

## **Elder Abuse Innovation Grants for Tribes October 11, 2017**

**Speakers: Dr. Jacque Gray, Melissa Wheeler, and Joelle Poitra**

**Operator:** Thank you for standing by. At this time, all participants are in listen only mode, until the question and answer session. If you would like to ask a question today, please press star, followed by the number one on your touch tone phone. You will be prompted to record your first and last name. Today's conference is being recorded. If you have any objections, you may disconnect at this time. Now I'll turn the call over to our host, Ms. Kaitlin Hammond at Teya Services. Thank you, ma'am. You may begin.

**Kaitlin Hammond:** Hello, good afternoon everyone. Thank you for joining us today. My name is Kaitlin Hammond, and I will be facilitating your webinar today. We will be having Dr. Jacque Gray, Melissa Wheeler, and Joelle Poitra with the University of North Dakota speaking on elder abuse innovation grants for tribes. Again, there will be a question and answer session at the end of the presentation. If you have questions, please press star one to open up your phone line. We will also have the presentation and recording of this webinar posted on Older Indians at a later date. I will now turn it over to Joelle Poitra Putra.

**Joelle Poitra:** Hi, we just wanted to welcome everyone to our session today. I'm here. My name is Joelle Poitra, and I'm the project assistant for [inaudible]NIEJI Innovations, and with me today is Melissa Wheeler, the research specialist who does the elder survey, and Dr. Jacque Gray who is the PI of NIEJI Innovations. So, we'll be presenting the elder abuse innovation grants for tribes today. The name of the grants are the Native Elder Abuse Innovation Awards. We'll be going over the 2017 cycle that we just finished and the 2018 cycle that just opened up and we're accepting applications for. And we'll also be going through, Melissa Wheeler will also be going through the elder survey. In 2004, the National Indian Council on Aging found that elder abuse was a serious and pervasive problem. Attitudes and responses of indigenous people were different from non-Indians, there was a lack of information, awareness, and data on elder abuse in Indian Country. Without data, it's hard to indicate the extent of the problem and what sources are available. It's difficult to persuade policy makers that elder abuse is a problem. In 2016, NIEJI Innovation was awarded, a grant was awarded to NIEJI Innovation from the Administration for Community Living. This grant was to provide 150,000 and so award mini grants to tribal groups to develop elder abuse awareness, code development, and infrastructure development to address elder abuse in tribal communities. Because there is a lack of data on the incidents, prevalence, types, and resources to elder abuse in Indian Country, NIEJI Innovation grant is focused in innovative ways to address the issues of elder abuse of American Indians, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian programs.

For the 2017 grant period, these were objectives. The first objective was to develop a funding announcement. We developed our funding announcement, the RFP, and the objective has been met. Objective 2 was release the call for proposals. This opened up on May 1, 2017. The RFP was publicized through websites, listservs, and email to interested tribes. Objective number 3 was to review the applications. We received a total of 13 proposals. They were reviewed by our review committee that was made up of people that have experience working in Indian Country.

And we are now on objective 4. We have awarded the funds for 2017, and we are in the implementation of our grantee project, and that's just begun.

We ask that the grantees touch on these areas of elder abuse. Applicants don't have to touch on each area in their proposal, because we know that not all tribes are at the same stage of addressing elder abuse in their communities. Many tribes may just now be at the point of starting the process of getting tribal codes and laws into place. Or maybe some tribes are looking at more innovative approaches to preventing elder abuse in their communities. We received 13 proposals for 2017 cycle. All the project ideas varied, but they all had one main purpose and that was to decrease the incidence of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation among tribal elders. This was the map of the proposals that we received for 2017 cycle. We received many proposals from the northern part of the United States. We didn't really receive any from Hawaii or the southern part of the United States. We were surprised by that because there are so many tribal communities in the southern area. We received emails from those areas. People were expressing interest, but we never received any proposals, and we're not sure why. But for the 2008 cycle, we're making sure that our funding opportunity reaches more tribal communities. Once again, we're publicizing the opportunity on websites and listservs, and I used Older Indians page to email Title VI directors, and I went through and emailed almost every single one of them that we are now...and get out there...

