



# T-VSTTA

OVC TRIBAL VICTIM SERVICES TRAINING  
AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

## MEETING THE NEEDS OF VICTIMS FROM UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

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### Overview

While there is no universal characteristic of a human trafficking victim, traffickers often target vulnerabilities (e.g., lack of social support networks, financial or housing insecurity, or language differences). These vulnerabilities are often found in underserved communities. The term “underserved populations” encompasses populations who face barriers in accessing and using victim services. These barriers can include geographic location, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, underserved racial and ethnic populations, and populations underserved because of special needs.

### Strategies for Overcoming Barriers for Accessing Services

Offering inclusive services to meet the individual needs of survivors from underserved communities requires an organization to be intentional and adaptive. The strategies below are intended as a starting point in thinking about how to make services more accessible and are grouped into physical, programmatic, organizational, and partnerships categories.

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#### PHYSICAL

- Offer physical accessibility and accommodation for [survivors with disabilities](#).
- Provide fidget and sensory objects for neurodivergent survivors.
- Create a safe and trauma-responsive physical environment focusing on survivor comfort.

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#### PROGRAMMATIC

- Provide trauma-informed and meaningful language access by offering interpreters, translating materials into different languages, and developing a language access policy for how to provide services to limited English proficient individuals.
- Offer peer mentorship opportunities to provide survivors a platform to connect with others who have similar lived experiences.
- Seek out culturally responsive resources and include them in healing practices, counseling, and written literature. Periodically review your resources to ensure they provide spiritual, cultural, and linguistic needs of the populations you serve.
- Offer culturally specific healing methods that may include traditional healing through ceremony, song, or a traditional healer.

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## ORGANIZATIONAL

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- Create an inclusive work environment by [recruiting, hiring, and sustaining](#) diverse program staff.
- Practice cultural humility by constantly learning and adapting organizational programs to meet the needs of underserved communities.
- Engage survivor-leaders from diverse populations by including their feedback and input into organizational policies and service offerings.

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## PARTNERSHIPS

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- Create equitable partnerships ensuring budgets, staff/resource availability, and organizational priorities adequately support the partnering organization's work.
- Educate yourself about underserved communities and apply learnings to day-to-day operations.
- Collaborate with partners to develop screening tools and referral networks.
- Promote equity, inclusion, and meaningful engagement through [transformational collaboration](#).

## Additional Resources

Office for Victims of Crime [Human Trafficking Website](#)

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Tribal Victim Services Training and Technical Assistance (T-VSTTA) is a capacity-building program providing tailored, hands-on training and technical assistance to victim service providers in American Indian and Alaska Native communities. With over 100 years of combined experience in victim services, the T-VSTTA team meets you where you are, working together to build on the resilience within your community.

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) funds the T-VSTTA program, which is available at no cost for grantees and potential grantees.



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### CONTACT INFORMATION

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Email or call to request training and technical assistance. A member of the T-VSTTA team will respond promptly.

**Web:** [ovc.ojp.gov/t-vstta/home](https://ovc.ojp.gov/t-vstta/home)

**Email:** [Support@t-vstta.org](mailto:Support@t-vstta.org)

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