

Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program

The goals and objectives of the Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program (Tribal Governments Program) are to decrease the number of violent crimes (sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking) against American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) women and girls, assist Indian tribes in using their sovereign authority to respond to those crimes, and ensure that people who commit violent crimes against AI/AN women are held responsible for their actions through a strong coordinated community response.

240 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017, 240 unique grantees reported activities funded by the Tribal Governments Program.

6,361 Victims Served

On average, grantees served 6,361 victims and 3,316 children during each 6-month reporting period.

1,069 Cases Investigated

Grantees investigated a total of 1,069 cases, and referred 543 cases to prosecutors.

Grantees engage in the following purpose areas:

- Develop and enhance culturally competent governmental strategies to reduce violent crimes against and increase the safety of Indian women;
- Increase tribal capacity to respond to victims of domestic/sexual violence;
- Strengthen tribal justice interventions, including tribal law enforcement, prosecution, courts, probation, and correctional facilities;
- Enhance services to Indian women victimized by domestic/sexual violence;
- Develop a community response regarding the education and prevention;
- Protect the safety of victims and their children by providing supervised visitation and safe visitation exchange;
- Provide transitional housing, support services, and financial assistance to victims; and
- Provide legal assistance to victims seeking justice.

A nationally representative study found that AI/AN women were 1.2 times more likely to experience domestic violence than non-Hispanic white women (Rosay, 2016).



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

This funding has allowed us to help Native women break the cycle of violence. Without this funding our Native women would not have a place to go. Our funding has allowed us to have an office right on the reservation where clients can come for culturally competent assistance. Residents know where we are located and can come to us for information or help in an emergency. We are co-located with the tribal police where clients can also receive support and help. The only other place for DV and SA assistance is located in town and does not provide the culturally aware help that we can.

BISHOP INDIAN TRIBAL COUNCIL



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

This funding is key to the survival of our program and our ability to serve women in our community living in violence or who have been assaulted. Without these funds we would not be able to provide the vital service of transitional housing, or provide the advocacy and education that are needed for women to leave violence and begin their lives again. This grant is the backbone to our services and without these funds our tribe would not be able to assist our women and teach them that violence against women is not traditional.

EASTERN SHAWNEE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Funding allows for the full-time employment of a coordinator who is available to all 14,000-plus Native Alaskan/Native American beneficiaries of the entire region. Accessibility is key to victim services as this position is located under the Client Development Department, and has the ability to work with any adult family members that come in as referrals from other programs and departments. This also allows for coordination of services with other programs and outside agencies. The coordinator's ability to travel takes the education and services to where the domestic violence/sexual assault incidents take place most often. This also allows for greater and more in-depth understanding of the people and communities that the DVSA services cover. Having a consistent full-time coordinator in this position is an important part of providing family services to the entire region.

TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE, INC.

VAWA 2013 added the following purpose areas to the program:

- Expand primary victimization to include sex trafficking;
- Address the needs of youth victims, including providing support to their non-abusing parent or caretaker; and
- Develop and promote legislation and policies that enhance best practices for responding to domestic/sexual violence against Indian women.

These purpose areas were implemented in FY 2014, meaning that grants made on or after October 1, 2014 could specifically address them. If an activity falling under one of the added purpose areas 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 **240** individual grantees for the July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2017 progress reporting period.

- Grantees most frequently addressed the following purpose areas:
 - Develop and enhance effective governmental strategies to curtail violent crimes against and increase the safety of Indian women consistent with tribal law and custom;
 - Increase tribal capacity to respond to crimes against Indian women; and
 - Strengthen tribal justice interventions including tribal law enforcement, prosecution, courts, probation, and correctional facilities.

Staff

Grant-funded staff provide victim services, training, outreach, supervised visitation, law enforcement, prosecution, probation, court services, and batterer intervention programs, among other services, to increase victim safety and offender accountability. **Being able to hire staff is critical to the overall function and success of programs.**

- **229** (95%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **350** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff during each 6-month period.
- Grantees most often used these staffing funds to support victim advocates, administrators, and program coordinators.

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

Staff funded	6-month average	
Total FTE staff funded	350	
Victim advocates	135	39%
Administrators	47	13%
Program coordinators	45	13%
Support staff	18	5%
Batterer intervention program staff	17	5%

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

Training

Grantees train a wide range of professionals, from tribal elders and spiritual leaders to health professionals and victim advocates, among others, how to develop an effective coordinated community response to violence.

This training improves the professional response to victims and increases offender accountability.

- **135** (56%) grantees used funds for training.
- Grantees convened a total of **929** training events.
- Grantees trained a total of **15,470** people.
- Most often these trainings reached multidisciplinary staff at the same training (**14%**), victim advocates (**11%**), and tribal government/tribal government agency staff (**11%**).

Community Education

Grant-funded staff provide information and outreach to the community 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

- **188** (78%) grantees used funds for community education.
- Grantees provided education to a total of **172,071** people.
- Grantees conducted a total of **4,604** outreach activities.

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 ability to bring best practices and victim sensitivity training and education to professionals and community members is instrumental in combating myths, victim-blaming, and lack of offender accountability that occurs within the Nation's jurisdiction. Continued funding is imperative to: the ongoing fight against domestic and sexual violence and stalking; collaboration with law enforcement, first responders, and professionals/community members; and most importantly, to providing survivors support in the role of the advocate.

MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

This funding has allowed the Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak to research and design an appropriate sexual assault awareness curriculum for outreach to our Alutiiq teenage population. This will help educate our youth about what sexual assault is, the varieties of sexual assault, and the community resources available to them should they need assistance one day. It will allow the Sun'aq Tribe a more seamless coordination between Sun'aq and law enforcement and to enhance outreach to sexual assault victims by reinforcing the existing relationships that are in place.

SUN'AQ TRIBE OF KODIAK



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Funding through the Tribal Governments program has allowed program staff to attend village wellness team meetings and community meetings to begin gathering resources for a Tribal Response Team Program. Funding also allowed program staff to assist villages to reactivate Wellness Teams and collaborate with the Bristol Bay Sexual Assault Response Team, who has agreed to become the Advisory Committee for the Tribal Response Team Program. Program staff is also in the process of planning a Bristol Bay-specific 2017 SART Training.

BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Tribal Governments Program funding has enabled the tribe to start up a new Domestic Violence Circle of Healing program. The Domestic Violence Program Coordinator/Caseworker has begun service delivery to tribal victims. She has created a resource directory of community and government agencies in our five-county service area to facilitate timely and appropriate referrals to assist victims with safety and self-sufficiency needs as they work to free themselves from domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking. Tribal Governments Program funding has enabled us to operate an Emergency Support Response fund so that we can facilitate prompt and immediate access to safety for victims.

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF COOS LOWER UMPQUA

Table 2 | People educated with Tribal Governments grant funds, July 2015–June 2017:
Selected groups

People educated	2-year total	
Total people educated	172,071	
Community members	98,574	57%
Students	40,170	23%

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

Victim Services

Grantees provide an array of services to victims and their children, including safety planning, referrals, and information as needed. **These comprehensive support services address a wide variety of needs to help victims become and remain safe from violence.**

- **205** (85%) grantees used funds for victim services.

Grantees provide victims with a wide range of services, including victim advocacy, civil legal advocacy, and crisis intervention. Victims also need assistance with material goods and services, as well as health, education, financial, transportation, employment, and legal issues. In addition, grantees provide a variety of services to victims' children including, but not limited to, child care, transportation, and counseling.

- Grantees provided services to an average of **6,361** victims during each 6-month period.
- **98%** of victims who sought services received them during each 6-month period.
- Grantees also provided a total of **48,167** services to an average of **3,316** children of victims during the 2-year reporting period.

During each 6-month period, on average, grantees provided:

- Victim advocacy services to **3,734** victims;
- Crisis intervention services to **3,022** victims;
- Support group/counseling services to **2,032** victims;
- Transportation services to **1,787** victims;
- Civil legal advocacy services to **1,666** victims;
- Cultural advocacy services to **998** victims; and
- Criminal justice advocacy services to **806** victims.

Other services:

- Victim-witness notification/victim outreach services were used a total of **31,512** times; and
- Grantees received a total of **65,567** hotline calls.

Across the 2-year period, grantees most frequently provided the following services:ⁱⁱ

- Victim advocacy services **102,600** times;
- Support group/counseling services **39,131** times;
- Transportation services **28,237** times;
- Crisis intervention **22,550** times;
- Civil legal advocacy **15,431** times;
- Cultural advocacy **9,791** times; and
- Criminal justice advocacy **6,731** times.

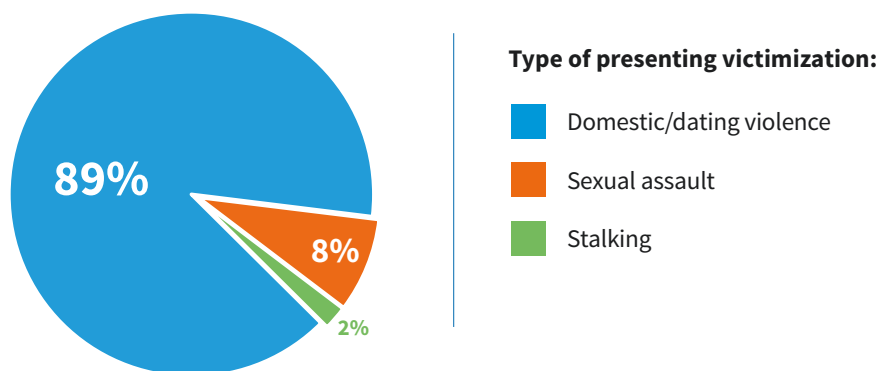
Victims Seeking Services

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victims of **domestic/dating violence** (89%).

Figure 1 | Provision of victim services by Tribal Governments Program grantees, by type of presenting victimization

Victims served and partially served by type of victimization (6-month average)



ⁱⁱ The Tribal Governments Program is unique in that grantees are asked to report the number of times each type of service is provided. This allows for the reporting of an unduplicated count of number of services, despite the duplicated count of number of victims served.



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

This funding alone allowed us to provide over 790 direct services to victims in our community so far this year. In total, these funds have allowed victims to overcome violence, improved law enforcement response to crimes, implemented a sexual assault forensic examination program to the area via collaboration with other community partners, allowed education to be provided to the community and our youth, and allowed our community to develop trust in our program.

SAGINAW CHIPPEWA INDIAN TRIBE OF MICHIGAN



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

The funds have been used to help with transportation barriers, childcare struggles, basic needs such as food, clothing and toiletries and, more importantly, hope for over 30 new clients over the past six months. We are incredibly grateful for the support this funding provides and are excited about what the future holds for our program.