And this was the results of our 2017 cycle. These are grantees and their projects. Like I said, the projects all vary. We'll be providing the grantees with technical assistance through the grant period. The TA's will enable us to address the needs of the grantees, and it'll also let us support them in their efforts of managing and tracking and reporting on their projects. We'll offer them through webinar or WebEx by subject or on a monthly basis or offered individually as needed. Some of the possible topics that we came up with for our TA's are Financial/Legal Responsibility, Performance Reporting, Closeout Process. But also, grantees can call us at any time between 8:00 and 4:30 Monday through Friday. And this is our funding announcement for the 2018 cycle. This opened up on September 15th. The deadline for applications is November 14, 2017. And we hope to have award notifications out by January 2nd. This can also be found on our webpage, the full RFP and supporting documents. We haven't received any applications yet, but with last cycle we got most of our applications within the last week. So, we're thinking that's what's going to happen again. And this is eligible applicants, tribal community-based organizations, American Indian, Alaskan Native, or Native Hawaiian, rural or urban are eligible to apply for the Native American Abuse Innovation Award. Listed are the requirements, but all of the requirements are fully listed on the RFP. You can find them there as well.

And these are how the proposals are scored. We'll be using the same scoring system that we used in the 2017 cycle, and it actually worked out quite well last cycle, and we're hoping that it goes even a little bit more smoothly this cycle. This is a reflection process. For initial screening, each application will be screened to determine whether it meets all of the qualifying criteria. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Applications that fail to satisfy deadline will not be considered, applicants who do not include all components of the proposal will be disqualified and won't be considered. And this is how it works for the proposal review. We find a team that's composed of three to five members, and that have knowledge and experience in working with elder abuse and Native American programs. The amount of time it takes for the review depends

on how many proposals are received and what their quality is. Final decisions will be made by UND, but they will take into consideration the review team scores. More information will be emailed after the review more information will be emailed to all applicants.

UND awards the funds using a cost reimbursable sub-award agreement. Project costs that are incurred prior to our date will not be reimbursed. Cost tracking will be required, and we are asking that grantees submit performance reports semi-annually and submit a final report. And this is our timeline for the 2018 funding cycle. Like I said, it opens September 15th. The deadline is November 14th, which is a little over a month away. The proposals will be submitted for review on November 17th, and we hope to let the grantees know that they received an award January 2nd, and we hope to begin the grant period for 2018 in January, sometime in January.

I'll take any questions.

**Operator:** If you would like to ask a question at this time, please press star followed by one. You will be prompted to record your name, and called on at your turn. If you decide to withdraw your request for a question, please press star followed by two. One moment please to see if we have questions.

We do have a question. Karen Torent, your line is open.

**Karen:** Thank you, kindly. Yes, I just have one quick, brief question regarding the webpage address. If you could just tell me that. I could get the information for the application for the grant.

**Joelle Poitrale Poitra:** Okay, the webpage address is [www.nieji.org/innovationgrant](http://www.nieji.org/innovationgrant). It's N I E J I dot org.

**Karen:** Okay, gotcha.

**Joelle Poitra:** And then all the documents are there. But if you have any questions, you could always email us to.

**Karen:** Okay. I thank you very kindly.

**Joelle Poitra:** You're welcome.

**Operator:** If anyone else has a question, please press star followed by one and record your name at the prompt. So far, we have no one queueing up.

**Joelle Poitra:** Okay, we, at this time, I'd like to turn it over to Melissa Wheeler Wheeler, our research specialist. She's gonna tell you a little bit about the elder justice survey that we're doing.

**Operator:** Just one moment. We do have another question. I'll get the name. It just came up. Steven Wagner, your line is open.

**David Wagner:** Actually, it's David Wagner.

**Operator:** I'm sorry. Thank you.

**David Wagner:** That's okay. My question was about the semi-annual reporting. Is that, the semi-annual reporting going to be just progress reports with a final report being both progress and financial or is it going to be financial and progress reports for all the reporting?

