



IN REPLY REFER TO:

# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
Washington, DC 20240

AUG 28 2015

Office of Justice Services

Dear Tribal Leader:

On August 19, 2015, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn announced a new Bureau of Indian Affairs' Office of Justice Services (BIA-OJS) program, Purpose Code X, to assist federally recognized tribal social service agencies seeking to place children in safe homes.

The BIA-OJS Purpose Code X Program arose out of a 2014 working group formed by the Departments of Justice (DOJ) and the Interior (DOI) to identify sustainable solutions that provide tribes access to national crime information that addresses criminal and civil needs of tribes.

BIA-OJS obtained authorization to perform name-based criminal background checks from the National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact Council, an organization which has the legal authority to promulgate rules and procedures governing the exchange of criminal records for non-criminal justice purposes.

Under the BIA-OJS Purpose Code X Program, BIA-OJS dispatch centers will be available to provide 24-hour access to criminal history records, so name-based checks can be done immediately. The primary goal of the BIA-OJS Purpose Code X Program is to provide tribal social service agencies with the information they need to protect the children they place into care in emergency situations.

Enclosed with this letter are the BIA-OJS Purpose Code X Implementation Procedures and an example of a Tribal Request to Participate Letter. Tribes that are interested in participating in this program should review the implementation procedures and complete and return the request letter to:

Darren Cruzan, Director  
Office of Justice Services, Headquarters  
1849 C Street NW,  
MS: 2603-MIB,  
Washington, DC 20240

As we stand this program up, we will be reviewing the implementation procedures and will continue adding additional tribes based on tribal needs and requests. We thank you very much for your time in participating in this effort as we work to improve Indian Country.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Blaek  
Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

Enclosures