

AN ASSESSMENT OF
THE PINE RIDGE OGLALA SIOUX TRIBE'S
GANGS, YOUTH VIOLENCE & DRUGS

Prepared for the Pine Ridge Oglala Sioux Reservation
Sponsored by the Aberdeen Area Mental Health
Office of Indian Health Service

Accomplished by
The National Violence Prevention Resource Center
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N V P R C
National Violence Prevention Resource Center
P.O. Box 41867 Tucson, AZ 85717

"Safe Communities, A New Horizon"

OUR MISSION

The National Violence Prevention Resource Center was established to ensure that schools, social service and community health agencies, law enforcement, judiciaries, legislatures and other governing bodies are aware of the most current statistics and legal precedents that affect youth violence. Our instructors and consultants are nationally recognized experts in their fields. We require that our instructors are current in their credentials and testify in criminal and civil cases. We offer training, assessments, consulting and programs to communities intending to use a multi-faceted approach to gang and juvenile violence reduction.

BACKGROUND

In October 2005, the National Violence Prevention Resource Center was contracted by the Aberdeen Area Mental Health Office of Indian Health Services to prepare an assessment of youth gang activity within the Pine Ridge Oglala Sioux Indian community. Between November 4-12, 2005 and December 8-9, 2005, Chris Cuestas, a consultant with the National Violence Prevention Resource Center, visited the Pine Ridge Oglala Sioux Indian Reservation. Meetings were scheduled for community members interested in providing input on their perceptions and experiences regarding gang and youth violence locally. Attendees completed surveys and also provided personal anecdotes. Mr. Cuestas also interviewed more than twenty individuals while following up on graffiti indicators and night-time observations. Program personnel were presented with NVPRC's mission and completed program surveys regarding youth services. In addition, quantitative data was compiled from housing, law enforcement, courts, planning and enrollment. The following report is the subsequent assessment of the youth gang activity within the Pine Ridge Oglala Sioux Indian Reservation. This information can be used to enhance efforts to develop a local strategy, increase awareness and apply for funding opportunities.

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Date

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CONSIDERATIONS

Criminal street gang activity within the cultural context of Native American communities involves a myriad of considerations. Of critical importance is the recognition that all tribal communities may share some similar challenges, but each tribal community is unique. Consideration include the proximity of the tribal community to urban centers, access to local prevention and intervention resources for youth, availability of family support programs, employment opportunities, community denial, access to public safety agencies, relations between local, state and federal judicial systems and cultural differences.

Despite their communities' unique aspects, there are many common current trends affecting tribal youth. Criminal street gangs have been slowly impacting tribes. The 2003 Annual Report by the Bureau of Indian Affairs identified 6,250 gang members and 1,576 in 520 gangs in the Aberdeen district. This number is a low representation due to the limited number of tribal responses received by the BIA. Because criminal activity is the central element of youth gangs, it is reflected in the number of Native American youth incarcerated. Since 1994, the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) has increased more than fifty percent. More than seventy percent of youth incarcerated in the BOP on any given day are Native American (OJJDP, 1999). Arrest rates for Native American juveniles are twenty percent higher than the average rates (OJJDP, 2001). Additionally, Native Americans are the victims of crime at twice the rate for the Nation as a whole. In general, gangs threaten the well-being of Tribes at their roots; their children.

To assist tribal communities in ensuring the health and welfare of their youth, it is important that it be aware of the impact of street gangs. A site-based, comprehensive assessment can provide details and insight regarding the local scope of the problem. An assessment may also provide community stakeholders with the means to develop an overall strategy to impact the problem.

SCOPE OF WORK

The National Violence Prevention Resource Center provided the Pine Ridge Oglala Sioux Indian community with a nationally recognized expert in criminal street gangs, Chris Cuestas, to assess the local youth gang activity and community violence. Mr. Cuestas has been working in the field of criminal street gangs for more than twenty-four years and has worked in tribal settings since 1994. Mr. Cuestas has become one of the country's foremost authorities in addressing the gang problem in tribal communities. The ability to identify characteristics, assess communities and communicate with gang involved individuals takes a unique expertise. Mr. Cuestas combines these components and conducts in-depth professional training sessions throughout the country. He is often requested to headline national conferences in youth and gang crime, testify before tribal, state and national governments, and provide his expertise in court proceedings.

