



CENTRAL COUNCIL

*Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Tribe Receives \$1 Million from Department of Justice**

The Department of Justice (DOJ) gave notice to Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Central Council) that it has been awarded \$1 million dollars in grant funding under DOJ's Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS) for two projects—Children's Justice Act and Tribal Youth Prevention and Delinquency Diversion. Over \$97.3 million dollars was awarded to American Indian and Alaska Native tribes to boost law enforcement, improve tribal courts, combat violence against women, address substance abuse, assist youth and provide services to victims of crime. In Alaska, 17 tribes were awarded funding including the Organized Village of Kake and Metlakatla Indian Community.

The ***Children's Justice Act*** project received \$450,000. The three-year project will develop and implement a multi-year program of training and system improvements within the Tribal Family and Youth Services (TFYS) department to support the investigation, prosecution and treatment of cases of serious child abuse, neglect, and child sexual abuse within the service area of Juneau. The project model will assess the status and resources of the TFYS department's ICWA program and services in its first year, develop and implement the training and system improvements necessary to address gaps in services in its second year, and disseminate the materials and improvements to other tribes and organizations who are faced with similar challenges in the area of child and family services in the final year of the project.

The ***Tribal Youth Prevention and Delinquency Diversion*** project received \$550,002. The three-year project will identify Native youth between the ages of 12-18 who are at risk for delinquency, academic failure, substance abuse, and involved with the juvenile justice system. The program will provide advocacy services to court-involved youth, work to enhance the Tribal Court to provide for family-related issues in the context of the Tribe's cultural values, and offer mentoring, tutoring, and work study project options to youth and families. The project will allow Central Council to develop the full capabilities of its Tribal Court to provide peacemaking circles and diversion efforts for tribal youth in legal distress. The primary goal is to enhance Southeast Alaska's juvenile justice system by providing early intervention and indigenous restorative justice offerings in a culturally appropriate forum for at-risk Alaska Native youth and the families that love them. The project will include building strong collaboration with the State of Alaska's Judiciary, Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) program, Juneau Police Department (JPD), and Juneau Youth Court (JYC).

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