SUQUAMISH TRIBE



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

The Tribal Governments Program funding has allowed the Nation to truly focus on improving services to victims/survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. This allows for increasing victim and survivor safety and enhancing community response. As a general matter, it has enabled the Nation to identify the problems associated with this issue and identify goals, objectives, and activities to address them.

ONEIDA INDIAN NATION

Table 3 | Victims seeking services with Tribal Governments grant funds, July 2015–June 2017

Victims seeking services	6-month average	
Total victims seeking services	6,487	
Victims served	6,084	94%
Victims partially served	277	4%
Victims not served	127	2%

NOTE: “Partially served” represents victims who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the Tribal Governments Program grant. “Not served” represents victims who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the Tribal Governments Program grant.

Victims’ Relationship to Offender

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence. Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017:

- The majority of victims served or partially served were victimized by a **spouse or intimate partner** (79%).
- The remaining victims were most commonly victimized by another **family or household member** (11%) or in the context of a **dating relationship** (7%).

Figure 2 | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Domestic/dating violence** (6-month average)

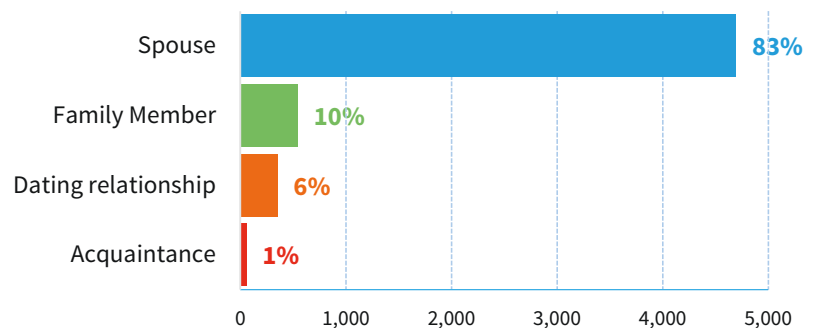


Figure 3 | Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Sexual assault** (6-month average)

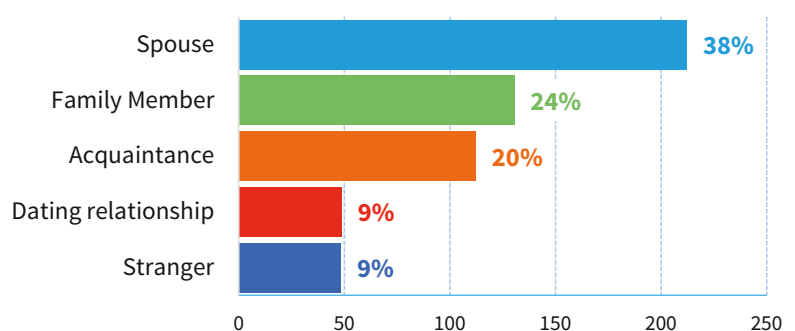
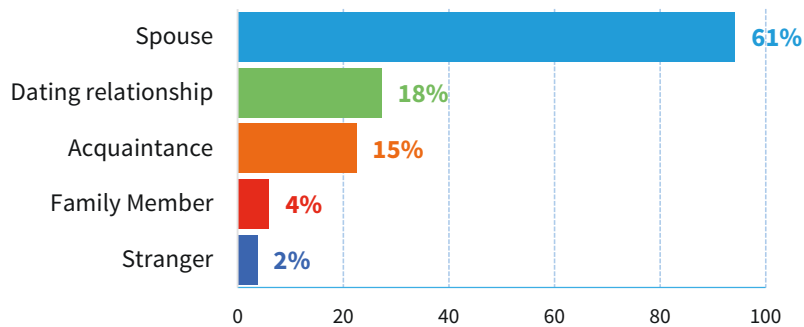


Figure 4 Type of victimization by relationship to offender: **Stalking**
(6-month average)



Reasons Victims Were Not Served or Were Partially Served

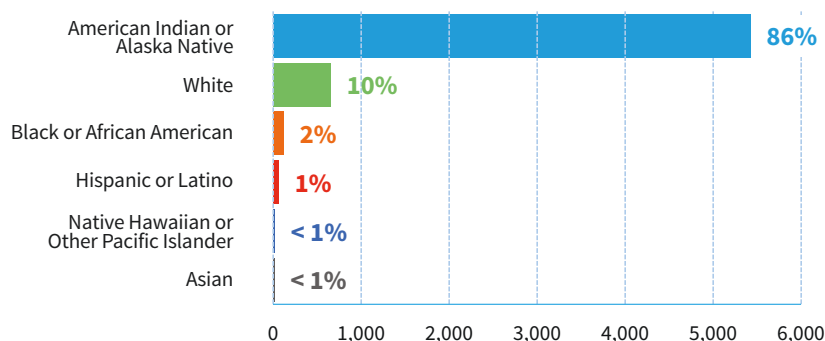
During each reporting period, grantees most frequently noted the following barriers as reasons why victims were not served or were only partially served:

- Victim did not meet statutory requirements;
- Services were not appropriate for victim;
- Program rules not acceptable to victim;
- Program unable to provide service due to limited resources/priority setting;
- Conflict of interest; or
- Program reached capacity.