Mr. Cuestas is also called upon to develop unique strategies, programs and responses that can have an immediate impact in gang behavior reduction for communities throughout the United States. Mr. Cuestas has also provided his expertise to the Department of Justice as a peer grant reviewer.

Since 1996, Mr. Cuestas has been providing assessments of gang and youth violence for communities interested in reducing the impact of street gangs on their youth. The National Violence Prevention Resource Center provides a site-based, comprehensive assessment to provide details and insight regarding the local scope of the problem.

The assessment methodology for the Pine Ridge Oglala Sioux Indian community was four-fold. It included site visits, the recording of physical characteristics of gang activity, interviews with community stakeholders, interviews with active gang members within the affected community, after-hours community surveillance and reviewing community level indicators.

1. Site visit and surveys

The initial phase of the assessment began with site visits to the community. As coordinated through the Anpetu Luta Otipi Program, Mr. Cuestas provided the community with the opportunity to contribute their perceptions and experiences regarding gang and youth violence locally. The community members were asked to identify their opinions on the main risk factors currently affecting the Pine Ridge Oglala community. Following the input from community members, the community youth were surveyed regarding these concerns. Surveys were completed by 579 community members, students, adults and program personnel. The following were cited as the most significant community risk factors for local youth:

Note: Many respondents noted more than one risk factor.

Gangs

The influence of gangs on tribal youth and the subsequent crimes against the community were cited in **sixty-seven** percent of the responders as the most significant risk factor (see survey attachment).

Lack of parental supervision

The lack of continual parental supervision of local youth was cited in **fifty-nine** percent of the responders as the most significant risk factor (see survey attachment).

Substance abuse

The abuse of alcohol and illegal narcotics by adults and youth was cited in **fifty-five** percent of the responders as the most significant risk factor (see survey attachment).

Truancy

The high rate of juvenile truancy and drop-out rates were cited in **fifty-four** percent of the responders as the most significant risk factor (see survey attachment).

Lack of cultural attachment

An overall lack of cultural attachment and respect for local customs and traditions was cited by **thirty-nine** percent of the responders as the most significant risk factor (see survey attachment).

Lack of adult role models

A shortage of adult role models and mentors for local youth was cited by **twenty-six** percent of the responders as the most significant risk factor (see survey attachment).

Lack of recreational opportunities for youth

The limited access to after school and weekend recreational opportunities for youth was cited by **twenty-five** percent of the responders as the most significant risk factor (see survey attachment).

Overall, the responses indicated that gangs, lack of parental supervision and substance abuse were the most cited risk factors for the community. Other risk factors included a high truancy and drop-out rate, a lack of cultural attachment, family rivalries, program rivalries, apathy and denial and lack of recreation opportunities for youth.

During the site visits, Mr. Cuestas conducted **field interviews** with more than eighty community stakeholders, male and female between the ages of eleven and sixty, to gather pertinent community-level feedback. These field interviews revealed that the community perceives youth gang activity as a serious problem. Many of the youth interviewed have a fear for their personal safety both at their schools and in the evening hours in their communities. Youth cited a limited access to recreational activities in the evenings and weekends. Although there are youth facilities available, many youth indicated the distance to travel to use the programs and a lack of diversity in scheduling decreased their chance to use the facilities. While conducting several field interviews within the Kyle community, several youth indicated that they refused to participate in community

recreational opportunities because the programs were being administered by individuals they perceived to be active gang members. Others expressed a fear of being jumped while at a program due to the influence of the dominant gang involved in the program.

Several field interviews substantiated information received from program personnel regarding the increasing influence of adult gang members on area youth. Two of the most active gangs within the Oglala Sioux community are the Gangster Disciples and Surenos, both transplants from larger municipalities. According to the interviews with area youth and interpretation of recent graffiti, local or homegrown gangs are in active conflict with these transplants for control of the local drug trade and street influence. Drug and party crews known as 420 and 840 are becoming increasingly predominant for older youth, especially in Pine Ridge and Manderson.

