



Request for Proposals

Training and Technical Assistance Opportunity for Tribal, State, and Local Governments to Develop a Collaborative Joint Jurisdictional Court Initiative

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Proposals Due:	January 30, 2015 by 5:00 p.m. Pacific time
Selection Announcement:	March 2, 2015
Project Period:	Site One: March through August, 2015 Site Two: October 2015 through March 2016
Applicant Webinar:	Wednesday, January 7, 2015 at 3:00 pm eastern time. Register here .
Eligibility:	Applications must be jointly submitted by a representative from both a federally- recognized Indian Tribe and a local or state government authority
Information Contact:	Allison Leof, (503) 494-3805 or leof@ohsu.edu

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PURPOSE

The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Tribal Court and the Cass and Itasca County District Courts in Minnesota have successfully operated joint-jurisdiction Wellness Courts for the past seven years. Not only have the courts reduced recidivism by chronic alcohol and drug offenders and thus improved public safety, the courts have contributed to generally improved relationships between the Indian tribe and local governments. In 2014, the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians and El Dorado County Superior Court in California worked with Project TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More) to develop a joint jurisdiction, wrap-around family court for their community. The purpose of this request for proposals is to select two additional communities to receive Project TEAM support in creating a successful joint-jurisdiction, justice-related collaboration of their own. The goals of the joint jurisdiction collaboration will be to improve client outcomes, make more effective use of resources, and build a long-term sustainable relationship between tribal and other government authorities. The Project TEAM staff will draw on the Minnesota and California experiences to help two tribal and local government partnerships develop and implement a joint-jurisdiction court or justice initiative of their own.

BACKGROUND

Project TEAM has been funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistances (BJA), U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to assist federally-recognized Indian tribes and their state or local government partners with developing a joint-jurisdiction collaborative initiative in the courts or criminal justice system.

In 2006, Judge John P. Smith of Cass County and Judge Korey Wahwassuck from Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe joined together to combat impaired driving and substance-use related crime in their community by creating a joint-jurisdiction Wellness Court. The court was successful in reducing recidivism and improving public safety, and has also contributed to improved relations between the Tribe and the local communities. Other justice-related collaborations have since been formed, such as a juvenile reentry program and a juvenile diversion program in collaboration with Anishinabe Legal Services. The Cass County-Leech Lake Wellness Court has won several national and international awards (Harvard University Honoring Nations Award; National Association of Drug Court Professionals Award; and National Criminal Justice Association Award, among others), and both Judge Smith and Judge Wahwassuck are frequently asked to consult on the creation of joint-jurisdiction projects. Judge Wahwassuck and Judge Smith have published articles describing the Minnesota collaboration and the

benefits of joint jurisdiction projects in the *Washburn Law Journal* and the *William Mitchell Law Review*.¹

In 2014, Project TEAM conducted its first on-site training and technical assistance (TTA) with the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians and the El Dorado County Superior Court in El Dorado County, California. Over three separate, two day meetings, Project TEAM staff helped participants from the tribe and local government agencies design a joint jurisdiction court to serve tribal youth and their families identified through delinquency, truancy or dependency (child protective services) proceedings. The court is scheduled to begin proceedings Spring, 2015.

Judges Wahwassuck and Smith are members of Project TEAM and are joined by Jennifer Fahey, JD, a former prosecutor with experience creating a joint tribal-local court sentencing circle collaboration; and Allison Leof, PhD, a senior policy analyst and project manager who will be coordinating the project through the Center for Evidence-based Policy (Center) at Oregon Health & Sciences University (OHSU). Full biographies of the Project TEAM staff can be found on the project [website](#).

Project TEAM is one of many initiatives sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice to improve justice outcomes in tribal and non-tribal communities. More information on these initiatives can be found on the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Tribal Justice [website](#) and Tribal Law and Order Act [page](#), BJA's [National Training and Technical Assistance Center](#), and the Tribal Law and Policy Institute's Walking on Common Ground [website](#), which provides resources for promoting and facilitating tribal-state-federal collaborations.

