

# INFOCUS



Chyrl Jones, Acting Administrator

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## Tribal Youth Initiatives

As part of its longstanding support of American Indian and Alaska Native communities, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) funds programs, training, and technical assistance that help Tribes address victimization and delinquency among youth, and improve their juvenile justice systems.

OJJDP participates in the Justice Department's Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS), which allows any federally recognized Tribe to submit a single application for several of the Department's Tribal grant programs. The Office supports two purpose areas within the solicitation—the Tribal Youth Program and Tribal Juvenile Healing to Wellness Courts.

### Programs

#### Tribal Youth Program

Funding awarded under this program helps American Indian and Alaska Native communities improve their juvenile justice systems and implement prevention, intervention, and treatment approaches that benefit youth. OJJDP designed the funding to be flexible to accommodate each Tribe's unique culture, needs, and capacities.

#### Tribal Juvenile Healing to Wellness Courts Program

These grants help participating courts develop or strengthen policies, procedures, and services that address underage drinking and substance use. The courts often combine judicial intervention with Tribal values—such as spirituality and connection to the family, community, and culture—to treat youth.

### Training and Technical Assistance

OJJDP's **Tribal Youth Resource Center** helps communities develop culturally relevant programs and strategies that prevent youth from entering or moving further into the juvenile justice system.

The **Alaska Native Youth Training and Technical Assistance Project** offers comprehensive resources and training that are tailored to the specific needs of rural Alaska Native communities and service providers.

Through the **Healing Indigenous Lives Initiative**, OJJDP helps to promote leadership skills in Tribal youth by engaging them in mentoring, peer-led trainings, and community service projects that reduce risk factors for delinquency.

### For More Information

Learn more about OJJDP's programs for Tribal youth at [ojjdp.ojp.gov/programs/tribal-youth-programs-and-services](https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/programs/tribal-youth-programs-and-services).

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### Funding

Between fiscal years 2019 and 2021, OJJDP awarded \$28.1 million under the CTAS programs and associated training and technical assistance to promote the success and well-being of Tribal youth.

- ▶ Fiscal Year 2021—\$14.3 million
- ▶ Fiscal Year 2020—\$7.2 million
- ▶ Fiscal Year 2019—\$6.6 million

### From the Field

OJJDP's Healing Indigenous Lives Initiative encourages Native youth's participation in issues related to juvenile justice, delinquency prevention, and public safety. The initiative supports peer guides—youth leaders and mentors—as they develop and deliver trainings on these critical topics.

"We are uniquely positioned to shape the initiative because we know firsthand the struggles youth in Indian country encounter as they seek their place in the world," said Santana Bartholomew, a peer guide from the Pueblo of Pojoaque, NM.

In February 2022, the peer guides presented **Healing Indigenous Lives: Native Youth Town Halls** to OJJDP. The report summarizes participants' responses to questions about resilience and community safety asked at four virtual town hall meetings. It also includes recommendations to OJJDP on how to protect Native youth, promote their well-being, and support emerging leaders. The meetings and a supplemental survey yielded feedback from nearly 400 youth.



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