Interviews with elders indicated a predominant sense of fear of local youth perceived to be involved in destructive behavior. Others expressed a sense of anger over their reduced ability to enjoy their community at night. Many noted a fear of being assaulted and many adults expressed their concern regarding the “climate change” of their community within the past several years.

SURVEY ATTACHMENT

2. After-hours observations

During the after-hours observations, conducted between the hours of 6:00 pm and 1:00 am, several risk factors became obvious. The most obvious risk factor was the high number of unsupervised youth congregating during the late hours of the evening. There was constant foot traffic in Pine Ridge and Kyle and concentrated youth grouping in Pine Ridge, Kyle, and Manderson. Children as young as 9 and 10 years old were out within the community during high-risk hours.

Interviews with gang members or individuals who identified themselves as gang involved revealed that they do not fear accountability for their criminal activity. They believe they can continue to commit criminal acts with little if any negative results. Because of their lack of fear of accountability, there is little effort to hide obvious gang characteristics (tattoos and attire) or drug sales. Many of the juvenile gang members indicated that they became involved in gang activity because their extended family had animosities with other families. Many of these youth also aligned themselves with the dominant gang in the area for protection. **The adult gang members, who are often transplants from other communities, often had numerous youth with them.** This was especially prevalent in Kyle and Pine Ridge. This adult mentoring into the gang lifestyle accelerates a younger person's involvement in criminal activity and insulates the adult gang member from consequences or accountability. Many of those interviewed indicated that drug sales, including marijuana, methamphetamines and stolen prescription drugs, were increasing. On several occasions adults were observed parked behind the Shell station with youth coming up to their vehicle to purchase or transport on behalf of the adults. On a second evening observation, youth were seen running up to a vehicle and carrying items into the local gym and then returning several minutes later to hand cash over to the occupants of the vehicle.

Gang members indicated that drugs are sold within the community in several locations including local housing areas where vehicle traffic increases at night. Some of the locations were identified by tennis shoes strung over power lines, which is a common way drug sales locations are marked in larger communities. Gang involved youth also indicated an increased access to methamphetamines within the past several months.

Personal testimony was given regarding witnessing and knowledge of recent gang-related activity within the Pine Ridge community to include:

- Youth parties with excessive drug usage and intoxication
- Physical assaults and beatings with weapons
- Retaliatory fights and violence
- An increase in violent crime
- Campus disruptions including bullying and intimidation
- Increased drug traffic within the community
- Tagging and gang-related criminal damage at schools

3. Interviews with program personnel

This phase of the assessment included focused interviews with tribal program personnel and leaders to discuss program responses to local youth crime and gang activity.

Interviewed were representatives from local law enforcement, Tribal Courts, Chemical Prevention, Tribal Leadership, Probation, Indian Health Services and Youth Programs.

Mr. Cuestas introduced NVPRC's methodology for the community assessment and solicited input from those interviewed. Generally, all of the responders indicated there are gaps in services for local tribal youth who are at-risk for gang involvement and substance abuse.

The following are general excerpts from their input regarding local gaps in services:

- 1) An overall lack of collaboration between youth-related services.
Program personnel cited a lack of collaboration between services when dealing with youth-related issues. Agencies that should dovetail their efforts include local law enforcement, tribal courts, youth and social services to include family services, area schools and housing.
- 2) A lack of a community-based approach to reducing youth criminality.
Program personnel worried that law enforcement suppression was the only current local method to deal with the increase in youth crimes.
- 3) The need for in-depth professional training and staff development regarding youth risk factors such as gang activity, violence and substance abuse.
Program personnel were concerned that they were not adequately trained nor prepared to identify risk factors or deal with their results.
- 4) A requirement for the collection of local data regarding youth-related issues.
Program personnel recognized the need for local data and felt they were missing out on funding opportunities as well as general baseline data that would assist them in understanding and addressing their local problems. The local Tribal Court system was handicapped by the lack of coordinated efforts to establish court administrative management protocols especially for probation and parole offenders. Tribal court personnel and law enforcement requested field drug kits the lack of which reduces their effectiveness at getting youth adjudicated under court supervision (to include intervention). The lack of coordinated management requirements (especially in documentation) between east and west limited each area's courts in their abilities to track ongoing criminally active youth and adults.