Demographics of Victims Served and Partially Served

Grantees served or partially served an average of **6,361** victims during each 6-month period. The majority of those victims were **American Indian or Alaska Native** (86%), **female** (95%), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (74%).

Figure 5 Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Race/ethnicity**
(6-month average)



NE • Grantee Perspective

This funding has made it possible for us, for the first time, to have a staff member based in western Nebraska and to conduct regular outreach in remote communities with Native populations. Without this funding we could not afford to have any presence in these communities. Not only have we been able to provide legal services to individual victims in western Nebraska, but we have been able to start work to systemically address issues that perpetuate domestic violence, sexual assault, and sex trafficking in Whiteclay, NE.

LEGAL AID OF NEBRASKA



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Tribal Governments Program funding has enabled the tribe to start a new Domestic Violence Circle of Healing program. The Domestic Violence Program Coordinator/ Caseworker has begun service delivery to tribal victims. She has been able to create a resource directory of community and government agencies in our five-county service area to facilitate timely and appropriate referrals to assist victims with safety and self-sufficiency needs as they work to free themselves from domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking. Tribal Governments Program funding has enabled us to operate an emergency support response fund to facilitate prompt and immediate access to safety for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF COOS, LOWER UMPQUA, AND SIUSLAW INDIANS



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

The Tribal Governments Program allows us to serve many women and children fleeing domestic violence and sexual assault. These people came to a safe and secure place without having to pay fees to stay, and were provided shelter, food, and clothing, all basic human needs. Shelter staff enabled clients to set and attain goals, and guided clients in matters such as registering children for school and after school programs, finding job resources, and updating important necessities such as healthcare and documentation.

MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

The funds have allowed us to take victims and their children out of abusive homes and provide emergency shelter and transitional housing. Since Cahuilla Consortium was established in 2010, we have assisted over 100 Native and non-Native families with direct assistance and/ or resources to live without abuse.

LOS COYOTES BAND OF INDIANS

Figure 6 Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Gender** (6-month average)

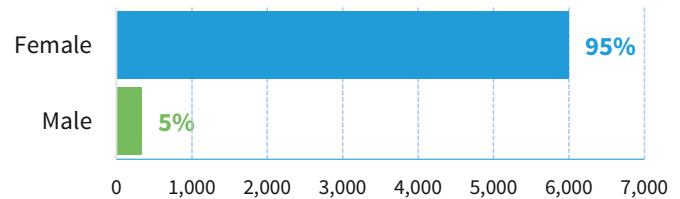


Figure 7 Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Age** (6-month average)

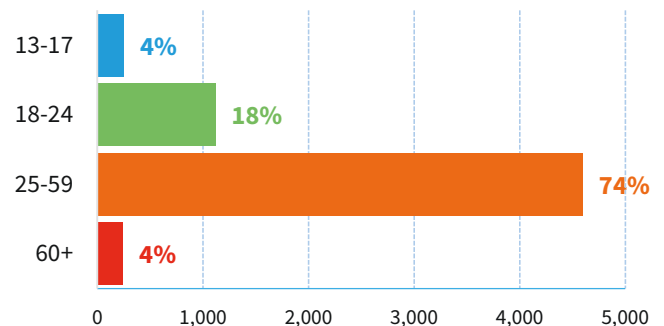
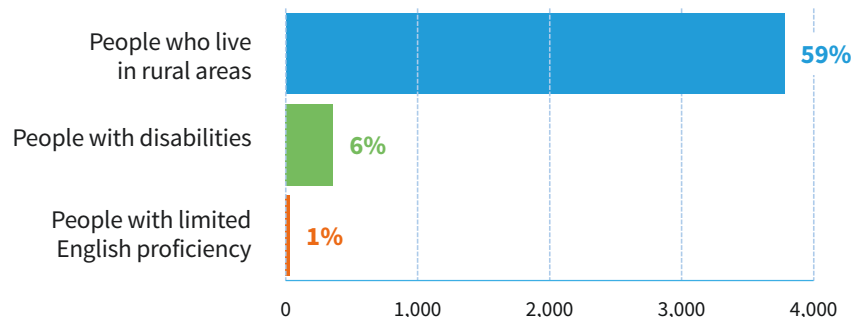


Figure 8 Demographics of victims served and partially served: **Other** (6-month average)



Shelter/Transitional Housing Assistance

Grantees provide emergency shelter or transitional housing to victims and their family members. Emergency shelter can include nights in safe houses or hotel/motel accommodations.

- **150** (63%) grantees used funds for shelter/transitional housing services.

Table 4 | Victims sheltered with Tribal Governments grant funds, July 2015–June 2017

Shelter services	Victims (6-month average)	Family members (6-month average)	Bed nights (2-year total)
Emergency shelter	1,106	1,288	142,724
Transitional housing	228	349	149,616
Total	1,334	1,638	292,340

Legal Services

Grant-funded lawyers, paralegals, and specially appointed advocates provide legal services to victims.

- **69** (29%) grantees used funds for legal services.
- Grantees addressed an average of **833** legal issues during each 6-month reporting period.
- Grantees provided legal services to an average of **505** victims every 6 months.
- Grantees provided multiple instances of legal services to an average of **232** victims every 6 months (46% of those receiving legal services).
- Grantees achieved a total of **3,141** case outcomes.
- Grantees most frequently provided legal assistance with protection orders and custody/visitation arrangements.

