

ABSTRACT
Establishing a New Hopi Victim Services Program

The Hopi Tribe has never had a Victim Services Program. While the Tribe has historically contracted with the BIA for law enforcement services and has some domestic violence programming serving its citizens, the lack of an overarching Victim Services Program is negatively impacting the lives of the Hopi people.

There are two major forces impacting the delivery of services that could benefit victims. First, due to the anticipated December 2019 closure of the Peabody Mine, an estimated 88% of the non-federal Hopi Tribe operating budget will be eliminated. The budgetary and economic consequences of being the most coal-dependent Native American Tribe in the United States is producing catastrophic consequences.

A second major development is the 638 Contract enacted in July of 2019 by the Hopi Tribe to assume responsibility of law enforcement services from the BIA.

All of this combines to underscore the importance of the Hopi Tribe moving to a far more efficient, effective program to support crime victims. The project will enable the Hopi Tribe to establish partnerships, convene and mobilize partners, assess community needs, develop a strategic/implementation plan, move into project implementation, begin to provide victim services and to conduct outreach and education services for the Hopi people.

This will be a three-year project, with Year One establishing the readiness to proceed. Partnerships will be built, and a full assessment of victim services needs will be conducted. By Year Two, a strategic plan will serve to lay the foundation for implementing victim services. A neutral, professional outside facilitator with experience on the Hopi Reservation will be utilized for the assessment and strategic plan. In Year Three, the project will move into implementation and the provision of services.

Very important to the implementation of the project will be the purchase and siting of a modular facility in order to provide services. The required staffing for implementation and the provision of victim services will begin late in Year Two and carry throughout Year Three.

Ultimately, it is the vision of the Hopi Tribe that the people will be better served through the development and implementation of this Victim Services Program.