4. Community level indicators

During the assessment, Mr. Cuestas documented a substantial amount of gang-related graffiti within the Pine Ridge community. He interpreted each of the sites and ascertained which sites substantiated information from other sources. Gang-related graffiti is an indicator of the level of gang maturity in a community. If interpreted correctly, it can deliver information on the number of active gangs, the types of gangs, the influences of the gangs and be a record of past and future events (see graffiti attachment).

The National Violence Prevention Resource Center also requested local statistics from law enforcement, courts, housing, schools and enrollment. **As noted in the recommendations, many of the local programs and agencies did not have a methodology to track youth-related issues.**

Local law enforcement, OST Department of Public Safety, was able to provide records from 2003-2004. According to these local statistics, gang-related crime increased 60% during 2003-2004. Disorderly conduct, curfew and assaults decreased on average 35% during the same time frame. This may be due to an increased focus by local law enforcement. A relatively small number of calls for service for criminal damage complaints verses the significant amount of graffiti in each community may indicate a sense of entrenchment that community member's feel regarding gangs. Overall, the calls for service appear to be concentrated in those areas that have recognized indicators for gang activity. In other words, ongoing gang activity in a community directly correlates to criminal activity in that community.

OUTCOMES

OGLALA SIOUX TRIBE GANG THREAT ASSESSMENT

Upon completion of the four phases of the assessment methodology, the National Violence Prevention Resource Center has made the following determinations:

The Oglala Sioux Tribe is currently dealing with a serious youth gang problem with significant adult influence. It should be considered an established and evolving problem. Based on the U.S. Department of Justice projections on the average size of a criminal street gang, the number of gangs identified as active within the community and current tribal enrollment numbers, there are at least 252-504 active gang members, but according to field interviews with gang-involved youth there are an estimated 900-1300 total youth and adults involved in gang activity. There are at least 21 gangs affecting the community. These include but are not limited to: Westside Bloods, Deuce Crips, The Boyz, Eastside Killers, Gangster Disciples, Trey Treys, Crenshaw Mafia Gangsters, Kotton Mouth Kings, Juggalo Riders, Eastside True, Nomads, Wildboys, Northside Bloods, G-Unit, Igloo Gangster Crips, 69 Mafia, 420 and 840 Crews, Northside Gangster Disciples and Surenos that also use the moniker of Sur Trese. Some of these gangs may overlap in their influences and there may be other developing sets or cliques but they currently show no organization or structure for the purposes of this assessment. Some of these gangs are subsets or cliques of the larger gangs, but have separate distinguishing characteristics. The majority of these gangs are hybrids, or gangs developed on the characteristics of nationally recognized gangs and adapted locally. Hybrid gangs often develop their own signature activities that reflect the local pressures or opportunities. As an example, the Gangster Disciples represented in gang graffiti locally would probably not be recognized as Gangster Disciples in Chicago or Minneapolis. This hybridization most often occurs when tribal youth live or visit outside communities and bring influences back to the tribe. Hybridization also occurs when adults from outside communities, especially from prisons influence local youth. Outside influences, in addition to the prison system are large municipalities, including Minneapolis, Denver, Chicago and surrounding communities including Cheyenne River, Rosebud, Rapid City, and Sioux Falls. The Southern California influence is most likely due a family relocation.

An additional indication that the majority of the gangs in the Pine Ridge community are hybrid is the fact that many families have representation in more than one gang as well as in historically rival gangs.

One issue of more significant concern for the Pine Ridge community is the local street gang connection to organized prison gang entities. Several individuals interviewed were carrying and representing both street and prison gang characteristics. Representation of the prison based entities known as The Warrior Society, Native Brotherhood, AIMSTERS and Sur 13 were identified and documented.

According to the field interviews, there is a large contingent of adults influencing the community's youth and mentoring them in gang activity. Specifically, The Boyz and the Gangster Disciples have significant adult influence. This influence is often developed to shield the adults from the criminal consequences of drug sales. Field interviews also indicated that besides an increase in drug sales (especially methamphetamines and marijuana), there have been assaults, thefts of prescriptions, extortion, threats and intimidation, weapons crimes and contributing to the delinquency of minors all associated with gangs.

