

**Department of Justice Tribal Listening Session  
American Indian and Alaska Native Young Adults  
Tribal Framing Paper  
September 19, 2014**

**Overview**

The Department of Justice (DOJ) is seeking input from tribal leaders and young adults about how to improve services to American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) youth and young adults. We will continue to seek input at a listening session we will host on October 14, 2014, at the Ramkota Hotel in Rapid City, South, Dakota. More information about this session can be found at the Tribal Justice and Safety web site at <http://justice.gov/tribal>.

**Background**

As part of this year of action to expand opportunity for all Americans, the Administration is taking new steps focused on two of Indian Country's most pressing challenges: education and economic development. Greater engagement and collaboration with tribes has led to substantial advances in tribal self-determination. DOJ is specifically interested in speaking with young adults (18-25), as they are uniquely positioned to offer insight into their own experiences and those of youth in the community. Young adulthood is a critical period of maturation and development, during which people often seek to continue their education or pursue economic mobility. In addition, young adults have had time to reflect on their own childhood experiences, and therefore offer a valuable perspective and insight not found among other age groups. Young adults often serve as role models to younger community members, and may understand the challenges that youth encounter better than older adults. Having recently graduated from adolescence, DOJ seeks the input of young adults in identifying the public safety and justice challenges faced by youth and young adults, as well as the corresponding solutions so that we can continue to partner together for the current and future generations.

**Proposed Questions for Listening Session**

1. What safety issues affect your ability to learn?
2. Do you feel safe in school? In your community?
3. How do you avoid involvement in the justice system?
4. What is your role or what can be your role in helping younger youth stay out of the justice system?

**Tribal Views Requested**

The Department looks forward to receiving tribal views on the grant-making process for federally-recognized tribes, tribal consortia and tribal coalitions. The deadline for submitting all comments is **November 15, 2014**.

To participate in the DOJ listening session, please register to attend at [www.justice.gov/tribal](http://www.justice.gov/tribal). To provide views via email, please send comments to [tribalgrants@usdoj.gov](mailto:tribalgrants@usdoj.gov).

To submit written comments via regular mail or overnight mail, contact the Office of Tribal Justice at U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Tribal Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20530. Tribal correspondence may be faxed to the Office of Tribal Justice at 202-514-9078.

For telephone inquiry contact: Eileen Garry at 202-307-6226 or Eugenia Tyner-Dawson; 202-353-3442.