



**Subject:**

Information concerning the proposed FY 2027 Budget for the Department of Justice (DOJ) Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) Tribal Affairs Programs

**Purpose:**

This bulletin provides information on the [FY 2027 Budget proposal](#) for DOJ’s Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) Tribal Affairs programs. The proposed reductions represent a significant disinvestment in Tribal public safety, victim services, and justice system capacity, which reduce federal trust responsibilities to Tribes, and reverses years of progress in addressing violence in Tribal communities. This document is meant to inform constituents of MNCJP of the significant reductions in the proposed FY 2027 Budget for DOJ OVW Tribal Affairs programs.

**Overview:**

The proposed FY 2027 Budget contains substantial reductions to Tribal justice and victim services programs administered by DOJ’s OVW. These programs are essential to addressing disproportionately high rates of violence in Tribal communities and fulfilling federal trust responsibilities.

**FY 2026 – FY 2027 OVW Tribal Affairs Programs Funding Comparison**

Program	FY 2026 Enacted (\$) <sup>1</sup>	FY 2027 Budget (proposed) (\$) <sup>2</sup>	Change (\$)	% Change
Tribal Coalitions Program	8,409,000	6,927,857	-1,481,143	-17.6%
Tribal Governments Program	49,550,000	39,000,000	-10,550,000	-21.3%
Tribal Sexual Assault Services Program	7,950,000	7,850,000	-100,000	-1.3%
Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction Program	14,500,000	10,000,000	-4,500,000	-31.0%
Tribal SAUSA (TSAUSA) Program	4,500,000	5,000,000	+500,000	+11.1%
Analysis & Research on Violence Against Indian Women	2,000,000	1,000,000	-1,000,000	-50.0%
National Tribal Clearinghouse on Sexual Assault	500,000	500,000	0	0.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>87,409,000</b>	<b>70,277,857</b>	<b>-17,131,143</b>	<b>-19.6%</b>

**Key Takeaways of Proposed Reductions to Tribal Affairs:**

- Overall funding for OVW Tribal Affairs is reduced by nearly 20% from \$87.4M → \$70.3M.
- The largest percentage cut is to Analysis & Research (-50%), (\$1M).
- The largest dollar cut is to the Tribal Governments Program (-23.1%), (-\$10.55M).
- Only one program (TSAUSA) sees an increase.
- The Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction Program sees a significant -31% reduction (4.5M)(which includes an “up to 40% reduction” for the Tribal Reimbursement Program).

<sup>1</sup> OVW FY 2026 Budget, Funding for Tribal Communities, February 2026

<sup>2</sup>Budget of the U.S. Government, Office of Management and Budget, Fiscal Year 2027, [https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/budget\\_fy2027.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/budget_fy2027.pdf)

## Key Funding Changes for Tribal Affairs from FY 2026 → FY 2027:

- **Tribal Governments Program:** \$49.55M → \$39.0M (-21.3%)  
Largest dollar reduction; impacts law enforcement, courts, and victim services.
- **Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction Program:** \$14.5M → \$10.0M (-31.0%)  
Undermines Tribal authority to prosecute non-Native offenders.
- **Tribal Coalitions Program:** \$8.4M → \$6.9M (-17.6%)  
Reduces support for Tribal advocacy organizations.
- **Analysis & Research on Violence Against Indian Women:** \$2.0M → \$1.0M (-50.0%)  
Significantly limits data-driven policy and program evaluation.
- **Tribal Sexual Assault Services Program:** \$8.0M → \$7.85M (-1.3%)  
Effectively flat funding despite increasing need.
- **TSAUSA Program:** \$4.5M → \$5.0M (+11.1%)  
Only program receiving an increase; insufficient to offset broader cuts.
- **National Tribal Clearinghouse on Sexual Assault:** \$0.5M → \$0.5M (0% change).

## Potential Impact of Proposed Cuts:

- Reduced Tribal law enforcement and justice system capacity.
- Increased risk to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.
- Slower progress on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) efforts.
- Diminished exercise of Tribal jurisdiction and prosecutorial authority.
- Loss of critical research and data needed for effective policymaking.

## Why This Matters:

Tribal communities experience some of the highest rates of violent crime in the United States. OVW Tribal Affairs programs are often the primary or only source of funding for:

- Law enforcement and prosecution.
- Victim advocacy and shelter services.
- Tribal courts and justice system infrastructure.
- Prevention and intervention programs.

These proposed reductions may jeopardize hard-won progress.

## DOJ and Congress:

The U.S. Code (34 U.S.C. § 10442) states that the Office on Violence Against Women is "not subsumed by any other office" within the Department of Justice. The office is headed by a Director, appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, which provides further legal protection against demotion or reorganization. Because OVW is a statutorily established office under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), its core functions, structure, and grant-making authorities are defined by law and directed by Congress. As a result, while the Department of Justice may implement limited administrative efficiencies—such as shared services or internal coordination—it cannot fully consolidate, eliminate, or transfer OVW's responsibilities to another component without legislative action. Any consolidation

would require Congress to amend existing statute, reassign authorities, and adjust appropriations, making a legislative fix necessary to achieve structural changes of this nature.

### **Tribal Consultation is Required:**

Consultation is mandated by Executive Order 13175 to ensure "meaningful and timely" input from Tribal leaders. Further, in accordance with §903 of Title IX of VAWA 2005, as amended, OVW is responsible for conducting annual government-to-government consultations with the leaders of all Federally recognized Indian tribal governments on behalf of the United States Attorney General.

Failure to hold consultation on the proposed budgetary changes may conflict with the federal government's trust and treaty obligations to Tribal Nations.

### **What Initiates Tribal Consultation:**

- Any federal agency action, policy, or project that has substantial direct effects on one or more Indian tribes, their sovereignty, their rights, or the trusted government-to-government relationship.
- Development, implementation, or revision of policies, rules, or legislation that impact tribal interests.
- Development of federal budget requests that affect programs serving Tribes.

### **Actions to Consider Going Forward:**

- Conduct formal and meaningful Tribal Consultation with elected leaders of Tribal Nations.
- Discuss the proposed FY 2027 funding cuts to OVW Tribal Affairs programs.
- Discuss the proposed consolidation of OVW into the "Bureau of Justice Grants."
- Support sustained or increased funding levels.
- Protect core Tribal justice programs, particularly the Tribal Governments and Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction programs.
- Coordinate messaging with Tribal organizations and national advocacy groups.
- Provide local or Tribal-specific data and examples to reinforce the need for funding.

### **Additional Information:**

Please contact the Midwest Native Coalition for Justice and Peace, [MNCJP@mncjp.com](mailto:MNCJP@mncjp.com).