Local or homegrown gangs are also apparent in the Pine Ridge region. These gangs are often the result of long standing family rivalries. Youth will band together due to ongoing threats from hybrid gangs. As an example, during the interviews in Manderson, it became apparent that the Eastside True and 420 Crew (as many as 20 youth) formed to protect themselves against the local influence of Sur Trese and Gangster Disciples.

In addition, many of the local youth are emulating "gang like" characteristics for self preservation. Several community members interviewed found the youth gang behavior to be acceptable or normal. Several of the community members interviewed are in denial as the gang subculture surrounds them.

Another significant concern is the organization and development of groups known as "drug crews." These youth-oriented crews are solely interested with the procurement and ingestion of narcotic drugs that enhances their "partying" lifestyle. This problem is a nation-wide concern as more and more youth become trapped in the underground drug culture. This underground drug culture has been spurned by "hard core" punk rock groups and the "gangster rap" genre. These characteristics were specifically identified in the groups known as the "420 and 840 crews". It should be noted that the "840 crew" was specifically female in membership. The numbering of "420" (four twenty) comes from a seventies counter culture reference to the time of day a generic group of youth would meet to smoke marijuana. It is not indicative of a specific time to meet locally to smoke, rather a general term to identify a group of youth who like to use marijuana. The doubling of the number is intended to recognize the doubling of the effort and intensity to get loaded and party. Drug and party crews now commonly use the reference and the drug of choice is no longer just marijuana, but also methamphetamines and party drugs.

Finally, there are an increasing number of Mexican national citizens residing with tribal members in the various Pine Ridge communities. Several interviews within the region surfaced with information regarding the presence of Sinaloa Cowboys coming in and out of the area. This group is very well known as a narcotics distribution organization that has infiltrated tribal settings in the past. Local law enforcement sources confirmed the increased movement of vehicles with out-of-state plates in the region.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Communities that are successful in addressing evolving gang and juvenile violence issues recognize that simplistic short term strategies are not beneficial and only serve to mask the problems for short periods of time. Research indicates that the only effective method for reducing gang and juvenile violence is to support local, community-based multi-faceted strategies for prevention, intervention and suppression.

The most important element of a successful strategy for communities with an “established” gang problem is the development of a “specific strategy” for the community. This vision should be the basis of all subsequent goals, objectives and initiatives. Funding of the strategy must be long-term.

Based on the assessment, the National Violence Prevention Resource Center recommends the following opportunities for the Pine Ridge Oglala Sioux Indian Reservation:

Physical Improvements

- Based on site visits, field interviews, law enforcement reports and community surveys, an overall increase in lighting within each district would significantly increase community visibility and decrease loitering and minor property offenses. Metal security grating would reduce the number of broken or inoperable lights.
- A graffiti abatement strategy that is constantly enforced and involves youth in restorative community projects. Collaborative efforts between the Courts, Probation Department and Housing are an opportunity for diversion or first offenses.
- Increased community patrols. These tenant patrols can be overseen by law enforcement or Housing security. Tenant patrols can be a funded strategy through Housing funds.

Community

- Community empowerment sessions for parents to assist them in identifying at-risk behaviors and strategies to reduce the attraction of gangs.
- Developing a local pool of resources (cultural leaders, tribal elders, volunteers, coaches, etc.) to serve as mentors.
- Develop an alternative recreational and services youth program specifically for 12-17 year olds (including prevention measures for youth risk factors such as gangs, substance abuse; specifically methamphetamines and marijuana, sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy, etc.).
- Develop neighborhood watch programs and elder protection strategies.
- Participate in a community-based task force.

Schools

- Conduct physical security surveys for each community school building and develop a school security strategy.
- Review and revise local policy to determine responsiveness to gang activity.

