



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

MAR 15 2016

Dear Tribal Leader:

Tribes in mandatory P.L. 280 states have shown interest in increasing support and capacity for tribal courts. Congress recognized the needs of tribal judicial systems in mandatory P.L. 280 states and allocated \$10 million to the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Justice Services' Tribal Justice Support Directorate. The allocation funding is for assessing needs; considering options; and design, development, and piloting tribal court systems for tribal communities, including those subject to P.L. 280. *See Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016, Public Law 114-113, H.R. 2029, December 18, 2015.*

We recognize the sovereign nature and unique culture of each tribal government presents a set of individual court needs. In order to assess needs of tribal courts in mandatory P.L. 280 states, we are asking for your input in designing a funding plan for one-time appropriation of \$10 million.

We will host the following sessions to gather input on a "\$10 million P.L. 280 Funding Plan":

Consultation Sessions via Telephone

Date	Time	Call-in Number	Participant Passcode
April 19, 2016 Tuesday	3:30–5:30 p.m. EDT	800-857-9775	6832088
April 26, 2016 Tuesday	3:30–5:30 p.m. EDT	800-593-8961	1305482

If you prefer to comment in writing, please submit your written comments by midnight on April 29, 2016, by email to bia_tribal_courts@bia.gov, or by mail to Ms. Tricia Tingle, Associate Director, Tribal Justice Support Directorate, Office of Justice Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 2603, Washington, DC 20240.

We look forward to your input. If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact Ms. Tingle at 202-208-2675.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Roberts
Acting Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs