

Program Strategy: This program will be implemented in three stages. As grantees will be required to reapply for the grant each year, the grantee must show significant progress in meeting project objectives in order to continue receiving grant funds. CJA programs will be eligible for three to five years of funding depending on the availability of Federal funds and success in program implementation.

Each project must be designed to improve the investigation and prosecution of child sexual abuse cases, and to improve the overall handling of these cases in a manner that reduces trauma to the child. OVC recognizes that jurisdictional authority over child sexual abuse cases varies greatly among tribes. Therefore, we seek innovative projects based on the unique jurisdictional characteristics of the tribal criminal justice and service delivery systems. OVC expects tribes that receive these grants to be actively involved in determining the manner by which these cases are administratively and judicially processed at the tribal, state, and Federal levels.

In addition, OVC recommends the use of multi-disciplinary teams (known in many areas of Indian Country as Child Protection Teams) to respond to cases of child sexual abuse. This could also include specialized prosecutorial units for the investigation, referral, and prosecution of child abuse cases. Multi-disciplinary teams which are developed or expanded as a result of this grant must include representatives from the tribal, state, and Federal agencies that provide services to the tribe.

Stage I—Assessment and Project Development

The grantee is expected to develop a new program or continue an existing program that handles child physical and sexual abuse cases in an effective and timely manner. The organizational structure and staffing pattern described in the grant application should be implemented as soon as possible after award of grant funds.

The grantee should make an assessment of its current tribal system and resources for developing a CJA program and determine the additional resources and system changes needed to implement a program. The grantee must hire and use either tribal staff or outside consultants to train key staff for investigating and prosecuting child physical and sexual abuse cases in tribal court. Additional training for multidisciplinary teams, prosecutors, law enforcement personnel, judges, advocates or medical, mental health, and social service professionals may be

required. Improved procedures for interviewing child victims, providing court advocacy, handling child victim cases, and providing treatment services could be established at this stage.

The products of this stage include:

- Job descriptions and résumés for key staff hired or contracted under the grant;
- Assessment report of findings and recommendations for additional changes and resources needed to implement an efficient project. The report should be developed by tribal working groups, multidisciplinary teams or with the assistance of a consultant;
- Activity reports that summarize major activities and accomplishments of the grant to be submitted to OVC four times during this stage of program activities; and
- Agendas for the training of personnel involved in the handling of child sexual abuse and serious child physical abuse cases, if appropriate at this stage.

Stage II—Implementation of Project and Development of Training and Resource Materials

The grantee must develop and/or finalize materials that demonstrate how the program operates. Policies and procedures, interagency protocols, or memoranda of understanding identifying different agency roles and responsibilities, reporting procedures, forms for recording case information, working agreements with Federal and/or state agencies or a tribal code that addresses child sexual abuse (including definitions and maximum penalties for offenders) are examples of materials that must be developed. The materials will be used by the grantee in implementing its own program and will also be disseminated to other tribes to demonstrate how to develop similar programs.

The grantee may find it useful to gather all available resources that will aid the tribe in responding to child physical and sexual abuse. These resources could include any materials available from other tribes, national clearinghouses, agencies, organizations and state CJA programs that would be useful in improving the response to child physical and sexual abuse cases. Using these materials, the grantee must seek to improve its current system for addressing child abuse and, upon successfully applying these materials to its own system, should develop the capability to provide training and technical assistance to other tribes on handling child abuse cases.

The products of this stage would include:

- A compilation of materials gathered by the grantee from within the tribe and from other sources;
- Materials developed for improving the handling of child physical and sexual abuse cases (e.g., protocols, revised tribal codes, and procedures);
- Training curricula for law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges, victim advocates, multidisciplinary teams and medical, mental health, and social service personnel;
- A brochure or resource directory to be distributed which advertises the availability of the tribe's resources, services, and training opportunities if appropriate, for addressing child abuse cases; and
- Activity reports that summarize major activities and accomplishments of the grant to be submitted to OVC during this stage of program activities.

Stage III—Delivery of Services

The project should serve as the tribe's primary program for illustrating effective approaches to handling serious child sexual abuse cases; working with various tribal, state and Federal agencies; meeting the needs of Native American child sexual abuse victims and their families; and communicating with tribal councils and other bodies in responding effectively to child abuse.

After completing Stages I and II, project staff should be in a position to make the program's resources and implementation materials available to other tribes. Project staff should be available to present diagrams and descriptions of program models that illustrate coordination among tribal, state and Federal law enforcement agencies, criminal justice professionals, victim assistance providers and human service, health and mental health personnel. Project staff should have developed its capacity to provide training and technical assistance to tribes and tribal organizations upon their request and within program staffing resources, being careful to schedule such training and technical assistance so as not to disrupt on-going program services. In addition, project staff will be asked to participate in OVC sponsored conferences and training sessions to demonstrate model practices, provide program materials and handouts or serve as trainers or on discussion groups and panels.

The products of this stage are:

- Individualized consultation, training and dissemination of illustrative program implementation materials;