**Joelle Poitra:** It will just be progress reports and we have a format for some questions for you to answer that help to inform. What we want to have at the end are some descriptions of projects that we can put on the website that can be modeled for other tribes to use. So that progress report will help to inform that.

**David Wagner:** Okay, thank you.

**Operator:** Alright that was the only question that came up. You may continue.

**Joelle Poitra:** Okay, here is Melissa Wheeler to talk about the elder justice survey.

**Melissa Wheeler:** Good afternoon, I'm Melissa Wheeler, the research specialist for NIEJI Innovations. And so, aside from the NIEJI innovation grant, we also have a NIEJI Innovation Elder Justice Survey that was created earlier this summer. I'll go ahead and get started with that. So, our NIEJI Innovation provides opportunities for tribes to develop elder abuse protection programs through the innovation grant that Joelle Poitra just talked about. And another goal that we do have is to gather tribal data about elder abuse in Indian Country. And so, my role is exclusively to work with goal number two, which is to collect data on the prevalent and types of elder abuse currently occurring in Indian Country. The services that are also presently available and also the awareness of resources by elders in tribal and urban communities. This goal has several different objectives. There are five different objectives, and so objective one includes the development of the survey, currently called the Native Elder Maltreatment Survey, which touches on elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation in Indian Country. Objective two, when the surveys were produced, they will be programs with scanners that will provide us analysis of that tribal data that we will be receiving back from tribes. And objective three is to collect tribal resolutions with those participating with the survey, and also distribute the surveys in general. And so, objective four, when we receive these surveys back from participating tribes, we'll be able to scan, analyze, and provide individual tribal reports as well as later national reports. Objective five is also to disseminate the aggregate data.

So, the NIEJI's purpose is to provide technical assistance to American Indian tribes, Alaskan villages, and native Hawaiian homesteads and the collection of local data on elder abuse. And so, the new innovation survey project will help to distribute the native elder maltreatment survey, provide assistance in sampling. And this is based on tribes [inaudible] uniqueness that varies across the, different tribes, different villages. And so, and also to provide training and consultation for interviewers via email or telephone or webinar. And also, here we will be providing data storage and also, we will be analyzing and entering the data here at site. And then, also again, we'll be providing tables and comparisons with national data.

So, what are tribes responsible for? What would they be providing? We ask that tribes ask their tribal government to get ahold of tribal resolutions. Without that, we will not be able to analyze the surveys. We will however be able to give you a certain number of surveys, but we will not be able to analyze them until we receive tribal resolutions. And these documents, there is a sample on our website at NIEJI.org and all the other materials are also there as well. And so, I will be helping individual tribes to get an estimate of how many participants are needed within their community, and that's individually based again. And also, tribes are also responsible for hiring or selecting interviews within their own communities, and I personally heard tribal directors saying that their staff are sometimes will be the interviewers. But also, another example is to work with tribal colleges if there are some in your local area. That is also a way to help alleviate some of those burdens of collecting data. And also, it may be even tribal social services, tribal programs that will help give complete those surveys. And also, the submission of the results are also the tribes' responsibility to disseminate to their communities via newspaper, presentations, conferences, things like that.

And so, what's the purpose of a native elder maltreatment survey? Again, it's to focus on the awareness of elder abuse in tribal communities, and also to establish elder abuse policy developments, infrastructure, building for recording, investigating, and developing intervention for indigenous elders, and also to collect data on elder abuse risk through the Title VI programs with a tribally based participatory research model. The surveys themselves will be approximately 30 to 60 minutes in length. That's giving enough time for the interviewer to build rapport with the participants or the elders. So, who will be the participants? They are American Indian, Alaskan native, and native Hawaiian elders over the age of 50 years old. And so, the procedures of the survey are when giving the survey will be confidential and also voluntary. So, no elder should be required to do it if they do not give their consent to do so. Some of the topics in this survey include general demographics, cultural identification, experiences and/or observation of elder maltreatment and elder abuse, as well as general lifelong experiences. Some of the risks include minimal uncomfortableness in answering some of the questions because they are personal questions. They may, there might be possibility of potential traumatic experiences or just, in general, again uncomfortableness in answering some questions. Participants may withdraw at any time without penalty, and that should be reminded to the interviewers and also the elders that are taking time to do this survey. We also ask tribal members as well as programs to provide local and national resources in case any adverse experiences are happen with the participants. Again, the local numbers would vary depending on the tribal community, the states that they are located in. So, those also vary.