Supervised Visitation

Grantees provide an array of supervised visitation and/or exchange services to families. These services include, but are not limited to, one-on-one supervised visits, group supervised visits, supervised exchanges, and telephone monitoring.

- **16** (7%) grantees used funds for supervised visitation and/or exchange services.
- Grantees provided services to an average of **48** families during each 6-month period.
- **97%** of families who sought services received them during each 6-month period.

Across the 2-year period, grantees provided the following services:

- A total of **1,083** one-to-one supervised visits to an average of **22** families; and
- A total of **532** supervised exchanges to an average of **19** families.



NE • Grantee Perspective

This funding allows us to provide high quality legal services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. These services are vital and change lives. With this continuation grant we have expanded the legal services available to include the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska. The Omaha Tribe has the largest population of any tribe headquartered in Nebraska, and the need for legal services on the Omaha Tribal Reservation is as great if not greater than any other area we serve. We are targeting information specifically to Omaha victims, have substantially increased office hours on the Omaha Tribal Reservation, and are meeting with responders and service providers working with the Omaha tribe. One out of every six victims served during this reporting period were members of the Omaha Tribe. The continuation funding also has allowed us to expand our legal services to the significant population of Native American victims in Western Nebraska, a population that before was almost completely unserved.

LEGAL AID OF NEBRASKA



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

The funding has allowed us to be engaged on a full-time basis in providing an avenue in which victims will be assured their safety during exchanges of their children. We also provide a supervised setting which facilitates safety and security in which non-custodial parents can visit with their children.

ISLETA PUEBLO



NE • Grantee Perspective

With this funding, we provide free legal advice and representation to Native victims/survivors in matters related to their victimization. Just this reporting period we provided this service to 76 Native Americans. Without this funding we may be able to provide assistance to some of those victims/survivors, but the number of persons we could assist would likely be significantly fewer, and many more would only be partially served.

LEGAL AID OF NEBRASKA



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

The funding allows this project to empower and serve victims in three crucial ways: 1) To provide an attorney well-trained in domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and sexual assault to represent victims in the civil jurisdictional arena. Without this service, victims would have to appear alone oftentimes against a batterer who has an attorney that emulates batterer behaviors. Civil legal representation has been identified as one of the most pressing needs to address victims' needs. 2) To provide victim services such as an advocate who works in tandem with the civil attorney to tailor holistic services to meet the needs of each victim, to provide transportation for the victim, to provide referral to other service providers as requested/ needed, and to provide safety planning that is revisited with each client contact. 3) To promote victim confidentiality and safety by providing a safe, anonymous location for victims to go for assistance that is outside of the view of the tribal complex.

APACHE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

Families Seeking Services

Grantees serve victims of domestic/sexual violence and their children. Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2017:

- The majority of families served or partially served were victims of **domestic/dating violence** (99%).

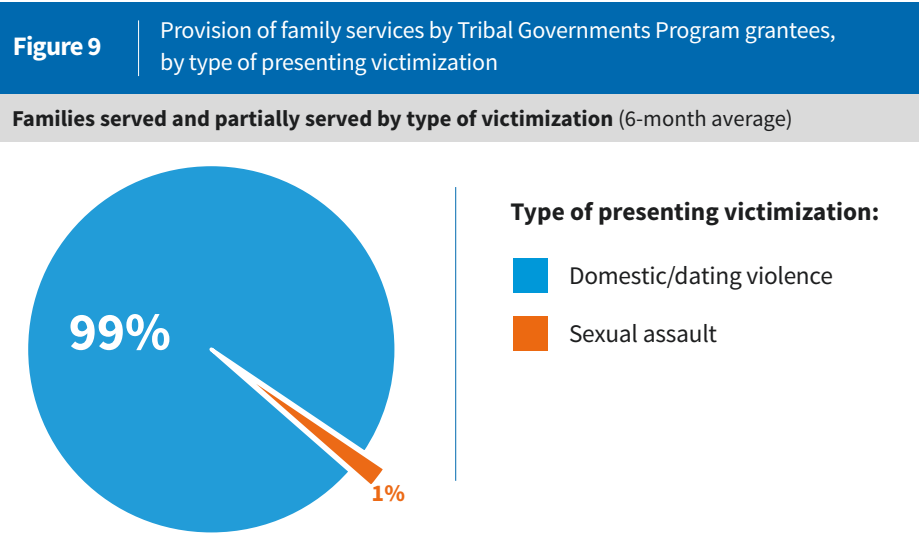


Table 5 | Families seeking services with Tribal Governments grant funds, July 2015–June 2017

Families seeking services	6-month average	
Total families seeking services	49	
Families served	48	96%
Families partially served	< 1	1%
Families not served	2	3%

NOTE: “Partially served” represents families who received some but not all of the service(s) they requested, provided those services were funded under the Tribal Governments Program grant. “Not served” represents families who sought services and did not receive the service(s) they were seeking, provided those services were funded under the Tribal Governments Program grant.

Demographics of Families Served and Partially Served

The majority of custodial parents were **American Indian or Alaska Native** (82%), **female** (65%), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (87%), with children between the ages of **0 and 6** (59%). Non-custodial parents were most likely to be **American Indian or Alaska Native** (86%), **male** (51%), and between the ages of **25 and 59** (79%).

