



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

Office for Victims of Crime

Washington, D.C.

July 12, 2021

Dear Tribal Leaders and Authorized Tribal Leader Designees:

The U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) invites you to participate in a Consultation on the Tribal Set-Aside from the Crime Victims Fund for Fiscal Year 2021. This Consultation will focus on soliciting your input about how OVC should expend Tribal Victim Service Set-Aside funds remaining after participating Tribes claim the formula funds allocated to them.

I regret the short notice for this Consultation. It is necessitated because the deadline for submission of applications under the FY 2021 Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside Program ("TVSSA program") was extended until July 14, 2021, in order to accommodate as many Tribes as possible which wished to participate in the program. As of today, it is apparent that Tribes will not claim all the formula funds allocated to them, and thus OVC seeks input about how to use the remaining funds. By statute, OVC must obligate the remaining funds by September 30, 2021, or the funds will be automatically returned to the Crime Victims Fund. Rather than making a decision without Consultation, OVC is electing to try to collect your input while there is still time to make decisions about remaining funds.

An informational framing paper is attached to provide background and questions for you to consider in advance of the Consultation. The Consultation will be held on Thursday, July 29, 3:00–5:00 p.m., eastern time via WebEx, a meeting platform with video and telephone conferencing capabilities.

To register and indicate your interest in speaking, please email ovtribalsetaside@ojp.usdoj.gov. If you are unable to attend, we strongly encourage you to submit written comments to OVC. We will accept written comments from Tribal leaders until 11:59 p.m., eastern time on August 5. Please submit your comments by email to ovtribalsetaside@ojp.usdoj.gov.

If you have any questions about the process, please email your questions to ovtribalsetaside@ojp.usdoj.gov. We hope that you will be able to participate in providing feedback to the Department on this important topic and we look forward to receiving your feedback.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Katherine Darke Schmitt", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Katherine Darke Schmitt
Director, OVC Tribal Division