

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.

18 Grantees Reporting

Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019, 18 unique grantees reported activities funded by the Tribal Coalitions Program.

8,392 People Trained

Grantees trained a total of 8,392 people.

6,927 Technical Assistance Activities

Grantees provided 6,224 consultations and 703 site visits.

Tribal Coalition grantees play a number of roles in responding to domestic/sexual violence: they serve as 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 (AI/AN) women.



American Indians (AI) and Alaska Natives (AN) are a diverse people, represented by 574 federally recognized tribes (National Congress of American Indians, 2020a). Due to a history of colonization, displacement, and racism, AI/AN persons and communities face markedly high rates of housing instability, food insecurity, limited income and education, and ill health (Indian Health Services, 2017; Office of Minority Health, 2018; Penman-Aguilar et al., 2016; Pindus et al., 2017; U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, 2012). AI/AN women report higher rates of intimate partner violence than women of any other ethnic or racial background (Chmielowska & Fuhr, 2017; Herrschaft & Dolan, 2013).



NM • Grantee Perspective

Throughout the duration of this reporting period, the Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women (CSVANW) has been able to maintain focus on improving and strengthening the capacity, outreach, and presence of our organization with the Tribal Coalition Program funding received for our service area. This includes enhancing the response to violence against Native women at the federal, state, and tribal levels, while also identifying and providing technical assistance and community support to our membership and Tribal communities. The coalition continues to assist our Native Nations in promoting legislation and policies that increase best practices for responding to violent crimes against Native women and children through strategic and deliberate external communication, mindful relationship building, as well as visible community presence and support. The funding has enabled CSVANW the opportunity to effect change in our communities through social media, our website, handouts, and community outreach to our relatives across New Mexico. As a result of the monetary support, we have been able to further our online outreach while also being present for advocacy on a legislative level at the roundhouse to better advocate for community programs and relatives that make up our membership/coalition. The increased presence in our communities enables our staff to better understand the ways in which CSVANW can be in solidarity with our relatives while also showing that we honor their presence.

COALITION TO STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST NATIVE WOMEN, NEW MEXICO

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;
- Identify and provide technical assistance (TA) to coalition members and tribal communities to improve access to critical services; and
- 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.

General Grant Information

Information for this report was submitted by **18** individual grantees for the July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019 progress reporting period.

- The majority of grantees (**89%**) were dual sexual assault/domestic violence coalitions.
- Grantees most frequently addressed the following purpose area:
 - Identify and provide technical assistance (TA) to coalition members and tribal communities to improve access to critical services.

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.**

- **18** (100%) grantees used funds for staffing needs.
- Grantees funded an average of **51** 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 2017–June 2019: **Selected groups**

Staff funded	6-month average	
Total FTE staff funded	51	
Administrators	13	25%
Program coordinators	12	24%
Support staff	9	18%
Trainers	7	14%
Communications specialists	4	8%
Technical assistance providers	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.**

- **18** (100%) grantees used funds for training.
- Grantees convened a total of **429** training events.
- Grantees trained a total of **8,392** people.
- Most often these trainings reached domestic violence program staff (**24%**), sexual assault program staff (**12%**), multidisciplinary staff at the same training (**6%**), tribal government/tribal government agency staff (**6%**), and educators (**6%**).

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

- **17** (94%) grantees used funds for community education.
- Grantees convened a total of **621** education events.



Nearly half (46%) of AI/AN women suffer some form of contact sexual violence during their lifetime (Smith et al., 2017). Homicide rates are also particularly high among AI/AN women, who may be murdered at more than 10 times the national average (Bachman et al., 2008; Petrosky et al., 2017; Wilson, 2017). Coordinated tribal, community, and federal efforts that are culturally appropriate are essential in responding to these epidemic rates of violence.



MN • Grantee Perspective

This funding has helped us provide support for advocates throughout Minnesota on the issues of sexual violence against Indian women. We started with the single position of a Director and we now have an eight person staff. We have created an office space that contains a library and clearinghouse for materials to assist communities that work with Native American victims/survivors of sexual violence. We also worked to create a 40-hour Tribal Specific Sexual Assault Advocate Training Curriculum, “Through the Teachings of Our Grandmothers.” We are so grateful for this opportunity to unify our collaborative efforts to end sexual violence in Minnesota.