GOAL

The goal of Project TEAM is to help communities create and implement a joint-jurisdiction program that will improve client outcomes, build relationships between tribal and state and local governments, and make more effective use of resources. Tribal and state or local government agencies that are interested in building a joint-jurisdiction, justice-related project are encouraged to apply. Eligible projects include:

- Wellness courts, mental health courts, veterans court, or other diversion programs
- Juvenile justice reform programs
- Collaborative supervision/reentry programs

¹ See; Wahwassuck, K. (2008). The new face of justice: Joint tribal-state jurisdiction. *Washburn Law Journal*, 47, 733-755. Retrieved from <http://contentdm.washburnlaw.edu/cdm/ref/collection/wlj/id/5687>. Wahwassuck, K., Smith, J.P., & Hawkinson, J.R. (2010). Building a legacy of hope: Perspectives on joint tribal-state jurisdiction. *William Mitchell Law Review*, 36 (2), 859-897. Retrieved from <http://open.wmitchell.edu/wmlr/vol36/iss2/3/>.

- Alternatives to detention/incarceration

Other projects that involve creating a joint-jurisdiction court or justice program involving both tribal and other governments will be considered.

PROJECT DETAILS

Applicants will be asked to submit a written application responding to five questions. Applicants who meet the basic minimum requirements (score 50 points out of 70 possible points; see below for details) will proceed to the semifinalist stage. Semifinalists will complete a 15-minute email survey assessing readiness for collaboration and participate in a phone interview with Project TEAM staff worth a total of 30 points. Details on the application process are provided below. Applications are due January 30, 2015. Two sites will be selected to receive Project TEAM services through this process. Final selection will take place by March 2, 2015 and planning will begin immediately.

The project will involve three onsite, facilitated two day meetings. One selected site will receive services in April, June and August 2015. The other site will receive services in November 2015, January and March 2016. The first meeting will focus on building relationships, identifying and prioritizing goals and challenges, and developing a sense of shared values and mission. The second meeting will focus on the development of a structure for how to work together, including formal agreements, role clarification, and resource commitment. During the third meeting, participants will finalize details for achieving their goals, including work and communication plans, and measurable performance objectives and data collection.

ELIGIBILITY

The proposed collaboration must be between a federally recognized Indian tribe and a state or local government agency. Although one goal of the initiative is to develop new relationships, it is expected that applicants will have a specific project in mind and have identified leaders from both the tribe and local governments. **Both parties must demonstrate a willingness to work together to develop a joint-jurisdiction partnership and must have approval from appropriate authorities to pursue the project.** Applicants should confirm that both the tribal and local governmental authorities support the application before proceeding. Applications will require a signed resolution from the Tribal Council or governing body of the Tribe showing support for the collaboration before final selection.

FUNDING

This is a training and technical assistance opportunity and does not come with direct funding for the site selected. TEAM staff anticipates, however, that the work completed through the

project will provide recipients with a strong strategy, program implementation tools, and a sustainability plan. These resources could then be used to develop grant applications for funding.

APPLICATION WEBINAR

The National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) will host a webinar Wednesday, January 7, 2015 at noon pacific/3:00 p.m. eastern time. The webinar will introduce Project TEAM staff, describe the application process and TTA services offered. In addition, Judge Suzanne Kingsbury of El Dorado County Superior Court and Judge Christine Williams of the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians will be present to describe their experience with Project TEAM and the status of their joint jurisdiction initiative. To register for the webinar, please click [here](#).

APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND REQUIREMENTS

To apply for TTA funding, applicants must submit an application via email attachment. The application must include the following information:

- Designated leaders for both the tribal and state or local government bodies. Examples of designated leaders can include judges, elected/appointed officials, or department heads. Please include a name and full contact information for the tribal and local government designated leaders. The Project TEAM staff will contact these leaders during the interview process to confirm their commitment to the project, if the application proceeds to the semifinalist stage.
- A statement from both leaders explaining their commitment to the project and describing the role they will play in the collaboration.
- A description of the problem the partners seek to solve through a joint-jurisdiction partnership.
- A description of the proposed joint-jurisdiction project.
- A list of proposed participants to participate in facilitated onsite meetings by name or role (e.g., parole officers, the court clerk, etc.). Applicants are expected to show widespread support for the proposed project and a willingness or ability of participants to participate in the onsite meetings.
- Background on any previous collaboration between tribe and local authority and general discussion of the relationship between tribe and local government partners.
- Material documenting support from the Tribal Council or other governing tribal authority and any equivalent political or judicial authority in the state or local government that would be required to proceed with the project.

