

# TRIBAL COURT—STATE COURT FORUM

An Advisory Committee of the Judicial Council of California

## Forum E-Update

February 2025

### TRIBAL COURT—STATE COURT FORUM

An Advisory Committee of the  
Judicial Council of California

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## FORUM NEWS

The Judicial Council of California is soliciting nominations and applications to serve on Advisory Bodies, including the Tribal Court—State Court Forum. Information on nominations and appointments to all Advisory Bodies is available [here](#). Information and nomination forms specifically regarding nominations of tribal court judges to serve on the Tribal Court—State Court Forum are available [here](#). Deadline for applications is March 17, 2025

## IN THE NEWS

[Will the New Interior Secretary Continue to Honor Indian Boarding School Survivors?](#)

Imprint – January 23, 2025

The man who would oversee the Bureau of Indian Affairs is [viewed](#) favorably by tribal leaders in his state, who note his work to strengthen the federal Indian Child Welfare Act in North Dakota and describe his policies as governor favorably.

['We Need to Take Care of Our Own Children': Inside the fight for Indigenous jurisdiction over child services in Canada](#)

APTN News – January 23, 2025

Indigenous Peoples are reclaiming their right to take care of their children after at least 500 years of colonization.

[Montana lawmakers consider expansion of state's Indian Child Welfare Act](#)

ICNews – January 31, 2025

Montana's American Indian Caucus is backing changes to the state's 2023 Indian Child Welfare Act law. Supporters say the proposed amendments will strengthen foster care proceedings for Native American children and families.

[TX Lawmakers Consider 'ICWA for All' Bill Affecting Child Removals](#)

Imprint – January 31, 2025

An unusual bill now before the Texas Legislature would tighten the conditions for CPS workers to pull kids from their parents' homes, ensure they remain close to kin when they do enter foster care, and make it more difficult to permanently sever family ties.

**JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF  
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Tribal/State Programs Link:  
<http://www.courts.ca.gov/programs-tribal>

**FORUM LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS**  
Visit the Forum's home page  
<http://www.courts.ca.gov/3065.htm>

**New FBI Report Details Patterns of Violence Against Native Women, Children**

Native News Online – February 4, 2025

The report, [Violence Against American Indian or Alaska Native Females: 2021 - 2023](#), uses data from the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) to identify relationships between victims and offenders, weapons used, locations of incidents, and ages of victims in both violent crimes and victims of sexual crimes.

**'Ambiguous Loss' — A Team of Researchers is Learning From Indigenous Women Whose Children Were Adopted**

The Imprint—February 5, 2025

Hoping to offer a rare in-depth look into how placing children for adoption impacts the lives of Indigenous birth mothers, a group of researchers is continuing efforts to document the experiences of American Indian and Alaska Native women.

**Native American Rights Fund Builds On Its Successes**

Law360 – February 7, 2025

Long a go-to litigator in Indian Country, the nonprofit Native American Rights Fund is stepping up to meet the high demand for its legal advocacy, moving to a larger headquarters and adding attorneys in recent years.

**Building on a Solid Foundation to Protect Tribal Sovereignty**

Indianz.com – February 7, 2025

As with every new Congress and incoming Administration, Indian Country prepares to lay the groundwork to foster existing relationships and educate build new relationships with key decision makers.

**BADGES for Native Communities Act Reintroduced in the US Senate**

Native News Online – February 7, 2025

U.S. Senators Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.), John Hoeven (R-N.D.), Ruben Gallego (D-Ariz.), and Mike Rounds (R-S.D.) on Tuesday, February reintroduced their bipartisan [Bridging Agency Data Gaps & Ensuring Safety \(BADGES\) for Native Communities Act](#) after it failed to pass in Congress' last session. The Act, whose [previous introduction](#) in 2022 was endorsed by the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women, the Seattle Indian Health Board, Amnesty International, National Council of Urban Indian Health, and National Congress of American Indians, seeks to strengthen Tribal law enforcement increase public safety in Indian Country.

**Stop Confusing Tribal Sovereignty with Race**

Native News Online – February 10, 2025

The federal government's understanding of tribal nations often requires basic education with each new administration. Within Native communities, this process is often referred to as "Indians 101," acknowledging the frequent lack of understanding among non-Natives regarding tribal issues and concerns.

These programs are supported with funds from the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice that are administered through the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Court Improvement Program, and the California Department of Social Services.

[\*\*The Future of the Indian Child Welfare Act\*\*](#) (Podcast)

The Imprint – February 16, 2025

On this week's episode, Imprint Indigenous Children and Families Reporter Nancy Marie Spears hosts a special roundtable discussion on the future of Indigenous child welfare. Our panel of guests break down how they will engage with a new 25-year plan to reform and improve Indigenous child welfare policy and practice through improved implementation of, and compliance with, the 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act, or ICWA.

[\*\*Indigenous People To Receive Payouts for Surviving Canada Child Welfare System, but Larger Systemic Reforms Remain Stalled\*\*](#)

The Imprint – February 20, 2025

Starting next month, approximately 300,000 Indigenous children and families who went through Canada's child welfare system can apply for compensation for harms the system caused them.

[\*\*California's first Native American assemblymember champions historic tribal protection\*\*](#)

Daily Journal – February 21, 2025

From protecting Indigenous children to establishing the groundbreaking Feather Alerts system, California Assemblymember James Ramos has spearheaded transformative legislation that strengthens tribal sovereignty and saves lives.

[\*\*Montana Senate gives nod to Montana Indian Child Welfare Act\*\*](#)

Daily Montanan – February 24, 2025

Senate preliminarily passed two bills by Sen. Windy Boy that had been tabled, were sent to floor with procedural move.

[\*\*Justice served, history made: New court solidifies tribal sovereignty\*\*](#)

The Palm Springs Post – February 26, 2025

The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians is known for its elegant resorts, beautiful golf courses, and world-class spas. But a nondescript, square building at the intersection of East Tahquitz Canyon Way and Avenida Caballeros may hold as much or more meaning to tribal members as any of their others.

## PUBLICATIONS

[\*\*Indian Country Lawyers: A South Dakota Survey\*\*](#), Bryce Drapeaux & Hannah Haksgaard, 69 S.D. L. Rev. 437 (2024)

[\*\*Abdication of Power: Arizona v. Navajo Nation and Judicial Refusal to Enforce the Federal Trust Relationship\*\*](#), Jessica Yin, Washington Law Review Vol. 99, No. 4 (2024)

[\*\*Opportunities for Reconciliation: The Legal History of the Leech Lake Indian Reservation and the Chippewa National Forest\*\*](#), Douglas P. Thompson et. al. 50 Mitchell Hamline L. Rev. 726 (2024)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

[\*\*BIA launches Operation Spirit Return to help solve Indian Country missing and unidentified person cases\*\*](#) (Press Release)

Department of the Interior – February 20, 2025

The Bureau of Indian Affairs announced today that the Office of Justice Services has launched Operation Spirit Return, an initiative to help solve missing and unidentified person cases involving American Indians and Alaska Natives in the United States.

[\*\*Update for DOJ Funding Recipients Impacted by the California Wildfires\*\*](#)

Due to the recent impacts of the California wildfires, funding recipients located within a designated disaster zone are receiving a 90-day deadline extension on quarterly financial and regular performance reports that were originally due on January 30, 2025. The new deadline in JustGrants will be April 30, 2025.

## ONLINE RESOURCES

[A Handbook for Developing Effective MOUs for Multidisciplinary Teams Serving Tribal Communities](#)**Native Child Advocacy Center  
Tribal Law & Policy Institute**

This handbook is designed to provide Tribes and Tribal organizations with guidance when drafting or negotiating terms of a Tribal criminal child maltreatment Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) document. This guidance is applicable for standalone Tribal MDTs as well as for MDTs that will function as the core of a Tribal Children's Advocacy Center (CAC). This handbook also provides guidance that may be useful for non-Tribal MDTs and CACs seeking to improve their partnerships with Tribes and Tribal organizations for the purpose of better serving Native children and families. For easy reference, a short MOU checklist is provided in the appendix.

