

Responding to Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons With Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside Funding



When To Use TVSSA Funds for MMIP Cases

1 of 5 circumstances must be present



- 1 The missing person is a known victim of kidnapping or human trafficking.
- 2 The missing person's disappearance is the focus of a law enforcement investigation.
- 3 Family members and loved ones believe the missing person is a victim of a crime.
- 4 The missing person has a history of victimization, such as domestic violence or human trafficking, that may be directly or indirectly related to their disappearance.
- 5 The victim is deceased as the result of a homicide.

Build a Community Response to MMIP



RESPONSE TEAM

Create and support a multi-disciplinary, interjurisdictional response team to respond to MMIP cases.



RESPONSE PLAN

Help your MMIP Response Team write a victim-centered, trauma-informed MMIP Tribal Community Response Plan.



AWARENESS

Generate awareness about missing individuals from your community through billboards, flyers, vigils, and other activities.



EDUCATION

Conduct outreach activities to educate your community about what to do when a loved one goes missing, your Tribe's MMIP Response Plan, and resources to aid the loved ones of MMIP victims.

Assist Survivors of Homicide



CRIME SCENE CLEANUP*

The service must be provided by an individual who is properly licensed or certified to assist a homeowner with cleaning up the scene of a homicide.



TRANSPORTATION OF REMAINS*

The cost of transporting the remains of a victim from homicide for burial is allowable. Funds can also be used to transport the remains of a person who was previously reported missing, and whose cause of death cannot be determined.



BURIAL COSTS*

The costs of a funeral or burial ceremony for a victim of homicide are allowable. Funeral or burial expenses are also allowable for an individual who was previously reported missing, and whose cause of death cannot be determined. Funds can also be used to exhume the remains of a victim for reburial.



MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

Funds can be used for individual counseling for adults and children, as well as family and support group counseling.



LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Funds may be used for civil legal assistance with custody or guardianship cases for survivors who are the minor children of the homicide victim.

TVSSA funds can be used to provide the family members of homicide victims (a.k.a. "survivors of homicide") with a wide range of assistance. In general, survivors of homicide are eligible to receive all the same services as any other victim of crime, including advocacy and court accompaniment services. Before providing survivors of homicide with some services, grantees are required to document the availability of other resources, including life insurance or state crime victim's compensation funds. These services are marked with an (*) above.

Physically Search for a Missing Person

Before you spend TVSSA funds, document the existence of two circumstances:

1. There is an urgent need to search right away (e.g., missing child, older adult, vulnerable adult)
2. Law enforcement resources are unavailable due to weather, geographic distance, etc.



MEALS

Purchase meals and incidentals for family members waiting for an update on an active search.



TRANSPORTATION

Provide gas cards to family members or reimburse your staff for using their own vehicles to transport family members.



HOTEL

Provide hotel or lodging costs for family members waiting for an update on an active search.



MEETING SPACE

Rent private meeting space for family members to meet with investigators during an active search.



RECRUIT AND TRAIN VOLUNTEERS

Cover costs associated with recruiting and training volunteer searchers.



SEARCH SUPPLIES

Purchase supplies for searchers, such as bug spray and sunscreen.



VOLUNTEER TRANSPORTATION

Purchase fuel cards for searchers or rent a vehicle, such as a 15-passenger van, to transport them to and from the search.



VOLUNTEER REFRESHMENTS

Purchase refreshments for searchers, such as bottled water and granola bars.



Office for Victims of Crime