Criminal Justice

In addition to the disproportionate impact of violence on Native women, men, and children, there are unique legal and geographical barriers to responding to these crimes. Factors including the race of the victims and perpetrator, the legal status of the land on which the incident occurred, and the type of crime committed determine under whose jurisdiction a particular crime falls. Some crimes fall under federal jurisdiction, others under the tribe's, and the legal factors of some incidents are such that no agency has jurisdiction, meaning that victims can face escalated danger and their offenders will not be held accountable. VAWA 2013 included a provision that restores tribes' inherent authority to exercise jurisdiction over some crimes of domestic violence and violations of protection orders involving non-Native offenders. In addition to jurisdictional issues, many tribal communities are remote and isolated and some tribes have limited resources for responding to domestic/sexual violence. For instance, law enforcement response time in some parts of Alaska can take hours or even days in bad weather.

The Tribal Governments Program supports the efforts of tribal governments to develop or enhance a coordinated community response that brings together law enforcement, prosecution, courts, probation, victim services, and public and private service providers. Some Tribal Governments grantees have used grant funds to support their effort to exercise jurisdiction under VAWA 2013, in accordance with all applicable laws.

Law Enforcement

Grantees use funds to support law enforcement response to domestic/sexual violence. Tribal law enforcement officers respond to emergency calls for assistance, interview key witnesses, and are often familiar with the people and circumstances involved in a given case, due to the small and isolated nature of some tribal communities. Every other agency, including prosecution, depends on them to supply critical information about a case. For this reason, it is common for tribal law enforcement officers to provide continuing assistance throughout the length of a case. Tribal law enforcement is a vital component of the peacekeeping and accountability process for the tribal nations they serve.

- **20** (8%) grantees used funds for law enforcement activities.
- Law enforcement staff made a total of **452** victim referrals to tribal and non-tribal victim services across the 2-year period.

A proactive response and victim-centered approach influences whether or not victims report these offenses, and whether appropriate evidence is collected to allow prosecutors to convict offenders.

The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey found that nearly half (46%) of AI/AN women have experienced some form of contact sexual violence during their lifetime. Research also shows that AI/AN women experience murder rates more than ten times the national average (Bachman et al., 2008; Petrosky et al., 2017; Smith et al., 2017; Wilson, 2017).

The 2015 American Community Survey found that 26.2% of AI/AN people live in poverty, the highest rate of any racial group, making this population particularly vulnerable to domestic violence (U.S. Census Bureau, 2017c).

A recent study of AI/AN housing conditions and policies in Indian Country, the largest of its kind to date, found that physical housing problems in tribal areas are generally more severe than they are for U.S. households on average. Twelve percent of AI/AN households reported experiencing heating deficiencies and 16% reported overcrowded conditions, as compared to a national average of 2% of households in both categories. These challenges, along with higher rates of disability and ill-health, poverty, prevalence of drug and alcohol abuse, and the legacies of colonialism in AI/AN communities compound the difficulty of becoming and remaining safe from sexual/domestic violence (Harley, 2018; Indian Health Services, 2017; Office of Minority Health, 2018; Pindus et al., 2017).



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

This funding opportunity has allowed us to build a dedicated team of professionals who work together on a daily basis to achieve the same common goal of protecting victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. This team consists of an investigator, a prosecutor, and a victim advocate. Over the next 12 months we will be working in conjunction with Women Spirit Coalition on developing standard operating procedures for law enforcement to use when responding to crimes involving intimate partner abuse and sexual assault. Once the SOP is created, training will be provided to all law enforcement on the implementation of those procedures.

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF COLVILLE



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

The Iowa Tribal Governments Program (TGP) has become an integral part of responding to victims in all the court systems in our jurisdiction and in many of our law enforcement agencies. We accept calls from officers and victims as a part of our statewide Lethality Assessment Protocol. In the last 6 months, the TGP program has been able to help 42 victims obtain safety, security, and/or shelter.

IOWA TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA



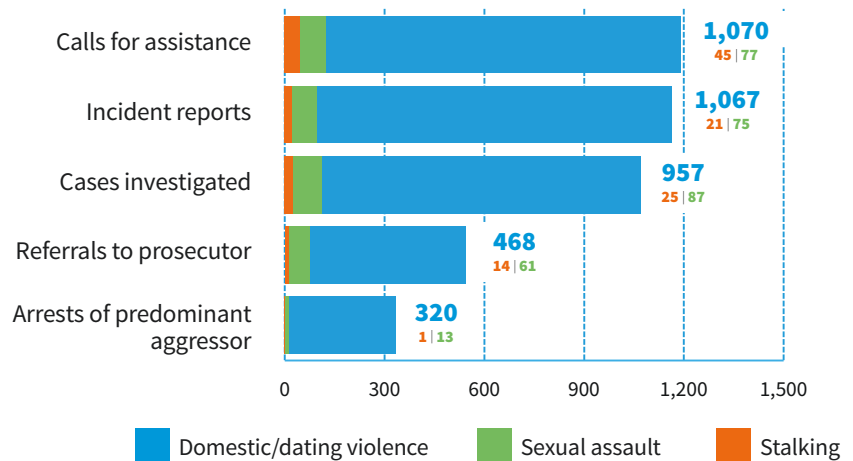
Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Through this funding, we maintain a close relationship with our Domestic Violence Prosecutor to streamline services and alleviate service gaps to victims. There is a faster and more thorough process for victims that are involved in domestic abuse/sexual assault cases. The funds provided by this grant are instrumental in providing some level of safety for victims of domestic violence.