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES, WEBINARS, AND TRAININGS

March 5, 2025, 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. (Virtual)

[CSEC Action Team Meeting: Peer-to-Peer Recruitment Panel](#)

March 13, 2025, 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. (Virtual)

[Developing Effective MOUs for Multidisciplinary Teams Serving Tribal Communities: A Handbook](#)

March 16-19, 2025 (Boston, Massachusetts)

[2025 National Conference on Juvenile Justice](#)

March 19, 2025, 12:15 p.m.-1:15 p.m. (Virtual)

[Navigating Systems & Best Practices When Serving Native American Children with Special Needs](#)

March 20, 2025, 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. (Virtual)

[Becoming Trauma Informed: An Important Consideration in the Courtroom](#)

March 30-April 5, 2025 (Orlando, Florida & Virtual)

[43rd Annual Protecting Our Children Conference](#)

April 1-3, 2025 (Rockville, Maryland)

[24th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect \(NCCAN\)](#)

Starting April 9, 2025

[Advanced ICWA Training Program](#) UC Davis Continuing Professional Education: Human Services

In partnership with the California Tribal Families Coalition and the California Department of Social Services, The Resource Center for Family-Focused Practice at UC Davis Human Services is offering an opportunity for anyone working with child welfare system-involved children and families to participate in our Advanced ICWA Training Program. ***The 6-Part full day course will be offered on April 9th, April 16th, April 29th, May 7th, May 22nd, May 28th from 9:00am - 4:30am.*** An application is required to be considered and will be open through **March 19th, 2025**.

April 13-16, 2025 (Providence, Rhode Island)

[2025 Annual Conference National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts: Resilience Through History: Reflecting on 150 Years of Progress and Setbacks in Racial and Ethnic Equity](#)

April 15-17, 2025 (Las Vegas, Nevada)

[National Missing and Unidentified Persons Conference](#)

April 18, 2025, 1:15 p.m.-4:00 p.m. (Virtual)

[2025 Title IV-E Summit: "Healing Together: The Road to Building Collaboration, Sustainability and Well-Being in Child Welfare."](#)

April 22-24, 2025 (Anaheim, CA)

[International Conference on Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, and Forging New Pathways](#)

June 2-5, 2025 (San Diego, CA)  
[The National Judicial College- “Restorative Justice”](#)

June 18-20, 2025 (San Diego, CA)  
[Transformation of Youth Justice Symposium](#)

July 20-23, 2025 (Chicago, Illinois)  
[NCJFCJ 88th Annual Conference](#)

### COVID-19 SPECIFIC GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

#### [FEMA COVID-19 FUNERAL ASSISTANCE](#)

FEMA will continue to provide funeral assistance until Sept. 30, 2025, to those who have lost loved ones due to this pandemic.

### NEW GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

\*Please check the direct links to the grants regularly, as the status, closing dates, and availability may change in time. At this time, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) has removed previously posted grants and webinars. For a complete list of funding opportunities available at this time, here are a list of links to consult: [Grants.gov](#), [Office of Justice Programs](#), [Bureau of Justice Affairs](#), and [U.S. Department of Justice](#).

[Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program \(HVRP\), Incarcerated Veterans' Transition Program \(IVTP\), and the Homeless Women Veterans' and Homeless Veterans' with Children Reintegration Grant Program \(HWHVWC\) \(referred to collectively as HVRP\)](#)

Department of Labor

Veterans Employment and Training Service

FOA-VETS-25-01

**Deadline: March 17, 2025**

The intent of HVRP, an employment-focused competitive grant program, is to enable America's veterans to reach their full employment potential and obtain high-quality career outcomes for veterans experiencing and at risk of homelessness.

[Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training Program for Paraprofessionals](#)

Department of Health and Human Services

Health Resources and Services Administration

HRSA-25-066

**Deadline: March 18, 2025**

The purpose of the Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training Program for Paraprofessionals is to develop and expand community-based experiential training such as field placements and internships to increase the skills, knowledge and capacity of students preparing to become mental health workers, peer support specialists, and other behavioral health paraprofessionals.