There are no costs to participate in this study. There will be no compensation given from the NIEJI Innovation program. However, tribes have been at times gave coffee, tea, or snacks to elders in order for their time and participation in the survey. [inaudible] up to the tribal programs themselves. And so, tribes will also be receiving their overall tribal data, as well at the end of the survey collection, or the analysis of the data. Again, we confidentiality is highly important to us, and so there will be no names provided on the survey. However, they will be coded with individual numbers. So, no names are provided, no personal information as far as social securities, date of birth, or anything like that will be asked except anything closest to that will probably be age and tribe.

All the materials that are collected from the tribes will be kept in a locked cabinet here at NIEJI Innovations. All data will be stored on a secure, protected server with limited access to just the NIEJI Innovations staff. And we will also be transporting coded data to our site here for data entry and data analysis as well. Again, since confidentiality is a must, it should be reminded that participants can withdraw from the study at any time and there would be no loss of benefits or relationship at the site of data collection or UND if participants decide to withdraw. The study is designed to be changed. You will be informed, and your consent will be re-attained if you decide to continue on with the study as well that should be addressed with participants or reminded again.

So, here is an example of our current survey. Again, this is also found on our website at NIEJI.org and there is a link for materials. Again, you'll find the tribal resolution sample, verbal consent forms, all documents are uploaded there right now. And so, for the interviewer's guide, we ask, or we recommend, that interviewers get clarification with their supervisor or the PI or the director of different programs what their roles and responsibilities are. So, we ask that the interviewers themselves build rapport with the elders that are taking time to participate in the study. And also, the interviewers are not investigators, they are not asked to pry for specific names or incidences while gathering information, just a general overview, there are yes/no questions on these. So, we ask that they stick to the questions provided. Rewording the questions might give a different answer than asked of, and so again interviewers are responsible for appropriately handling any adverse situations that may arise and provide a local resources will be helpful as well. The participants have the right to self-determination, meaning that they have a right to if there were incidents that elder abuse was provided, names were given that they have a right to continue forward in providing that to law enforcement or social services. They do have the right to say yes or no. If that were to come up. So, how do you get started? So, we ask that tribes provide tribal resolutions, have that mailed or emailed to us here at NIEJI. Give us an idea of how many numbers of surveys you'll be needing. And also, we ask that you review the guide to the interviewers, how-to guides, some of the questions, again materials are on our website as well.

And so, we also do have a step-by-step guide that is on our website, and so these areas are addressed in the documents themselves in more detail, and so how for more information you can go to our website for that. Some of the frequently asked questions include, why is there a need to complete the surveys? Again, our goal is to provide elder abuse risk and data within local, regional, and also national data. So, it's important to remind the interviewers, your staff, and also participants why there is a need to provide and complete these surveys, and since this is a growing concern among elders. And also, another question we do see is, describe what data will be recorded. Again, some of the questions include, some of the demographics, income, education, areas of financial exploitation, self-neglect, verbal abuse, things like that and so those would also be required on the survey. And also, will I be informed of my results? Yes, in tribal results, not individual results, when local survey results have been received and reviewed by tribal agencies or programs, community members can view the survey through their local offices, through whatever [inaudible] they disseminate their news. This might be through newspaper or reports of any sort. But we do not do that. That's all programs themselves and how they want to reach their community, inform the community of the risks of elder abuse in the community.

So, are there any other questions related to the survey and/or any questions that you may have thought of about the innovation grants?

**Operator:** If you do have a question, please press star followed by one. You will be called on at your turn. We have a question coming up. I'll listen to the name. Thank you for waiting. We do have a question from Janna Underwood.

**Janna Underwood:** Yes, I was just wondering is there specific things that the funding must go towards?

**Melissa Wheeler:** We ask that you.

**Speaker not identified:** There is a five different categories of things that can be covered, including elder abuse awareness, development of multi-jurisdictional agreements, or innovative approaches to addressing elder abuse in your community.

