



HOPI-TEWA WOMEN'S COALITION TO END

P.O. Box 239
Second Mesa, AZ 86043
928-225-7029
Email: htwceacoalition@yahoo.com

Contact Information:

Kim Zahne
Director of Training and Technical Assistance
Hopi Tewa Women's Coalition to End Abuse
(928) 225-6494
Kim.Zahne@htwcea.org

New Hopi Victim Services Program Planning Getting Underway

The Hopi Tribe has been successful in receiving a \$720,000 federal grant through the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Victims of Crime (OVC). The purpose of the grant is to establish a new Victim Service Program for all victims of crime.

Recently, the Office of Victims of Crime has held several Tribal Consultations and listening sessions with tribal leaders, representatives, and stakeholders to discuss the programming and funding needs for crime victims' services throughout tribal nations.

In 2018, Congress authorized set-aside funds from the Crime Victims Fund for a tribal victim services set-aside program which will provide support to tribal communities to improve services for victims of crime or to develop and carry strategic planning assessments to identify victim of crime needs that consistent with the requirements of the Victims of Crime Act. OVC is charged by Congress with administering the Crime Victims Fund.

In the past, tribal communities were not included in the initial 1984 VOCA legislation. Tribes, therefore, had to seek VOCA funding from the state in which tribes are located, and many tribes concluded that since they were sovereign nations, they should not be seeking funds from the States, but from the federal government itself. Although tribes have statistically the highest victimization rates, they did not have a dedicated tribal set-aside funding source.

Over the three-year grant term, seven activities will be completed to establish a Victim Services Program: 1) establish partnerships within Hopi from which to develop the program; 2) convene and mobilize the partners; 3) assess community needs; 4) develop a strategic/implementation plan; 5) implement the program; 6) provide victim services; and, 7) provide community outreach and education.

According to 2018 Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) crime statistics, a total of 474 crimes were committed on Hopi. The most frequently reported crimes include (in order): assault, theft, larceny, burglary and stolen property. A significant concern of the Hopi Tribe is the accuracy of crime data reported by the BIA. The Tribe anticipates the Hopi Law Enforcement Services will address these concerns as it carries out law enforcement functions contracted in July 2019 from the BIA under Public Law 93-638.

The grant application noted two "transformational issues." First is a challenge to the Hopi people that stems from the closure of the Peabody Mine. The second mentioned the transfer of jurisdiction for law enforcement from the Bureau of Indian Affairs Law Enforcement Service to the Hopi Tribe.

The grant application noted that there is an urgent need to streamline all key agencies that provide services to victims or potential victims. The application also noted a series of issues and gaps including how law enforcement services are conducted in “silos,” how the Hopi Tribe does not have a treatment center or detention center, how the Tribe historically has relied on BIA corrections officers to transport defendants that are housed hours away from the Reservation, how juveniles are housed at a facility approximately 250 miles away, and how Hopi victims endure a “jurisdictional shuffle” because the Hopi Reservation extends over two different counties.

The three-year grant will operate under a three-phased paradigm with Year One focusing on “readiness,” Year Two on development of a strategic implementation plan, and Year Three on plan implementation and outreach services.

Hopi-Tewa Women’s Coalition to End Abuse (HTWCEA) confirms, “This is a monumental achievement for the Hopi Tribe to develop a victim service program that is not only culturally specific but tribal specific which is essential in providing services and meeting the needs of our Hopi and Tewa community.” This program is a needed addition to the Hopi community because the only victim services program on Hopi is the Hopi Tribal Domestic Violence Program, which provides advocacy services to victims of domestic violence.

This will give Hopi the opportunity to expand those services to all crimes, and the Hopi Tribe can shape what that will look like. HTWCEA also states that this program will strengthen key relations and services within Hopi by creating this much-needed program. Through this collaborative effort, it will strive to eliminate the silo effect of tribal programs because this endeavor will require partnership and coordination among identified partners.

While the Hopi Tribe operates the Hopi Domestic Violence Program for victims of intimate partner and family violence, this new funding will allow the tribe to build comprehensive services for victims of all other crimes.

Building Communities contributed on a voluntary basis to development of the grant application in the summer of 2019. It is anticipated that the project will begin August 2020 and end in June 2023.

The primary partners identified for this project include Hopi Department of Public Safety and Emergency Services, Hopi Law Enforcement Services, Emergency Medical Services, Hopi Tribal Court, Indian Health Services/Hopi Health Care, Department of Behavioral Health Services, Department of Social Services, Hopi Tribe Executive Director, Hopi-Tewa Women’s Coalition to End Abuse, Prosecutors Office, Public Defenders Office, and the Hopi Domestic Violence Program.

The secondary partners include Department of Education and Workforce Development, Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Community Planning and Economic Development, Department of Natural Resources, Hopi Foundation, Hopi Cultural Preservation Office, Community Health Representatives, and Office of Human Resources.

Although this project is in the beginning stages of planning and assessment, as well as developing programmatic infrastructure, the development team will be engaging with key partners, villages, community members, and victims to create the new Hopi Victim Services Program. The methodology to implement the project will be amended slightly given the impacts of the COVID 19. Instead of in-person planning meetings, much of the work will be done by teleconference and video conference.

The Hopi Tribe and its partners look forward to developing a trauma-informed and victim-centered program to enhance victim services for the Hopi and Tewa community. The development of this program will build and sustain collaborative efforts of services to meet the needs of victims and ensure they receive quality services.

This is a great service that has been a dire need for many years and this funding will allow the Hopi Tribe and its partners to build a program based on the Hopi and Tewa culture and lifestyle.