[Indian Highway Safety Law Enforcement Grant](#)

Department of the Interior

Bureau of Indian Affairs

BIA-IHSP-2025-003

**Deadline: May 1, 2025**

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Office of Justice Services (OJS), Indian Highway Safety Program (IHSP) solicit proposals for implementing traffic safety programs and projects that are designated to reduce the number of traffic crashes, deaths, injuries, and property damage within these populations. [Grant applications should be sent to this e-mail address ojs\\_indian\\_highway\\_safety@bia.gov](#)

[Indian Highway Safety Occupant Protection Grant](#)

Department of the Interior

Bureau of Indian Affairs

BIA-IHSP-2025-002

**Deadline: May 1, 2025**

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Office of Justice Services (OJS), Indian Highway Safety Program (IHSP) solicit proposals for implementing traffic safety programs and projects that are designated to reduce the number of traffic crashes, deaths, injuries, and property damage within these populations. [Grant application should be sent to this e-mail address ojc\\_indian\\_highway\\_safety@bia.gov](mailto:ojc_indian_highway_safety@bia.gov)

[\*\*National Human Trafficking Hotline \(NHTH\)\*\*](#)

**Department of Health and Human Services**  
**Administration for Children and Families-IOAS-OTIP**  
**HHS-2025-ACF-IOAS-OTIP-ZV-0002**

**Deadline: May 2, 2025**

The National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH) is a national toll-free hotline that operates 24 hours a day, every day of the year via telephone, text, and chat, to assist adults and minors who have experienced a severe form of human trafficking as defined by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. The objectives of the NHTH include: Operate the NHTH's telephone, text, chat, and website via a coordinated national communications system available 24 hours a day. Provide timely information and service referrals to victims of human trafficking using a trauma-informed, person-centered, culturally responsive, and linguistically appropriate approach. Notify law enforcement agencies of potential cases of human trafficking, where appropriate; and Establish and maintain a comprehensive online directory of community-based service providers in communities across the United States. Develop trusted relationships to identify, update, and maintain comprehensive internal and online referral directories. Directories must include vetted organizations equipped to meet the service needs of survivors and/or respond to tips of potential human trafficking in accordance with relevant referral protocols.

[\*\*OVC FY25 Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside Formula Program\*\*](#)

**U.S. Department of Justice**  
**Office of Justice Programs**  
**Office for Victims of Crime**  
**O-OVC-2025-172320**

**Deadline to submit SF-424 in Grants.gov: May 9, 2025**

**Deadline to submit application in JustGrants: June 6, 2025**

The purpose of this funding is to support the provision of services to crime victims in American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities through a discretionary administrative formula program funded under a set-aside designated by law from the Crime Victims Fund (CVF). The funding may be used to improve and support a Tribe's victim services and is available for a broad range of expenses that are reasonable and necessary to serve crime victims.

**PREVIOUSLY REPORTED GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

[\*\*Support for Adam Walsh Act \(AWA\) Implementation Grant Program\*\*](#)

**Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking**  
**U.S. Department of Justice**  
**Office of Justice Programs**  
**O-SMART-2025-172307**

**Grants.gov Deadline: March 3, 2025**

**Application JustGrants Deadline: March 17, 2025**

This program assists states, the District of Columbia, principal territories and certain federally recognized Indian Tribes with developing and enhancing programs designed to implement the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA) (34 U.S.C. section 20901 et seq.). SORNA was enacted to provide a comprehensive set of minimum standards for sex offender registration and notification in the United States. SORNA requires jurisdictions to maintain a sex offender registry and for sex offenders to register and maintain a current registration. The program supports a variety of projects to further SORNA implementation, such as but not limited to the upgrade of registry systems, digitizing criminal history records, training and technical assistance, procurement of hardware and software and hiring personnel and consultants to assist in developing SORNA compliant registration and notification programs. The program also facilitates information sharing and access among jurisdictions.

[\*\*Tribal Homekey+ 2024 Notice of Funding Availability\*\*](#)

**California Department of Housing and Community Development**  
**Deadline: Application portal opens late January 2025**

Tribal Homekey+ is the Permanent Supportive Housing component of the BHIBA. This funding represents the Department's ongoing investment in Tribal housing opportunities and continues a statewide effort to sustain and

rapidly expand permanent supportive housing for households and individuals who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness and are living with a behavioral health challenge. Rather than utilizing a set-aside within the standard Homekey+ Program, this NOFA operates independently and is tailored to meet the specific affordable housing needs of California Tribes. Website: <https://www.hcd.ca.gov/grants-and-funding/homekey/tribal-program> Homekey Tribal Program Email: [HKTribal@hcd.ca.gov](mailto:HKTribal@hcd.ca.gov).

