

VAWA 2022 Alaska Pilot Program

OVW Tribal Affairs Division



U.S. Department of Justice

OVW

Office on Violence Against Women
Working Together to End the Violence

In October 2023, the Department of Justice (DOJ) announced the launch of a pilot program under the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022 (VAWA 2022) that will enable Alaska Tribes designated by the Attorney General to exercise special Tribal criminal jurisdiction (STCJ) over non-Indian offenders for certain crimes, including crimes of sexual and domestic violence, that occur in the Village of the participating Tribe. DOJ has outlined three tracks for interested tribes:

Track 1	Track 2	Track 3
<p>All Alaska Tribes are invited to join an Alaska-specific Inter-Tribal Technical Assistance Working Group (ITWG) on STCJ to receive technical assistance and peer-to-peer support.</p> <p>The Alaska Native Justice Center (ANJC) has been funded by DOJ to be the Alaska ITWG technical assistance provider.</p> <p>Tribes that wish to formally join the Alaska ITWG should submit a preliminary expression of interest to: VAWA.AlaskaPilot@usdoj.gov</p>	<p>Alaska Tribes may opt to become a Preliminary Pilot Program Tribe by completing a questionnaire to assess their readiness to exercise STCJ and identify any gaps in meeting the statutory requirements for exercising the jurisdiction.</p> <p>Each Preliminary Pilot Program Tribe will be assigned a Federal Liaison, who will work alongside the Alaska ITWG TA provider and the Tribe to develop a Readiness Plan for filling the identified gaps.</p> <p>Tribes interested in Track Two should start by submitting a questionnaire available at: https://www.justice.gov/d9/2023-10/questionnaire-statutory-requirements-for-exercising-stcj-over-non-indians.pdf.</p>	<p>Alaska Tribes may seek Attorney General designation to exercise STCJ as a Participating Pilot Program Tribe by completing the same questionnaire used for Track Two.</p> <p>DOJ staff who review the questionnaire will either recommend Attorney General designation or invite the Tribe to participate (or continue to participate) in readiness activities under Track Two.</p> <p>Tribes Interested in Track Three should submit a "Request for Designation" (see https://www.justice.gov/tribal/vawa-2022-alaska-pilot-program#request) and completed questionnaire to DOJ at VAWA.AlaskaPilot@usdoj.gov.</p>

Two or more Tribes (or a Tribal organization exercising delegated authority from a participating Tribe) may elect to participate jointly in the Alaska Pilot Program. More information about the program is available at: <https://www.justice.gov/tribal/vawa-2022-alaska-pilot-program#request>.

Tribes Interested in Funding to Plan for Exercising STCJ

OVW has STCJ grant funding available under a special solicitation for Alaska Tribes, including a Tribe participating in any of the three tracks of the Alaska Pilot Program.



Sign up for OVW grant announcements



When open for applications, the solicitation for this program can be found at:
[Justice.gov/OVW/Open-Solicitations](https://www.justice.gov/OVW/Open-Solicitations)



Contact us at
OVW.TribalAffairs@usdoj.gov



Visit [Justice.gov/OVW/Tribal-Affairs](https://www.justice.gov/OVW/Tribal-Affairs)



VAWA 2022's Alaska Pilot Program

Track One

OVW Tribal Affairs Division



All Alaska Tribes interested in exploring the possibility of exercising special Tribal criminal jurisdiction (STCJ), whether they deem themselves ready to immediately exercise STCJ or not, may submit a Preliminary Statement of Interest in joining the Alaska Inter-Tribal Technical Assistance Working Group on STCJ (Alaska ITWG). Tribes may join as part of an intertribal partnership if they so choose. Participants in the Alaska ITWG may or may not ultimately choose to pursue Attorney General designation.

Preliminary statements of interest should be addressed to the Office of Tribal Justice or they may be submitted via email to: VAWA.AlaskaPilot@usdoj.gov. The letter expressing preliminary interest should identify the name and title of any person the Tribe authorizes as its point of contact. This person should be a Tribal officer, employee, or contractor who has been designated by the Tribe's elected officers to act on their behalf. A Tribe may choose to authorize more than one person.

