



Request for Proposals

Training and Technical Assistance Opportunity for Tribal, State, and Local Criminal Justice Agencies to Develop Collaborative Strategies to Shared Problems

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Proposals Due: June 27, 2014 by 11:59 p.m. eastern time

Selection Announcement: May 27, 2014

Period of Performance: August through December 2014

Applicant Webinar: June 5, 2014 (to register for the webinar please visit <https://ncja.webex.com/ncja/k2/j.php?MTID=t1272f7ff52f9720f28100df084288985>)

Eligibility: Applications must be jointly submitted by a team representing tribal, state, and/or local criminal justice agencies or officials.

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PURPOSE

Collaboration among criminal justice agencies and programs is essential to increasing public safety in all communities in the nation. In an era where crime respects no boundaries, criminal justice officials and practitioners must look beyond artificial jurisdictional boundaries to form partnerships dedicated to addressing shared problems and environmental factors contributing to criminal activity. Nowhere are these collaborative approaches more important than in Indian Country. Because of the complex jurisdictional issues affecting the delivery of justice in tribal nations, state, local, and tribal justice policy makers and practitioners must come together to

craft collaborative strategies based in the realities of their shared communities to address important barriers to effective justice.

The purpose of this solicitation is to identify three to five sites that are attempting to implement or enhance intergovernmental collaboration solutions to address critical issues in criminal justice. The goal is to improve the delivery of justice and public safety, make more effective use of resources, and build a long-term collaborative relationship among tribal, state, and local justice officials and agencies. NCJA-NCAI Project staff will draw on their experiences, the experiences of other Tribal Justice Training and Technical Assistance providers, and subject matter experts in the field to support intergovernmental collaboration for justice initiatives.

To qualify for this support, the proposed initiatives must provide evidence that:

- Policy makers from state, local and tribal criminal justice agencies will participate in technical assistance activities
- The initiative addresses high level policy priorities affecting collaboration among state, local and tribal justice agencies. Examples of these priorities include SORNA implementation; law enforcement collaboration; providing services to Native American victims of crime; and implementing expanded jurisdiction by Tribal Courts in domestic violence cases.

An example of the technical assistance that can supported by this funding is a multi-day workshop for tribal, state, and local criminal justice decision makers to identify challenges to state, local and tribal collaboration and to develop action plans to address these challenges. NCJA-NCAI have designed, developed and delivered this type of workshop for criminal justice leaders in North Dakota, Minnesota, and Arizona.

BACKGROUND

Although direct nation-to-nation relations remain a fundamental principle of the federal government's trust relationship with tribes, it is important that tribes, localities, and states recognize the benefits of understanding intergovernmental processes and potential avenues for collaboration. Recent policy trends toward increased devolution of federal programs, and the constrained resources available at all levels of government, highlight the need for and benefits of intergovernmental coordination between tribes and states. Effective tribal-state-local relationships are essential to building a better tomorrow for all Americans.

Given the complex jurisdictional scheme on tribal lands, intergovernmental coordination is absolutely essential to effective law enforcement in Indian Country.

In 2009, NCAI began partnering with the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) on the Intergovernmental Collaboration and Justice Capacity Building Project funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The goal of the Intergovernmental Collaboration and Justice Capacity Building Project is to increase awareness among tribal, local, and state government officials of the benefits of intergovernmental coordination on justice issues and to replicate promising practices for improving public safety in tribal communities through intergovernmental collaboration methods and to replicate promising practices for improving public safety in tribal communities through a collaborative process.

Since enactment of the Tribal Law & Order Act (TLOA) in July 2010, NCAI and NCJA have used the Project as a vehicle to help implement the Tribal Law & Order Act while still staying true to the project's original focus on intergovernmental collaboration.

The Intergovernmental Collaboration Project has launched a Tribal Law & Order Resource Center web site to disseminate information about tribal justice, track implementation of TLOA, post upcoming events, and create a network of key criminal justice stakeholders. The Project has convened and facilitated national working groups around key tribal justice issues to build intergovernmental cooperation, share promising practices, analyze relevant provisions of the TLOA, and develop recommendations for its implementation.

The Intergovernmental Collaboration Project has conducted training programs in states using a team approach, with teams from states led by the state criminal justice agency administrators (SAA) and tribal teams led by elected tribal leaders, as well as justice system stakeholders from each. Programs have been delivered in Minnesota, North Dakota, and Arizona. The Intergovernmental Collaboration Project is also engaged in a series of webinars that kicked off in July 2010 and continues today. All webinars are posted for viewing on the Tribal Law & Order Resource Center web site.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND REQUIREMENTS

Three to five collaborations will be selected through a competitive process approved by BJA and managed by the NCJA-NCAI project staff. The proposed collaboration must include at least one federally recognized Tribe and a state or local government partner (or both a state and local partner). Although one goal of the initiative is to develop new relationships, it is expected that applicants will have a specific project in mind and have established a baseline level of cooperation between partners. All parties must demonstrate a willingness to work together to develop and implement a collaborative strategy and must have approval from appropriate authorities to pursue the project.

To apply for this assistance, applicants must submit a concept paper of no more than five pages. Applicants must describe the proposed project and document a willingness to establish intergovernmental collaboration. The concept paper must include the following information:

- Designated leaders for the Tribe and federal, state or local government bodies, including name and full contact information.
- A letter of commitment signed by the executive officer of each the participating agencies
- A description of the problem the partners seek to solve through a collaborative strategy
- A description of the proposed collaborative strategy.
- A list of proposed participants by name or role (e.g., parole officers, the court clerk, etc).
- Background on any previous collaboration between the Tribe and state and/or local authorities and general discussion of the relationship between the Tribe and state and/or local government partners.
- The name and contact information for the individual designated to receive information concerning the application.

Concept papers are due June 27, 2014.

Based on an approved work plan, the NCJA-NCAI will deliver training and technical assistance to develop and implement intergovernmental collaborative strategies among tribal, state and/or local criminal justice agencies.

SELECTION PROCESS

NCJA-NCAI staff will review all applications and will consult with BJA regarding finalists. Finalists may be contacted by NCJA-NCAI staff for a phone interview to discuss the proposed project and the resources available for collaboration. All applicants will be notified of final decision by July 15, 2014.

Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria

- Identification of important criminal justice challenges to state, tribal and local collaboration (25 points)
- Evidence of commitment by state, tribal, and local justice decision makers to participate in technical assistance activities (35 points)
- Commitment to provide resources to support technical assistance activities (eg meeting space, access to criminal justice leaders and practitioners). (20 points)

- Evidence of past or current collaborative efforts among state, local, and tribal criminal justice leaders and practitioners. (20 points)

FUNDING

This is a training and technical assistance opportunity and does not come with direct funding for participating agencies. NCJA-NCAI staff anticipates; however, that the work completed through the project will provide recipients with information concerning potential sources of funding.

No project funding can be used to cover meeting costs and participant travel. Project funds will be used to support consulting services by subject matter experts and training for individuals participating in the intergovernmental collaboration.

HOW TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION

Concept papers may be submitted via

- email to Cabell Cropper, National Criminal Justice Association at ccropper@ncja.org or Mark Carter at mcarter@ncai.org
- facsimile to 202-448-1723
- or US Postal service or express delivery to:
 - Cabell Cropper
 - Executive Director
 - 720 7th Street NW
 - Washington, DC 20001

CONTACT

For further information, please contact Cabell Cropper at cropper@ncja.org or Mark Carter at mcarter@ncai.org.