their home and perpetuated within the family. Although there is a strong agreement among research experts that violence can have detrimental effects on Native youths' emotional, psychological, and physical development, and spiritual connectedness, there is still a lack of community-based prevention and early intervention efforts being implemented.

COALITION TO STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST NATIVE WOMEN

Technical Assistance

Grantees provide technical assistance to help other professionals and organizations improve their response to AI/AN victims and develop their organizational infrastructures, through site visits and consultations. Assistance may include developing or enhancing culturally appropriate services, building a coordinated community response and community support, and supporting victim service administration and operations.

- **22** (96%) grantees used funds for technical assistance.
- Grantees provided a total of **4,847** technical assistance activities.

Across the 2-year period, providers most frequently delivered the following forms of assistance:

- A total of **4,230** consultations; and
- A total of **617** site visits.

Remaining Areas of Need

Grantees emphasized the need for **community outreach and education in order to:**

- Address common misconceptions and negative stereotypes of victims;
- Educate tribal leaders, community members, and youth about domestic violence and sexual assault; and
- Encourage victims to seek services.

Grantees frequently cited a need for **ongoing staff training because of high turnover** among advocates and other program staff, as well as **stable and sustained funding for services**.

Grantees also felt that more training was needed on **trauma-informed response, especially when working with American Indian/Alaska Native victims** among:

- Tribal leadership and courts;
- Law enforcement and first responders;
- State courts; and
- Native and non-Native service providers.

Grantees noted the need to **improve offender accountability** in order to encourage victims to come forward. They attributed the lack of accountability to:

- Outdated tribal codes;
- Insufficient law enforcement presence on tribal lands;
- Low rates of prosecution;
- A lack of treatment programs for offenders; and
- Jurisdictional issues between tribes, state, and local government that hampered enforcement of court orders.

Grantees pointed to a number of **unmet needs in victim service delivery**, particularly:

- Long-term affordable housing and emergency shelter;
- Mental health and substance abuse services;
- Child care;
- Emergency financial assistance; and
- Transportation.

Finally, grantees underscored the need to **provide services and advocacy to underserved populations**, including:

- Youth;
- Elders; and
- LGBTQ populations.



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

It is very difficult to secure any victim and their dependents safety when there is limited shelter placement within a reservation boundary; there are only two reservations that currently operate their own shelters. If the Native victim and her dependents must move off the reservation for shelter then there is a strong risk for further victimization, limited services and risk of being found. Since there are limited tribal shelters, often they will be full and/or relatives of the perpetrator will already be in shelter placement. If the Native victim has to move off reservation to a non-tribal based shelter there is strong risk that the Native victim will leave the shelter due to limited cultural understanding of the non-tribal based advocates.

WOMENSPIRIT COALITION



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

We need to continue to build resources and programming to address gaps in services regarding violence in the LGBTQ communities, in both tribal and non-tribal communities. They are truly an invisible and underserved population with high risk indicators for being victimized and have very few services located in both urban and rural areas which makes them more isolated and more at risk for all forms of violence and sex trafficking.

MENDING THE SACRED HOOP



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Native American victims face unique cultural barriers that are based upon historical and current events that make the delivery of legal assistance challenging. Native victims may be hesitant to seek help from non-Indian service providers, and several cultural considerations lie under the surface, which are based on generations of each tribe's/nation's respective religion, including extended family concepts, societal structure, and cultural norms, each of which are different for each tribe. Additional training on unique customs, traditions, and nuances for attorneys is needed. Many survivors find themselves represented by attorneys who do not practice a holistic approach to serving victims of domestic violence and are not familiar with the basics of victim advocacy, including the dynamics of domestic violence and the impact of that violence on every aspect of a victim's life including spiritual, physical, mental, cultural, medical, and economic.

NATIVE ALLIANCE AGAINST VIOLENCE