- Augment student handbook to include consistent policy and protocols.
- Develop a peer review panel to address disruptive conduct.
- Develop a truancy reduction initiative.
- Develop protocol and procedures for gang involved youth and their families (perhaps an early notification strategy).
- Train staff to recognize early indicators of gang activity and involvement.
- Review with each student and post within each classroom policy on gang activities and behaviors.
- Provide access to resources for families (act as a referral agency).
- Participate in community-based task forces.
- Examine the potential for school dress codes or uniforms to increase the safety of the facility.
- Provide workshops for youth in gang prevention, substance abuse, suicide prevention, and healthy choices and decisions.
- Host or sponsor parent awareness training sessions.
- Emphasize cultural attachment in curriculum.
- Examine the possibility of introducing school uniforms to the middle and elementary grade students.
- Bullying prevention - Prescribe and enforce policies and procedures to prohibit pupils from harassing, intimidating and bullying other pupils on school grounds, on school buses, on school property, at school bus stops and at school sponsored events and activities that include the following components:
 - Procedure for pupils to confidentially report to school officials incidents of harassment, intimidation or bullying.
 - Procedure for parents and guardians of pupils to submit written reports to school officials of suspected incidents of harassment, intimidation or bullying.
 - A requirement that school district employees report suspected incidents of harassment, intimidation or bullying to the appropriate school official.
 - A formal process for the documentation of reported incidents of harassment, intimidation or bullying, except that no documentation shall be maintained unless the harassment, intimidation or bullying has been proven.
 - A formal process for the investigation by the appropriate school officials of suspected incidents of harassment, intimidation or bullying.
 - Disciplinary procedures for pupils who have admitted or been found to have committed incidents of harassment, intimidation or bullying.
 - A procedure that sets forth consequences for submitting false reports of incidents of harassment, intimidation or bullying.

Tribal Responses

- Examination of existing tribal codes to determine if changes would impact gang activity.
- Examination of possible law enforcement techniques that would increase the effectiveness of law enforcement efforts within the community.
- Creation of a tribally recognized community-based task force whose specific mission is impacting the youth gang problem. Newly formed task forces are most

often successful when initially administered by an objective agency that reports directly to the Tribal Council. Successful task forces have representation from district leaders, community members, program personnel, courts, and health workers.

- Create and fund a Youth Services Coordinator who ensures that program resources for youth are distributed within the guidelines of the overall strategy or “vision”. The Coordinator should be an active member of any youth task force and should report directly to the Tribal Council.
- Creation and distribution of a community resource guide listing all available resources for families and individuals.
- An overall audit of existing resources to determine potential impact and effectiveness in addressing youth. It is especially important that tribal leaders know what grants and funding options are available.
- Expansion of community radio programming that emphasizes cultural in relation to the role of youth within the tribal community.
- Programming that allows community elders to relay traditions, roles and culture to youth on a daily or weekly basis.
- Increase recreational opportunities in every district for youth after hours and on weekends.

Courts

- Develop an automated case management system and establish coordinated efforts between the two court systems.
- Increase the number of court advocates and probation services.
- Amend existing tribal codes regarding gang activity due to difficulty in the application.
- Support of a first offenders or diversion program.
- Expansion of the youth probationary services to enhance the current capability of the probation program and increase the ability to accomplish school attendance checks, field testing, home visits and curfew enforcement.
- Equip probation officers with field drug testing kits.
- Request additional training funds for probation officers and court personnel in youth violence and trends.
- Increase parental accountability by court ordered training, counseling and community service.
- Examine possibility of restorative justice and cultural mediation options.

Programs

- Request staff development training is risk factors associated with gang activity.
- Respond to best practice strategies developed in other communities.
- Work at establishing outreach programs for the more distant districts.
- Establish a methodology to collect important data regarding youth served.

- The Housing Authority can modify current policy to include lease agreement requirements regarding gang and drug-related activities and grounds for cancellation and eviction.
- Provide tribal leaders with information on current funding sources that can impact youth gang and substance abuse activity.
- Collaborate with other programs and apply for funding for youth gang and substance abuse programs and strategies.
- Assist in the development of a community resources guide.
- Participate in a community-based task force effort.
- Develop and provide training opportunities at a community level.
- Extend hours for services to be available to youth and families after hours.
- Work with area schools to provide resources for students and their families.

On behalf of youth

- Develop core of positive youth leaders as mentors for at-risk peers.
- Research area youth leadership conferences.
- Develop and financially support a youth-based leadership council.
- Organize youth participation in community wellness projects such as graffiti abatement.
- Create projects that increase interaction with elders (develop cultural programs for the schools).
- Develop a “wish list” of youth projects that will positively impact local youth and reduce risk factors.