**Janna Underwood:** Okay, thank you.

**Speaker not identified:** There are some limits as far as the funding, as far as travel and certain things like that, as far as how the budget can be sent. And that's all in the funding announcement.

**Janna Underwood:** Okay, thank you.

**Operator:** Please press star one if you still would like to ask a question. We have no one else in the queue at this time.

**Jacque Gray:** This is Jacque Gray, and I just want to say that both of these programs are to really help tribes develop what their needs are for addressing elder abuse. The innovation grant can help you get started from whatever point you're at right now. And the importance of the data collection is that there really isn't any data that is available on elder abuse in Indian Country. There is very little about elder abuse at all. And in order to bring attention to it as far as funding organizations or anything like that, you really need to have the numbers now in order to gather that information. So, we encourage people to take advantage of this. Our funding goes for another year and we'll need to have a lot of that finished up by that point, so we just really want to invite you to participate in these two projects that we have funding to do right now.

**Operator:** We have a question from David Wagner. Your line is open, sir.

**David Wagner:** This might have been answered in the previous question. I got a little cut off because I was placing my question. But the innovation survey, is it a requirement of the innovation grant itself. Or it's two separate things? And then I had a follow-up question to that.

**Jacque Gray:** They're actually two different projects. So, you weren't required to do the survey as part of the grant.

**David Wagner:** Okay. My follow-up question has to do with the survey itself. We are currently funded to do a Title VI congregant meals program, and part of that grant project has support of educational services to it for elders. And I don't know the nature of the survey and all of the questions that it's asking, but my question is really about the environment for the interview, whether or not it should be conducted in such a way that is a one-on-one environment with an elder or if it is something that can be conducted in the time when we have a congregant meals program as it's not collecting any personally identifiable information.

**Melissa Wheeler:** We ask, we require, we encourage interviews to be done in a private, quiet location because some of these questions ask about physical abuse, financial exploitation, personal questions that I don't think should be given asked of in front of other participants in that their answers might be swayed or if they do give names that that might also cause it to be muddled.

**David Wagner:** No, I completely understand.

**Jacque Gray:** The other thing as far as a congregant situation, the elders are able to read without any difficulty. I mean some of the print is small on the survey. And so sometimes, I know for me even, I have trouble with some of the print sometimes being too small. But if it's where they could read it themselves and complete it, or someone read it, and everybody fill it out, you know, provide their answers at the same time. That could be done, but I think there also needs to be someone available that any if any of the elders were upset after completing this exhibit maybe triggered some memories or something that there be someone available for them to talk to afterward.

**David Wagner:** Thank you very much. That's very informational.

**Operator:** Thank you. Our next question comes from Tuyak, Alaska. Do we have a party in Tuyak, Alaska? Your line is open.

**Tuyak:** Yes, thank you. This is Ms. Tuyak in Alaska. My question is about budget and allowable cost. Could you give me a general idea on what we are allowed to put into our budget? At least how were the 2017 budgets like? What were they like? Just a general idea of what we're allowed to put in \$20,000 let's say.

**Jacque Gray:** Yes, some of the budgets were mainly for equipment and materials, there may have been some small personnel costs, you know twenty thousand doesn't go very far, but I know some had like I think to pay an attorney to help in developing a code and things like that Really, it's pretty broad. We just didn't want all the funds to go to sending a couple people to a conference and they're not really being any product at the end as far as how they helped improve things as far as elder abuse at the end. So, that's where the restrictions on travel are, more like attending a conference or something like that. But it's really pretty wide open and pretty flexible.

**Melissa Wheeler:** Yeah, and the RFP mentions what's allowable and not allowable. Food is not allowable. Construction is not allowable. Conferences, like travel.



**Jacque Gray:** But we wanted to keep it fairly open because what you may need to do in Alaska may be very different than what they need to do in Cherokee, North Carolina. And we wanted you to be able to make it fit for what your needs were.

