





# TRIBAL SECURITY OPERATIONS FOR HOUSING, HEALTH & GOVERNMENT

A Tribal Security Operations Toolkit — National Native Justice Institute | [www.nativejustice.us](http://www.nativejustice.us)

## ■ SECURITY OPERATIONS ACROSS TRIBAL FACILITIES

Tribal nations operate diverse facilities — housing developments, health clinics, government buildings, social service offices, cultural centers, and community programs — each with distinct security needs, populations served, and risk profiles. Effective security operations require tailored approaches for each environment, unified by consistent documentation standards, clear authority frameworks, and strong coordination with tribal law enforcement and management.

-  Tribal housing is the most common environment for security calls involving domestic disturbances, trespass, drug activity, and property damage.
-  Tribal health facilities require security officers who understand patient rights, HIPAA confidentiality, and trauma-informed approaches to behavioral health crises.
-  Tribal government buildings and council chambers require access control, dignitary protection awareness, and protocols for managing contentious community meetings.
-  Security operations that are not tailored to their specific environment create gaps, liability, and community trust problems. One policy does not fit all tribal facilities.

## ■ TRIBAL HOUSING SECURITY OPERATIONS

### Core Housing Security Functions

- Conduct regular patrols of housing areas including common spaces, parking lots, laundry facilities, and playground areas at varied intervals to deter and detect criminal activity.
- Enforce tribal housing lease provisions including guest policies, noise standards, drug-free housing requirements, and trespass orders issued by the housing authority.
- Document all disturbances, property damage, trespass incidents, and drug-activity observations in writing and report to housing management and tribal police as appropriate.
- Respond to domestic disturbances by separating parties, assessing immediate safety needs, and calling tribal law enforcement immediately for any situation involving threats, weapons, or physical violence.

### Meth & Drug Activity in Housing

- Know the signs of meth use and contamination: chemical odors, unusual foot traffic, covered windows, and paraphernalia. Do not enter suspected meth-contaminated units without PPE.
- Report suspected drug activity to housing management and tribal law enforcement immediately. Document your observations specifically and objectively.
- Follow your tribal housing authority’s written meth testing and remediation protocol. Security officers document and report — they do not conduct remediation.

### Trespass Enforcement in Housing

- Trespass orders must be issued in writing by authorized housing management. Security officers enforce trespass orders — they do not issue them independently.
- Know the names and faces of individuals with active trespass orders in your housing area. Maintain a current trespass log accessible to all security staff.
- When an individual with a trespass order is encountered, clearly identify them, state the trespass order, direct them to leave, and call tribal police if they refuse.

## ■ TRIBAL HEALTH FACILITY SECURITY OPERATIONS

### Patient Rights & HIPAA

- Tribal health facility security officers must understand that patients have rights, including the right to receive care, the right to privacy of their health information (HIPAA), and the right to be treated with dignity.
- Never disclose patient information — names, conditions, appointments, or visit status — to any person not authorized to receive it, including family members, unless the patient has provided written consent.
- Document security incidents in health facilities in a manner that protects patient identity. Work with facility administration on compliant incident documentation procedures.

### Behavioral Health Crisis Response

- Tribal health facilities encounter patients in behavioral health crisis regularly. Security officers must be trained in de-escalation, trauma-informed communication, and when to call for clinical support.
- Never use force on a patient in a behavioral health crisis unless there is an imminent threat of serious harm to the patient or others and all de-escalation options have been exhausted.
- Notify a nurse, clinician, or facility supervisor immediately for any patient showing signs of psychiatric crisis, suicidal ideation, or aggressive behavioral escalation.

## Access Control & Visitor Management

- Maintain a visitor sign-in log for all non-patient visitors during operating hours. Verify identification for individuals accessing restricted clinical or administrative areas.
- Know the facility's restricted area map and enforce access control consistently. Unauthorized access to pharmacy, records, and clinical areas is a compliance and safety risk.
- Respond to any weapons concerns immediately: clear the immediate area, notify administration and law enforcement, and do not attempt to physically disarm an individual.

## TRIBAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING SECURITY OPERATIONS

### Access Control & Building Security

- Establish and enforce visitor check-in procedures for all public access to tribal government buildings. Issue visitor badges and escort visitors to their destination.
- Conduct regular security sweeps of the building including restrooms, storage areas, and exterior access points at the start and end of each business day.
- Know the location of all emergency exits, fire suppression equipment, first aid kits, and AED devices and ensure all are functional and accessible.

### Tribal Council & Community Meeting Security

- Meetings of tribal council or community assemblies can generate heightened emotions. Establish a visible, calm, professional security presence that signals safety without intimidation.
- Know the tribal council's rules for meeting conduct and who has authority to remove disruptive individuals. Security officers enforce those rules on direction from authorized officials only.
- If a community member becomes threatening or disruptive, calmly and clearly ask them to step outside and speak privately before involving law enforcement. Escalation to police is a last resort, not a first response.

## RESOURCES, GRANTS & SUPPORT

Funding, Training, and Support Resources — Tribal Security Operations — Housing, Health & Government Programs | [www.nativejustice.us](http://www.nativejustice.us)

### FEDERAL GRANT RESOURCES

#### Housing Security Funding

- **HUD – NAHASDA Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG)** – Funds tribal housing operations including security staffing and meth remediation programs. [hud.gov/program\\_offices/public\\_indian\\_housing/ih](http://hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/ih)
- **HUD Choice Neighborhoods Initiative** – Supports comprehensive safety improvements in distressed tribal housing communities. [hud.gov](http://hud.gov)

#### Health Facility Security

- **IHS Facility Operations & Security Programs** – IHS support for tribal health facility operations including safety and security. [ihs.gov](http://ihs.gov)
- **HRSA Health Center Security Resources** – Resources for Federally Qualified Health Centers on facility security and patient safety. [hrsa.gov](http://hrsa.gov)

#### Government Building & Emergency Preparedness

- **FEMA Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program (THSGP)** – Annual DHS funding for tribal security infrastructure and emergency preparedness. [fema.gov/tribal](http://fema.gov/tribal)
- **COPS Tribal Resources Grant (TRG)** – Supports tribal public safety staffing, training, and equipment across facility types. [cops.usdoj.gov/tribalresources](http://cops.usdoj.gov/tribalresources)
- **CTAS – Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation** – DOJ consolidated tribal funding for public safety programs including security operations. [justice.gov/tribal](http://justice.gov/tribal)

## ARE READY TO SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY

**TAKE ACTION TODAY** — Contact NNJI at [www.nativejustice.us](http://www.nativejustice.us) to schedule training, consultation, or access resources.

*Strengthening Tribal Justice — One Community at a Time*