Communities that are successful in addressing evolving gang and juvenile violence issues recognize that simplistic short term strategies are not beneficial and only serve to mask the problems for short periods of time. Research indicates that the only effective method for reducing gang and juvenile violence is to support local, community-based multi-faceted strategies for prevention, intervention and suppression.

The focus of any long-term community strategy must be focused on attainable priorities to ensure continued support from the community. Priorities should reflect issues of public safety, prevention and intervention, funding concerns, program longevity and community ownership.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

In the last few years, most of the opportunities for gang and youth violence prevention funding have included the requirements of *community and program collaborative efforts, cultural competency, balanced and restorative justice, resiliency and community building*. Tribal communities are often successful in obtaining these grants because of their history of community commitment.

The following agencies offer funding and technical assistance:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Administration for Children and Families

202-401-9200

www.acf.dhhs.gov

Administration for Native Americans

1 877-922-9262

www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/ana/index.html

Family and Youth Services Bureau

www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/fysb

Funds comprehensive services for youth in difficult circumstances. Funds locally based youth organizations providing shelter, transitional living for homeless youth, services to reduce sexual abuse, after-school programs, and summer school programs.

Office of Community Services

202-401-9333

www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/ocs

Funds Community Services Block Grants. Most common requests funded were for education initiatives, housing assistance and emergency services. Also funds the Family Violence Prevention and Services Programs and the National Youth Sports Program Fund.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

www.samhsa.gov

Most SAMSHA grants are made to States to fund local organizations, which often include Native American nonprofit organizations and tribes.

Center for Mental Health Services

www.mentalhealth.org/cmhs/index.htm

Circles of Care: Nine tribes have been funded for three year Circles of Care grants for the planning, design an assessment of mental health services.

Community Youth Mental Health Promotion and Violence/Substance Abuse Prevention Partnership Grants: These grants support the development of self-sustaining coalitions and partnerships of governments, including tribes with community service delivery systems and community members. They promote understanding of

youth problem behaviors; assist communities in assessing youth issues, support implementation and evaluation of mental health activities, treatment services for youth problem behavior, early childhood development services in communities, etc.

Violence Prevention Cooperative Agreements: Two year cooperative agreements for community organizations to promote prevention of youth violence and suicide and enhance healthy youth development. This grant program complements the larger Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative. Collaborative programs between local public education, local mental health and local law enforcement agencies will promote healthy development, enhance resilience, and prevent violence and substance abuse.

Center for Substance Abuse Prevention

www.samhsa.gov/csap/index.htm

Community Initiated Prevention Intervention Grants: These grants support studies that field test effective substance abuse prevention strategies.

Community Disparities: A mental health and/or substance abuse prevention or treatment initiative intended to capitalize on the collaborative strengths of racial/ethnic minority communities to address the disparities in access to substance abuse prevention, treatment and services.

Center for Substance Abuse Treatment

www.samhsa.gov/csap/csap.htm

Community Action Grants for Service System Change: Supports the implementation of exemplary practices related to the delivery of services for children with serious emotional disturbance or adults with serious mental illness. American Indian and Alaska Native youth are a priority. Target population may also have co-occurring disorders such as substance abuse, or mental, emotional or behavioral disorders.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Office of Native American Programs (ONAP)

303-675-1600

www.codetalk.fed.us

ONAP coordinates programs for the Office of Public and Indian Housing and the Office of Community Planning and Development Programs.

Indian Community Development Block Grant: Funds are allocated through the six area ONAP offices and can be used for community facilities.

Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA):

Indian Housing Block Grant funds can now be used to support crime prevention programs for assisted housing developments.

U.S. Department of Education

Office of Indian Education

202-260-3774

www.ed.gov/funding.html

Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities

www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/SDFS

The Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program consists of two major programs: State Grants for Drug and Violence Prevention Programs and National Programs. National Programs provide direct grants to school districts and communities with severe drug and violence problems.

21st Century Community Learning Centers: Funding to enable rural and inner city public elementary and secondary schools or consortia of such schools to plan, implement or expand projects that benefit the educational, health, social service, cultural and recreational needs of their communities. Examples of previously funded projects include after-school, weekend and summer programs for students and their families and cooperative learning centers with homework assistance and recreational activities.