**Tuyak:** Thank you.

**Jacque Gray:** Uh-huh, but [inaudible] really spelled out in the funding announcement.

**Operator:** Any further questions, Ms. Tuyak?

**Tuyak:** No, thank you.

**Operator:** We do have a question from Roxanne Thomas. Your line is open.

**Roxanne Thomas:** Hi, can you hear me?

**multiple voices:** Yes, yes.

**Roxanne Thomas:** My question is sort of similar to the last one. I was kind of curious as to the grantees, like what was the description of some of their projects? I'm just kind of more curious about that. I went to the website and looked at it, but the links, I think, primarily go to the tribal links....to find too much about what their project was about.

**Jacque Gray:** Yeah, we just made those awards, so we will be getting the abstracts up on those shortly. But most of those had some type of dissemination of information about elder abuse. Quite a few addressed developing elder abuse codes. We had one that had some type of elder council that they were going to develop.

**Melissa Wheeler:** The Board of Guardians.

**Jacque Gray:** The Board of Guardians. That's what it's called.

**Melissa Wheeler:** That was Shoshone [inaudible]

**Jacque Gray:** Some tribes do not have an elder abuse code. Some have an elder abuse code, but they don't have any policies. Some are too public law 280 states, where they work with the state and they need to have memorandums of understanding on [inaudible] issues that may need to be developed. It really is very dependent on where your tribe is and what your needs are at the project you might want to do.

**Melissa Wheeler:** Do you have anywhere, like a resource online that may list some elder codes that exist out there?

**Jacque Gray:** Yes, the aging website has under, I think it has elder abuse codes as one of the tabs on the homepage. And that has hot links to all of the tribal codes that we have available to

us at this time. And there's also we have a model code for civil and for criminal that we have on our website that is available for people to use and adapt for their tribe.

**Roxanne Thomas:** Okay, thank you. And then, I guess one last question. I believe you spoke at the Title VI conference recently. I missed some of that, but I talked with you a little bit afterwards in regards to you had mentioned areas there may possibly be a training in Arizona coming up soon in regard to elder abuse. Is that still occurring or it may be a cluster training of some sort?

**Jacque Gray:** I think they are planning some cluster trainings. I don't know exact dates for those. Kaitlyn may be able to address that before we finish up today.

**Melissa Wheeler:** I'll go ahead and say something real quick about that. We are planning it. The dates will be coming out on the Older Indians website in the next couple weeks. So, if you just pay...just go to the older Indians website and then under upcoming events we'll be putting information up there. I know we are going to be having one in Albuquerque in February, and then I think there's going to be one in Kansas City and I think there is going to be one in Phoenix, but we will get those details out to you.

**Roxanne Thomas:** Okay, thank you.

**Jacque Gray:** But if you are needing education and training for any of those, I suggest that you let the Title VI office know, so they, as they're making their planning for what's gonna be provided at those cluster trainings.

**Roxanne:** Okay, thanks.

**Operator:** If anyone else still has a question, please press star one at this time, unmute your phone, and record your name. You'll be announced into conference.

**Jacque Gray:** I'll just comment that our contact information is up on the screen and so feel free to contact us at any time if you have other questions that come to you later. The main NIEJI website is NIEJI.org, and there are tabs at the top of that homepage. You can go to the innovation grants and the information there, or you can go to any of our other tabs for other information.

**Melissa Wheeler:** Including Facebook.

**Jacque Gray:** We do have Facebook sites too for NIEJI [inaudible]

**Operator:** At this time, we have no one queued up.

**Jacque Gray:** Well, I just want to thank everyone for joining us today to learn a little bit about these two projects that we have going, and hopefully you will be able to take advantage of this and provide some of the needed resources for your tribes for moving them forward in the area of

elder abuse in Indian country to better meet their needs and to have a healthier environment for our native elders.

**Kaitlin Hammond:** Thank you so much Jacque Gray, Melissa Wheeler, and Joelle Poitra. We really appreciate you guys speaking on this. If anybody has any questions, the contact information is up, and I will leave it up until everybody is off. If anybody has any other questions, please let us know. Otherwise, I think that concludes today's webinar.

**Operator:** Thank you for your participation today. All parties may disconnect their lines at this time.