MINNESOTA INDIAN WOMEN’S SEXUAL ASSAULT COALITION



AZ • Grantee Perspective

Tribal Coalitions funding has allowed the Hopi-Tewa Women’s Coalition to End Abuse to provide training, technical assistance, and outreach events for the Hopi community and service providers. Over the course of this grant period, our relationships with partner agencies have increased, the number of calls for technical assistance have increased, as has our outreach presence in the community.

HOPI-TEWA WOMEN’S COALITION TO END ABUSE, ARIZONA

In the two years covered by this report, **Tribal Coalitions Program grantees provided information to:**

23,776
INDIVIDUALS

groups such as:



COMMUNITY MEMBERS



STUDENTS



**TRIBAL GOVERNMENT/
AGENCY STAFF**

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 their response to victims as it relates to their role in the system.



A growing body of research has shown that a focus on individual, family, and community resilience may strengthen violence prevention and intervention efforts with those who have experienced trauma and adversity, including AI/AN people and communities (Burnette, 2017; Fast & Collin-Vezina, 2019; Hamby et al., 2018; Teufel-Shone et al., 2018; Yuan et al., 2015).



MI • Grantee Perspective

The Tribal Coalitions funding has allowed Uniting Three Fires Against Violence (UTFAV) to provide important and culturally relevant technical assistance, training, and resources to the 12 Tribes of Michigan and other agencies that work with Tribal survivors. Providing important training opportunities to service providers directly impacts how they respond to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and sex trafficking. Funding allows UTFAV to continue to provide assistance to Tribes with program development, policy and procedure writing, and other technical assistance requests to ensure that Tribes can provide the most effective and appropriate services to survivors, as well as continue to inform advocates of important legislation that directly impacts survivors. Funding has also allowed the sharing of resources and helped to create connections between advocates to further network and utilize each other as resources and references. Finally, UTFAV has had the opportunity to impact policy/procedural change at the national and state level to improve the institutional response to domestic violence and sexual assault.

UNITING THREE FIRES AGAINST VIOLENCE, MICHIGAN

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.

- **17** (94%) grantees used funds for technical assistance.
- Grantees provided a total of **6,927** technical assistance activities.

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

- A total of **6,224** consultations; and
- A total of **703** 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 responses, 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 felt that **enhanced coordination and collaboration between service providers** would increase victim safety and reduce barriers to accessing culturally appropriate services.

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

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

Several grantees emphasized the need for **an improved law enforcement response**. Both a shortage of law enforcement officers and slow response times jeopardize victim safety and their willingness to report abuse.

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

- Long-term affordable housing and emergency shelter;
- Delivery of culturally appropriate services;
- Transportation;
- Child care; and
- Mental health and substance abuse services.

OK • Grantee Perspective



Training for members of the judiciary and prosecutors remains a real and significant need in Oklahoma Indian Country. Often times the women we serve in Oklahoma Indian Country go through state court systems for protective orders, child custody, and divorces due to our complex jurisdiction. These systems often revictimize the victims and have procedures that jeopardize the safety of domestic violence survivors. In some counties in Oklahoma, if a victim refuses to testify against her perpetrator at their criminal hearing, the victim is told by the prosecutor that he will make a referral to have her children removed.

NATIVE ALLIANCE AGAINST VIOLENCE, OKLAHOMA

CA • Grantee Perspective



Mental health and substance abuse are an ongoing concern for victims seeking our services. There needs to be better intersections of services for victims suffering from multiple afflictions. Advocacy, counseling, and case management do not work when there are underlying mental health and substance abuse issues. Many victims are unable to move forward with self-sufficiency without mental health or substance abuse treatment. Unfortunately, if we are unable to find treatment for them within a week of program entry we often find that victims do not follow up with their case managers, advocates, and counselors. We often lose these clients for long-term care.

STRONG HEARTED NATIVE WOMEN'S COALITION, CALIFORNIA