U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs (OJP)

202-307-0703

www.ojp.usdoj.gov

American Indian and Native Alaskan Desk

202-616-3205

Training and technical assistance to increase tribes' capacity to provide adequate and appropriate responses to youth crime, violence, and victimization. Contact area State Planning Agency for more information.

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

202-307-5911

www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org

Drug-Free Communities Support Program: Aims to reduce substance abuse among youth by addressing the factors that serve to increase the risk of substance abuse and minimize the risk of substance abuse. Collaborative efforts are required.

Tribal Youth Program: Supports Juvenile Crime and Victimization Prevention (including truancy reduction, conflict resolution and child abuse prevention), Interventions for Tribal Youth in Juvenile Justice Systems, Juvenile Justice System Improvements, and Substance Abuse Prevention. The program is part of a joint Justice Department and Interior Department Indian Country Law Enforcement Improvement Initiative to address the need for improved law enforcement and administration of criminal and juvenile justice in Indian Country.

Tribal Youth Program/Mental Health Project: Established to provide funding for mental health services for Indian youth in or at-risk of becoming involved in juvenile justice systems. Supports a broad range of youth services and programs in a variety of settings (homes, schools, violence prevention programs, health care treatment programs, and juvenile justice systems). This is part of a collaborative effort between the Justice Department and the Departments of Education, Interior, and Health and Human Services.

Underage Drinking Prevention in Indian Country: Current funding opportunities under review.

Drug-Free Communities Support Program: In cooperation with the Office of National Drug Control Policy, awards grants to community-based coalitions to fight juvenile drug use. Tribal communities have been funded in the past. The community coalitions must be made up of youth, parents, medical professionals, law enforcement officials, school officials, religious leaders, and other community representatives.

Juvenile Mentoring Program (JUMP): Supports programs that provide one-to-one mentoring to at-risk youth in school.

Court Appointed Special Advocates Program Development for Native American Tribal Courts: Funds available to provide technical assistance to tribal courts and other groups wishing to establish or maintain CASA volunteer programs.

Executive Office for Weed and Seed

202-616-1552

www.ojp.usdoj.gov/eows/

Safe Kids/Safe Streets: Collaborative effort designed to break the cycle of early childhood victimization and later juvenile or adult criminality and to reduce child and adolescent abuse and neglect resulting from child fatalities.

Drug Courts Program Office

202-616-5001

www.ojp.usdoj.gov/dcpo/

Tribal Drug Court Training and Technical Assistance: Assists tribal courts to develop curriculum to train Native American teams to plan and implement drug courts that fit into the tribal justice systems and communities.

Corrections Program Office

202-616-9188

www.ojp.usdoj.gov/cpo/

Funds used to construct jails on tribal land for the incarceration of offenders subject to tribal jurisdiction.

Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)

202-514-2058

www.usdoj.gov/cops/

Helps communities hire additional law enforcement officers, train and deploy officers more effectively, equip community policing initiatives, promote concepts of community partnerships and problem solving as policing strategies.

The COPS Tribal Resources Grant Program: Intended to meet the most serious needs of law enforcement in Indian communities through broad, comprehensive programs. The 2000 funding included hiring officers, law enforcement training, equipment, technology and vehicles to enhance law enforcement infrastructures and community policing.

Community Relations Service: Specialized Federal conciliation service available to help resolve and prevent racial and ethnic violence, conflict or disorder. Does not have law enforcement authority and does not impose solutions, investigate or prosecute cases

or assign blame or fault. Conciliators are required by law to conduct their activities in confidence and are prohibited from disclosing confidential information.

U.S. Department of Labor

202-693-3754

www.wdsc.org/dinap

Youth Opportunity Grants: Part of the Workforce Investment Act, discretionary funds increase long-term employment options of youth aged 14-21 who live in empowerment zones, enterprise communities and other high poverty communities. The program emphasizes a youth development approach and must offer the comprehensive services outlined in the Workforce Investment Act. Youth opportunity centers are a requirement.

Youth Build: Current funding opportunities under review.

National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities:

Provide small grants for cultural arts and activities including cultural preservation.