Office of Tribal Justice
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530

Examples of Assistance Available Through the Alaska ITWG



Peer-to-peer collaboration



Resource hub



Assistance identifying challenges
and developing solutions



Support for tribes in STCJ
implementation



Assistance in identifying and
accessing funding

For more information about joining the Alaska ITWG or attending an upcoming meeting, contact tribaljustice@anjc.net.

Contact Information



For more information, contact us at **VAWA.AlaskaPilot@usdoj.gov**.



Visit Justice.gov/OVW/Tribal-Affairs



VAWA 2022's Alaska Pilot Program

Track Two

OVW Tribal Affairs Division



U.S. Department of Justice

OVW

Office on Violence Against Women
Working Together to End the Violence

Tribes that wish to engage in additional capacity-building activities with the goal of requesting designation as a participating Tribe to exercise special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction (STCJ) should complete the **Statutory Requirements for Exercising Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction over Non-Indians questionnaire**. The questions in this questionnaire line up with the statutory requirements for exercising STCJ under the Alaska Pilot Program. Tribes should answer “No” for areas where they do not yet have laws, policies, or procedures in place and provide relevant legal materials for areas where they do.

An assigned Federal Project Liaison will work with the Tribe and the Alaska ITWG Technical Assistance (TA) Provider, using the **questionnaire** to identify any unmet requirements and training or technical assistance needs and to develop a Readiness Plan. The Readiness Plan also will identify funding needs and propose avenues for identifying funding sources, including, but not limited to, Department of Justice grant programs.

Tribes that engage in Track Two will be known as Preliminary Pilot Program Tribes. There will be no limit on the number of Preliminary Pilot Program Tribes. Alaska ITWG membership is not required to participate in this Track, but it is encouraged as a source of additional peer-to-peer support.

Tribes can submit the completed questionnaire to VAWA.AlaskaPilot@usdoj.gov.

Track Two Activities



Statutory Requirements
Questionnaire



Federal Project
Liaison



Readiness Plan
Development



Training and Technical
Assistance

Website and Contact Information



Questionnaire:

www.justice.gov/d9/2023-10/questionnaire-statutory-requirements-for-exercising-stcj-over-non-indians.pdf



Submit the completed questionnaire to VAWA.AlaskaPilot@usdoj.gov.



Visit Justice.gov/OVW/Tribal-Affairs



VAWA 2022's Alaska Pilot Program

Track Three

OVW Tribal Affairs Division



Tribes interested in requesting designation to exercise special Tribal criminal jurisdiction (STCJ) as Participating Pilot Program Tribes must submit a **Request for Designation**, with a completed Statutory Requirements for Exercising Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction over Non-Indians **questionnaire**, certified by Tribal leadership. Tribes may submit jointly for designation as an “intertribal partnership” and should include signed certifications from each Tribe.

Tribes seeking designation do not need to previously have been Preliminary Pilot Program Tribes.

Next Steps: Department of Justice staff with expertise regarding STCJ will review the completed **questionnaire** and recommend either:

- a) Attorney General designation as a Participating Pilot Program Tribe,
- b) maintaining the Tribe’s status as a Preliminary Pilot Program Tribe (if applicable), or
- c) inviting the Tribe to become a Preliminary Pilot Program Tribe.

If either **(b)** or **(c)** is recommended, the Federal Project Liaison will partner with the Tribe and the technical assistance provider to create either an updated or initial Readiness Plan.

A request for designation should take the form of a short letter from the Tribe’s leader or governing body addressed to:

Office of Tribal Justice
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530

Requests for designation may be submitted via email to VAWA.AlaskaPilot@usdoj.gov. The letter requesting designation also should identify the name and title of any person the Tribe authorizes as its point of contact. This person should be a Tribal officer, employee, or contractor who has been designated by the Tribe’s elected officers to act on their behalf. A Tribe may choose to authorize more than one person.

Website and Contact Information



Questionnaire:

<https://www.justice.gov/d9/2023-10/questionnaire-statutory-requirements-for-exercising-stcj-over-non-indians.pdf>



Request for Designation:

<https://www.justice.gov/tribal/vawa-2022-alaska-pilot-program#requests>



Requests for designation may be submitted via email to VAWA.AlaskaPilot@usdoj.gov



Visit Justice.gov/OVW/Tribal-Affairs

