



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, DC 20240

FEB - 7 2022

Dear Tribal Leader:

The U.S. Departments of the Interior (DOI) and Justice (DOJ), in coordination with Health and Human Services (HHS), Energy, and Homeland Security (DHS) (together the Agencies), are seeking Tribal and stakeholder input related to the policy directives outlined in Executive Order (E.O.) 14053—Improving Public Safety and Criminal Justice for Native Americans and Addressing the Crisis of Missing or Murdered Indigenous People.

Among other goals, E.O. 14053 aims to improve federal coordination efforts to prevent and respond to violence against Native Americans and support Tribal governments and other non-federal law enforcement efforts in this endeavor. E.O. 14053 also calls on the Federal Government to improve data collection and information sharing practices and strengthen prevention, early intervention, and victim and survivor services.

The Agencies wish to consult with Tribal governments to solicit comments and recommendations regarding implementation of the E.O.'s interagency strategies and policy directives, with a focus on how Agencies can promote cross-agency coordination to serve Tribal communities. Please note, additional consultations will focus on specific deliverables or subjects covered in the E.O., including DOJ's consultation on public safety and justice scheduled for March 16, 2022 to March 17, 2022, as well as upcoming consultations that will be announced by HHS.

To guide the development of the Agencies' plans in response to the E.O., we are particularly interested in your feedback on the following questions:

- (1) Pursuant to the E.O., the Agencies will develop a strategy to improve cross-agency federal law enforcement efforts to prevent and respond to violent crime, reports of missing persons, and trafficking, as well as interagency efforts to support victims and families. There are numerous ways in which federal agencies cooperate on law enforcement activities in Native communities. For example, a Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) officer might refer an investigation to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI); the DOJ might partner with DHS on a human trafficking investigation; or a Tribal member that has been a victim of a crime may interact with both BIA and DOJ victim service specialists. The Agencies invite you to share your experiences with interagency policies or practices, including any gaps or redundancies with these policies or practices in the following categories:
  - a. Investigations and enforcement
  - b. Services for victims
  - c. Communications with families or communities
  - d. Prevention and intervention programs or initiatives

- (2) Pursuant to the E.O., the Agencies will work to better support Tribal, local, and relevant State enforcement agencies. To inform our plans in this area we welcome your feedback on the following questions:
- a. What tools, training, or resources do you need? What federal policies or practices impede your ability to carry out effective enforcement or prevention activities?
  - b. What federal policies or practices impede the delivery of services to victims of crime?
- (3) The Agencies have engaged in a number of discussions with Tribal representatives on how to improve data and information sharing. During those discussions, we have heard concerns that data on Tribal victims is not consistently or accurately collected or reported across agencies or jurisdictions; that Tribal agencies and urban Indian organizations would welcome targeted training on making fuller use of current databases; that the number of federal databases is difficult to track; and that Tribal agencies and organizations would benefit from increased information sharing across databases and jurisdictions.
- a. Are there information sharing programs or databases that work well for you? What makes them helpful?
  - b. What data is not being collected by federal agencies but should be?
- (4) The E.O. calls on the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior and Tribal Nations and after conferring with other agencies, researchers, and community-based organizations supporting indigenous wellbeing, including Urban Indian Organizations, to develop a comprehensive plan to support prevention efforts that reduce risk factors for victimization of Native Americans and increase protective factors by enhancing the delivery of services to victims, survivors, and their families and advocates.
- a. What are the most critical components of the prevention plan for HHS to consider?
  - b. How can HHS best partner with interested parties in developing this comprehensive plan?

These questions are not intended to limit feedback; the Agencies welcome any feedback. The DOI and DOJ will conduct 3 joint webinar consultation sessions and will accept both oral and written comments. The following table lists dates and times of each consultation and registration information. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

The consultation schedule is as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
Wednesday, March 9, 2022	12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. PT Pacific and Alaska Time Zone Tribes	Register in advance for this consultation: <a href="https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlSd-mgqTooHG5O16k8FQrFmXDijfW5ASg">https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlSd-mgqTooHG5O16k8FQrFmXDijfW5ASg</a>
Thursday, March 10, 2022	1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. MT Mountain Time Zone Tribes	Register in advance for this consultation: <a href="https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltc-GprDkpErqM0RvHYR87Y5k0Z8Lus7o">https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltc-GprDkpErqM0RvHYR87Y5k0Z8Lus7o</a>
Friday, March 11, 2022	3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. ET Eastern and Central Time Zone Tribes	Register in advance for this consultation: <a href="https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlsc-qvpjMrErJF5HBZfhFAiU8BdbE_A8k">https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlsc-qvpjMrErJF5HBZfhFAiU8BdbE_A8k</a>

You may provide your written input to [consultation@bia.gov](mailto:consultation@bia.gov) by **11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Friday, March 18, 2022**. We look forward to speaking with you. If you have any questions regarding this effort, please contact Rose Petoskey, Senior Counselor to the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, at [rose.petoskey@bia.gov](mailto:rose.petoskey@bia.gov) or by phone at (202) 208-7163.

Sincerely,



Bryan Newland  
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Tracy Toulou  
Director, Office of Tribal Justice  
U.S. Department of Justice