EIGHT NORTHERN INDIAN PUEBLOS COUNCIL

Figure 10

Law enforcement activities in Tribal Governments Program criminal cases, July 2015–June 2017



NOTE: Grantees report only on law enforcement activities that are funded under the Tribal Governments Program and they may receive funds for one or for a number of these activities. Therefore, no relationships can be inferred or comparisons made between activities reported here.

Prosecution

Tribal prosecutors play a significant role in securing safety and justice for Native victims of domestic/sexual violence. Approaches to prosecution vary by state and tribal nation. Tribal police and prosecutors need to be equipped with the tools, resources, and expertise to respond to domestic/sexual violence, make charging decisions, and issue sentences consistent with applicable statutes. **Grantees that use funds for prosecution activities may pursue prosecution by making referrals to appropriate external agencies and/or by prosecuting case referrals they received.**

- 8 (3%) grantees used funds for prosecution.
- Prosecutors received a total of 625 case referrals pertaining to domestic/sexual violence, and accepted a total of 548ⁱⁱⁱ (88%) cases for prosecution across the 2-year period.
- Prosecution staff made a total of 320 victim referrals to tribal and non-tribal victim services across the 2-year period.

ⁱⁱⁱ Cases accepted, declined, or transferred in the current reporting period may have been received by prosecution in a previous reporting period.

Table 6 Cases received and accepted by prosecutors funded by the Tribal Governments Program by type of victimization, July 2015–June 2017

Type of case	Case referrals received	Cases accepted for prosecution	Percent accepted
All cases	625	548	88%
Domestic/dating violence	555	492	89%
Sexual assault	63	53	84%
Stalking	7	3	43%

Table 7 Cases disposed of by prosecutors funded by the Tribal Governments Program by type of victimization, July 2015–June 2017

Type of case	Cases disposed of	Dispositions resulting in convictions	
		Number	Percent
All cases	562	493	88%
Domestic/dating violence	383	328	86%
Sexual assault	24	21	88%
Stalking	12	9	75%

NOTE: Convictions include deferred adjudications.



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

This office is comprised of three prosecutors, myself included, and without my position the two remaining prosecutors would be completely unable to effectively prosecute cases in this jurisdiction. Victims are often unaware of the services which are offered by the Tribe, both grant and tribally funded. Because of this grant, I am able to effectively have contact with victims and address any concerns they may have. Without this grant, the Prosecutor's office would be unable to give the necessary time to DV and sexual assault cases and would undermine the community's confidence in the justice system, resulting in fewer reported incidents.

MENOMINEE INDIAN TRIBE OF WISCONSIN

Courts

There is wide variety in the types of tribal court systems, and the laws are unique to each tribal nation. Some tribal courts are modeled similarly to Western-style courts, where written laws and rules of court are applied. Other tribes adhere to more traditional means of resolving disputes, including the use of peacemaking, elders' councils, sentencing circles, and banishment. Many tribes that are implementing new tribal courts, or enhancing established ones, are developing hybrid or blended systems that incorporate traditional dispute resolution procedures that are effective in their cultures and communities, while also ensuring that the "rule of law" and due process principles are applied.

- **6** (3%) grantees used funds for court activities.
- A total of **207** judicial reviews of individual offenders were conducted across the 2-year period.
- Court staff made a total of **3** victim referrals to tribal and non-tribal victim services across the 2-year period.



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

This funding has allowed the Kaw Domestic Violence Program to provide legal and court assistance to victims of Domestic Violence who had no means to acquire legal representation and other legal services. Without this assistance they would have remained in a dangerous unsafe environment.

KAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Instead of a piecemeal DV treatment approach with constant worry over funding, we can focus on Tribal Batterer Intervention Program (BIP) continuity. We can build a solid BIP that is not based on personality, desperation, or being driven by crisis. It's helping us establish a permanent BIP in the Tribal community that will continue to help families heal and improve quality of life and victim safety into future generations.

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE CHEHALIS



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

The Lac du Flambeau Batterer Intervention Program (BIP) has been a helpful and highly effective way to hold batterers accountable in the tribal community. The wrap around services provided in BIP allow for the entire family to experience a safe place to learn healthy relationship and communication skills. Because of the BIP services, many families get to experience a whole family recovery process while maintaining a family relationship within their homes. This is very important to Native American families.

**LAC DU FLAMBEAU BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR
CHIPPEWA INDIANS**

Table 8 Disposition of court cases funded by the Tribal Governments Program by type of victimization, July 2015–June 2017

Type of case	Cases disposed of	Dispositions resulting in convictions	
		Number	Percent
All cases	234	68	29%
Domestic/dating violence	76	18	24%
Stalking	6	0	0%
Sexual assault	2	0	0%

NOTE: Convictions include deferred adjudications.

Tribal Probation/Offender Monitoring

Offender monitoring occurs when the court schedules probation or court reviews to determine whether offenders are complying with the terms of their sentences. Probation officers may meet with offenders in person, by telephone, or via unscheduled surveillance.

- **5 (2%)** grantees used funds for review activities.
- An average of **391** offenders were monitored during each 6-month reporting period.

