




Washington, D.C. 20531

MEMORANDUM:

To: Indian Alcohol Substance Abuse Grantees
Tribal Courts Assistance Grantees

From: Andrew Molloy 
Associate Deputy Director for Justice Systems
Bureau of Justice Assistance

Re: BJA Training and Technical Assistance Program
Grantee Orientation: Palm Springs, CA
December 8, 2008

Congratulations on being awarded a grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. BJA provides funds for tribes to support the planning, development, and enhancement of their tribal justice systems through the Tribal Courts Assistance Program (TCAP) and the Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program (IASAP). The Tribal Judicial Institute (TJI) at the University of North Dakota School of Law was selected by BJA to coordinate the training and technical assistance (T/TA) for TCAP. The Criminal Justice Center for Innovation at Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC) is the T/TA provider for IASAP. These two institutions work in partnership with many other tribal T/TA providers to support the development of your local programs.

As you may recall, all tribes were required to allocate monies in their grant applications for travel to training events sponsored by BJA providers. The calendar of BJA approved events will provide training on a variety of topics that were identified by tribes in their proposals. Your tribe can expend your travel money to attend any of these training events. It is important that you expend the monies in your grants for training by attending the events that will be identified in the upcoming calendar.

There will be an orientation session for TCAP and IASAP grantees on Monday, December 8, 2008 at the Wyndham Hotel in Palm Springs, CA, in conjunction with the Walking on Common Ground II and the 11th National Indian Nations conference. At the orientation session, grantees will meet some of the tribal T/TA providers, learn about reporting requirements for their grants, and discuss ways the TA providers and BJA staff can help support development of your program. We are requesting that each tribe send at least two people to the orientation session as we plan to sit down with your representative(s) to develop a training and technical assistance plan.

A calendar of training activities for 2009 will be provided during this session. Announcements and reminders of upcoming events will be provided on T/TA provider websites, by email and by regular mail. Events will be posted at least one month ahead of time to allow sufficient time for staff to make travel arrangements to the event. Scholarships for non-grantee tribes will be available for BJA sponsored events. Most events will have either no registration fee or a very modest one to compensate for meals provided during the sessions. Please share the training calendar with other tribes in your region.

Following the orientation session will be the Walking on Common Ground II conference, which will be an opportunity for federal, state, and tribal judges and others to come together and share cooperative ventures and agreements reached since the first Walking on Common Ground conference in Green Bay in 2005.

Please consider the training and technical assistance providers as a direct extension of our office in providing services and support to you as you implement your programs. We encourage you to share information about your projects with them and participate in the training activities that are relevant to your programs. As you identify areas where you need support for development of your program, please let us know how we can assist. Please feel free to contact your BJA State Policy Advisor <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/resource/stcont.htm> for additional information. You may also contact Lynn Chernich from CJI/FVTC or BJ Jones and Michelle Rivard Parks from TJI/UND. Ms. Chernich can be reached at 1-866-790-4088, and at cjgrants@fvtc.edu. Mr. Jones and Ms. Parks can both be reached at 701-777-6306, or at jones@law.und.edu or mrivard@law.und.edu.

We look forward to working with you on the development of your tribal justice system.

Cc:: Ruby Qazilbash
Kim Norris
Gary L. Dennis
Julius Dupree
Eunice Pierre
Eileen Garry
Tammy Shelton
Dara Schulman
Beckie Murdock, CJI/ FVTC
BJ Jones, TJI/UND