

- Develop a format or application procedure for subgrantees to request training and technical assistance. This format should detail the range of training and/or technical assistance possible and capture information from the subgrantee to include the purpose of the training, desired goals, and a list of staff to be trained. The format will require final approval by the grantor agency;

- Develop a method for evaluating requests submitted by the subgrantees;
- Agree on the desired training and technical assistance activity that could include: assistance in improving overall management, developing competitive subgrant applications, implementing a specific part of the victim assistance program such as a training program for volunteers in crisis intervention, setting up a case record system, training law enforcement officers on improving their response to crime victims, establishing support groups for survivors of homicide, or developing an advocacy program for child victims who participate in tribal court. Special emphasis will be placed on providing needed training and technical assistance to the four newly funded tribal organizations within Colorado, Iowa, Mississippi, and Oklahoma, as well as meeting the urgent training and technical needs of previously funded programs;

- Work with OVC staff to select a project advisory board composed of Native American VAIC subgrantees, VOCA Victim Assistance Administrators, experts on Native American culture and a Federal Victim-Witness Coordinator to develop an outline defining the range of materials to be included in the program manual and to assist grantee staff to develop the manual, and to assist with providing ideas for and reviewing the script for the video;

- Develop a plan for making the video;
- Evaluate effectiveness of the training provided and the project as a whole; and

- Recommend future training and technical assistance strategies.

**Eligibility Requirements:** Applications will be accepted from public agencies, private agencies, or non-profit organizations. As this program will focus primarily on short-term training and technical assistance to Native Americans, Indian Tribes, or Native American organizations, and in addition to the requirements of Sections VI-XI, applicants must meet the following requirements in order to be eligible for consideration:

- Experience in the development of training and technical assistance;
- Information or access to information on local experts in the area of victim assistance to include child abuse, spouse abuse, and other services that assist victims of violent crimes;
- Knowledge of the problems and issues inherent in maintaining victim-related, culturally-sensitive programs in Indian Country;
- Knowledge in the development of instructional and training video's for Native American communities, tribal councils, and leaders; and
- Demonstrated management and financial capability to operate a program of this size and scope.

**Award Period:** 24 months.

**Contact:** Toni Thomas, (202) 616-3579.

#### Children's Justice Act Discretionary Grant Program For Native Americans

**Award Amount:** Up to \$513,500 will support five to eight grants in FY 1995. Full accomplishment of this project is anticipated to require three to five years of funding. The first year award amount will be limited to \$60,000 per grantee, to allow for the lead-time that may be required to obtain Tribal Council approval for the grant and hire staff. Awards for the remaining years will range from \$60,000 to \$100,000.

**Purpose:** To assist Native American communities in improving the investigation, prosecution, and handling of cases of child sexual and physical abuse in a manner that increases support for and reduces trauma to child victims.

**Background:** During the mid-1980's, reports of sexual abuse and disclosures of multiple-victim child molestation cases on Indian reservations sharply increased. As the cases surfaced, it became apparent that services were seriously lacking for Native American children, and that handling abuse in Indian Country was more difficult due to geographic isolation and the scarcity of law enforcement, social and medical services. Procedures for sensitive and thorough pediatric forensic examinations, as well as follow-through with mental health counseling, which is critical to a child's recovery, were frequently nonexistent.

In response to the acute increases in reports and disclosures of child molestation on Indian reservations, the Children's Justice Act Grant Program for Native Americans (CJA) was established to assist Indian tribes develop, establish, and operate programs that improve the overall response to child sexual abuse cases. The program focuses on handling the case from the initial report and the

first stages of intervention and investigation through to the resolution of the case.

Since 1988, OVC has provided CJA funding to 28 tribes. The funded projects have supported: Establishment, expansion and training for multidisciplinary teams; revision of tribal codes to address child sexual abuse; child advocacy services for children involved in court proceedings; development of protocols and procedures for reporting, investigating, and prosecuting child sexual abuse cases; development of working relationships that minimizes the number of child interviews; enhanced case management and treatment services; specialized training for prosecutors, judges, investigators and other professionals who handle child sexual abuse cases; specially designed child interview rooms; and special prosecution units.

**Goal:** To strengthen existing CJA programs, create new ones that deal effectively with cases of child sexual and physical abuse during the investigation, prosecution, and treatment phases, and establish systemic improvement in a community's overall response to child sexual abuse.

#### **Objectives:**

- To assess the current tribal system for responding to child sexual abuse and identify changes needed to implement more effective programs;

- To hire staff and develop an organizational structure to execute the planned program;

- To develop or revise policies, procedures, and tribal codes that directly address child abuse and neglect;

- To form liaisons and working relationships with Federal, state and local agencies that result in improved communication and a better use of resources for child victims and their families;

- To provide specialized and multidisciplinary training to key personnel that focuses on developing or improving the skills needed to effectively handle the problem of child abuse and specifically child sexual abuse;

- To establish specialized law enforcement, prosecution or child advocacy units within existing tribal agencies that are uniquely trained and qualified to handle child victim cases; and

- To develop written program implementation materials that can be replicated and used to assist other tribal agencies that wish to establish similar programs.