



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.
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USET Resolution No. 2010:007


OPPOSITION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE COORDINATED TRIBAL ASSISTANCE SOLICITATION

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-five (25) federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** United States Department of Justice (DOJ) grant making components including Office of Violence Against Woman (OVW), Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), and Office of Justice Programs (OJP) grant programs are preparing to release a consolidated grant application solicitation in mid-March 2010 known as The Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation; and
- WHEREAS,** DOJ is claiming this move comes after "consultation with Tribal Leaders, including sessions at the DOJ Tribal Listening Session in December 2009; and
- WHEREAS,** DOJ says they solicited input in this process from Tribal Leaders on how to make change to a single application process that will significantly improve their ability to apply for grants; and
- WHEREAS,** the OVW grants to Tribal Governments Program is being rolled into this solicitation as well as the Tribal Sexual Assault Services Program; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET member Tribes understand that even though the grant programs are being rolled into the solicitation, the separate agencies will still review the applications submitted for that particular purpose area, i.e., OVW is still conducting final funding recommendations for domestic violence and sexual assault and will be responsible for getting these awards out; and
- WHEREAS,** USET member Tribes who operate DOJ programs including OVW as well as many other Indian Tribes nationally have a concern that this whole process may delay the grants cycle even further, and
- WHEREAS,** USET member Tribes are concerned that such delay of awards may jeopardize the continuity of our programs that address domestic violence in Indian Country; and
- WHEREAS,** USET member Tribes do not consider the DOJ Listening Session held in December 2009 as Tribal Consultation due to the lack of specific face-to-face-discussion on revamping the application process; and
- WHEREAS,** USET member Tribes are aware of the DOJ consultation including, OVW presenters request for formal consultation and their commitment made during this meeting to meet during 2010 to devise a possible new process for 2011; and
- WHEREAS,** USET does not consider two conference calls, held over Christmas vacation, with only 15-20 Tribal representatives out of 564 Indian Tribes to be Government-to-Government consultation; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET Board of Directors are aware that over 80 Tribes throughout Indian Country including six USET member Tribes (Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point, St Regis Mohawk, Eastern Band of Cherokee, Mississippi Band of Choctaw, and the Poarch Band of Creek Indians) will be immediately and adversely affected; therefore, be it

- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Director's official position on this matter is to oppose the current plan of the Department of Justice to include Office of Violence Against Woman programs into their consolidated grant program; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Executive Director will formally contact the Attorney General and other top Department of Justice officials to convey USET's position and offer assistance in rectifying this serious problem; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET member Tribes convey our opposition to the Department of Justice's plan to consolidate all Department of Justice programs including, Office of Violence Against Woman into their overall consolidated grant program to our respective State congressional delegations as well as members of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, the Congressional Natural Resources Committee sub-committee on Indians and the Congressional Native American Caucus and that further consultation will occur regarding this process; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Executive Director will monitor this matter, speaking out when appropriate and as needed, and provide regular updates to member Tribes.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 11, 2010.



Brian Patterson, President
United South and Eastern Tribe, Inc.



Robert McGhee, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

"Because there is strength in Unity"