Across the 2-year period, these agencies reported the following contacts with individual offenders:

- A total of **5,380** face-to-face contacts with an average of **275** offenders;
- A total of **3,354** telephone contacts with an average of **280** offenders; and
- A total of **326** unscheduled surveillance contacts with an average of **70** offenders.

Table 9 Probation activities funded by the Tribal Governments Program, July 2015–June 2017

Activity	
Average number of offenders (6-month average)	391
Total number of offenders who completed probation	36
Offenders completing probation with violations	19
Offenders completing probation without violations	17

Remaining Areas of Need

Grantees cited **housing**, including **emergency shelter, transitional housing, and long-term affordable housing**, as their biggest unmet need. While shelter services were sometimes available in nearby areas, grantees reported that victims were often reluctant to use these resources, preferring to remain within their own communities.

Even with housing, grantees reported that victims continued to struggle to achieve independence due to their **inability to access basic necessities**, such as:

- Employment;
- Child care;
- Job training;
- Food assistance;
- Utility assistance;
- Transportation.

Grantees also noted that **co-occurring issues, such as substance abuse, mental illness, and long histories of trauma** complicated efforts to help victims achieve self-sufficiency.

Despite efforts to encourage victims to report abuse and receive needed services, grantees reported that **domestic violence and sexual assault victims were often hesitant to come forward**. They attributed this to:

- A lack of anonymity in small rural communities and on tribal land;
- Entrenched cultural beliefs that encourage victims to stay with their abusers;
- A lack of law enforcement presence on tribal lands;
- The need to maintain financial stability and housing;
- Little knowledge of available services; and
- Beliefs that offenders would not be held accountable for their actions.

Many grantees noted the necessity of **providing community education and outreach** in order to:

- Advance knowledge of available services;
- Combat harmful cultural beliefs that shame victims; and
- Teach community members about the dynamics of domestic and sexual violence while providing models for healthy relationships.



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

A significant area of remaining need in regard to improving services to victims is housing and shelter options. Twenty-one clients since January have either been homeless, in shelter attempting to find housing, or still in their place of abuse trying to find housing. Many clients could not find affordable housing or chose to return to their situations because of inability to obtain a sustainable solution in terms of housing even with emergency shelter being provided through hotels and shelters. Had all twenty-one of them ended up succeeding in their original plan of finding a place for themselves and their children, the program would have been oversaturated with requests for relocation funds for first month's rent and would have run out of money before the end of the funding cycle. CARE recognizes this as a possibility and future potentiality and thus has been participating in tribal discussions on housing grants for the program or partner programs that could possibly give priority to domestic and sexual violence survivors.

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF SILETZ INDIANS



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

There is no specific program identified for offender accountability. We do not have a batterer intervention program or anything designed to help change offender behavior. Our jurisdiction also struggles with bringing domestic violence cases to trial based on victim participation, and evidence-based prosecution has not been an area of focus by the Office of the Tribal Prosecutor. We need to develop a new approach to evidence gathering for cases of this nature as well as having better sentencing options and alternatives so that we can begin to effectively address the domestic violence epidemic and break the cycle of violence that exists in our tribal community. We need to be creative and think outside the box on how to move more of these cases to adjudication and sentencing rather than dismissing cases based on lack of victim follow-through and participation.

SAN CARLOS APACHE TRIBE



Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Our community is very rural and geographically isolated from many needed services and resources and this results in specific and unique challenges to adequate service provision. One of the main challenges our victims face is adequate and reliable transportation. For many cases, our clients have court cases, required meetings for social services, and even basic food and supply needs that require them to travel to the coast. Many of our clients do not have reliable transportation and this results in significant staff time spent transporting clients. A one-hour court hearing generally takes almost the entire working day of an advocate to provide the client transportation to and from court. This occurs fairly regularly and takes up significant staff time. Additionally, our program has one vehicle we use to transport clients and attend networking meetings. If two clients have court on the same day, this presents a challenge for our program to maintain victim confidentiality while also ensuring clients receive needed support and transportation.

HOOPA VALLEY TRIBE

Tribal • Grantee Perspective

Domestic violence is often an unpleasant topic that communities want to veer away from. Within Native American communities, abused women suffer greater effects of the power and control tactic of isolation, than do women living in non-Native communities. The result of historical trauma increases isolative practices, such as greater mistrust of outside agencies, such as law enforcement, social services, victim's advocates, etc. Victims tend not to seek out help when being abused due to this mistrust. Reaching out to fellow community members is also avoided due to shame and fear of alliances or relationships community members have with the batterer. Community empowerment and bystander intervention to address this need can only be achieved through education and awareness. Trust building can only be done over time and with consistency and visibility. More time is needed to address this remaining need.

MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE

Many grantees reported the need for measures to **enhance offender accountability**, including:

- Specialized training for judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement on the dynamics of domestic violence;
- Funding for dedicated domestic violence investigators, prosecutors, and courts;
- Longer sentencing for repeat offenders;
- Updating tribal codes regarding domestic violence and sexual assault;
- Developing Native batterer intervention programs;
- Improved victim access to legal assistance; and
- Ability to access and enter information into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) databases.

Grantees also reported that **jurisdictional issues between Tribal governments, cities, states, and counties** further complicated community efforts to hold offenders accountable.

Finally, grantees expressed a need to ensure the sustainability of programs and services by addressing **staff shortages and high turnover rates** in grantee organizations, especially in rural and geographically isolated communities.