The [application form](#) is available on Project TEAM [website](#). Applications may be prepared in Microsoft Word® or .pdf format and should be submitted via email attachment to leof@ohsu.edu. Applications may be no more than seven pages in length and should be in 12-point font.

SELECTION CRITERIA and PROCESS

Applications are due on January 30, 2015 and Project TEAM staff will begin the review process immediately, beginning with an initial screening of applications. Applications that score 50 out of 70 points will be referred for full review by all Project TEAM staff. The five applications with top scores based on full review will be designated semifinalists. All semifinalist applicants will have a conference call interview with Project TEAM staff. Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Identification of leaders from both tribal and state or local jurisdiction and statement of commitment from leaders—20 points out of 100

Success of this project will be determined at least in part by the strength of leadership and the degree of commitment from these leaders. Applications must identify a leader from both the tribe and local government. Examples of designated leaders can include judges, elected/appointed officials, or department heads. Please include a name and full contact information for the designated tribal and local government leaders.

Leaders must also submit a statement of commitment where they describe their role in the project and describe the resources and abilities they will bring to the collaboration. Leaders must specifically state their willingness to commit time and staff to the three onsite meetings in either April, June and August 2015 or November 2015, January and March 2016.

2. Description of the problem—10 points out of 100

The description includes: A) a clear and compelling description of the problem faced by the community; and B) how it affects both the tribal and non-tribal population.

3. A description of the proposed joint collaboration—20 points out of 100

A clear outline of what the proposed collaboration will look like, what the goals and objectives of the project are, and what roles participants will play. Include information on both the collaboration's resources and strengths as well as potential barriers or challenges to implementation.

4. A list of proposed participants—10 points out of 100

Collaborations do better when support is broadly based and widespread and we will be looking for balanced participation from both tribal and local jurisdiction representative to the degree possible. Where possible, please identify participants by name and provide contact information. If recruitment is ongoing, projected participants may be identified by role (e.g., parole officer).

5. Background on the existing tribal—local community relationship as well as information on any existing or past collaborations—10 points out of 100.
 - Please include a general discussion of the tribal and local community relationship and how the state of the relationship may affect the project or be affected by it. Describe any existing or past collaborative efforts and what happened during those projects. Applications should include materials documenting support from the Tribal Council or other governing tribal authority and any equivalent political or judicial authority in the state or local government that would be required to proceed with the project.
6. The interview and assessment portion of the selection process will be worth 30 points out of 100.

The two-step review process of applications includes:

1) *Initial Review of Applications*

After the applications are received, an initial screening of these applications will be conducted using the above criteria. If an application scores above 50 points out of 70 based on the first five criteria above, the application will be forwarded for full Project TEAM staff review.

2) *Secondary Review of Applications Followed by Conference Call with Semifinalists*

The applications will then be reviewed by the full Project TEAM staff using the first five criteria above. The five top-scoring applications will be designated semifinalists. Project TEAM staff will contact the designated tribal and local leaders from the semifinalist applications for a phone interview and evaluation process. Designated leaders from semifinalist applications will be asked to complete the Wilder Collaboration Factors Inventory (a 15-minute survey) to assess the available resources and challenges for collaboration. During the phone interview, Project TEAM staff will measure commitment and availability of resources for success. The interview and assessment portion of the selection process will be worth 30 points out of 100. Phone interviews will take place during the week of February 16 through 20, 2015.

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of the application review process by March 2, 2015.

HOW TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION

Applications are available on the Project TEAM [website](#). Applications should be submitted in Microsoft Word® or .pdf format to leof@ohsu.edu. Applications are due on January 30, 2015 by 5:00 p.m. PT. Only one application per project will be accepted.

CONTACT

For further information, please contact Allison Leof at leof@ohsu.edu or (503) 494-3805.