**FY25 U.S. Department of Justice Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation**

U.S. Department of Justice

O-BJA-2025-172288

**Grants.gov Deadline: March 18, 2025**

**Application JustGrants Deadline: March 25, 2025**

This Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS) funding opportunity seeks to provide funding to improve public safety and victim services in tribal communities. CTAS provides federally recognized tribes and tribal consortia an opportunity to apply for funding to aid in developing a comprehensive and coordinated approach to public safety. Many of the Department of Justice's (DOJ) existing tribal government-specific programs are included in and available through this single coordinated funding opportunity.

**Funding Categories/Purpose Areas (PA) and DOJ Component:**

- PA #1: Public Safety and Community Policing [Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)]
- PA #2: Comprehensive Tribal Justice Systems Strategic Planning [Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), COPS, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), Office for Victims of Crime (OVC)]
- PA #3: Tribal Justice Systems Program (BJA)
- PA #4: Tribal Justice System Infrastructure Program (BJA)
- PA #5: Adult Tribal Treatment Courts (BJA)
- PA #6: Children's Justice Act Partnerships for Indian Communities (OVC)
- PA #8: Youth Healing to Wellness Courts (OJJDP)
- PA #9: Tribal Youth Program (OJJDP)

Note that, in FY25, PA 7 is not included in CTAS.

**NAGPRA Repatriation Grants**

Department of the Interior

National Park Service

P25AS00474

**Deadline: May 8, 2026**

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to make grants to museums, Indian Tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations for the purposes of assisting in consultation, documentation, and repatriation of Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony (25 U.S.C. 3008). NAGPRA Repatriation grants assist museums, Indian Tribes, and NHOs to defray costs associated with the packaging, transportation, contamination removal, reburial, and/or storage of NAGPRA human remains or cultural items. Project activities may include, but are not limited to: travel, transportation, testing or decontamination, building containers for transport, ceremonial materials, or Staff time.

**NIDA Research Center of Excellence Grant Program**

Department of Health and Human Services

National Institutes of Health

PAR-23-076

**Open Date (Earliest Submission Date): August 25, 2023**

**Deadline: November 18, 2025**

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is to provide support for research Centers that (1) conduct substance use and addiction research in any area of NIDA's mission, including the intersection of substance use/addiction and HIV, (2) foster outstanding innovative science, (3) are multidisciplinary, thematically integrated, and synergistic, and (4) serve as national resource(s) to provide educational and outreach activities to relevant research communities, educational organizations, the general public, and policy makers.

**Continuum of Care Competition and Renewal or Replacement of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Grants**

Department of Housing and Urban Development

FR-6800-N-25

**Deadline: August 29, 2025**

The CoC Program (24 CFR part 578) is designed to promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; to provide funding for efforts by nonprofit organizations, state governments, local governments, instrumentalities of state and local governments, Indian Tribes, Tribally Designated Housing Entities, as defined in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103), and public housing agencies, as such term is defined in 24 CFR 5.100, are eligible without limitation or exclusion, to quickly re-house homeless individuals, families, persons fleeing domestic violence, and youth while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness; to promote access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless; and to optimize self-sufficiency among those experiencing homelessness.

**HEAL Initiative: Research to Increase Implementation of Substance Use Preventive Services**

**Department of Health and Human Services**

**National Institutes of Health**

**RFA-DA-24-066**

**Earliest Submission Date: December 17, 2023**

**Expiration Date: January 17, 2026**

The goal of this initiative is to support research that can improve public health and respond to the opioid crisis by increasing knowledge pertaining to the delivery and sustainability of prevention services. This notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) solicits applications to address understudied areas of opportunity that, if researched, could create the foundation needed to inform a prevention infrastructure for ongoing delivery and sustainment of interventions to prevent opioid and other substance misuse and use disorders.