



Purpose of the Alaska Inter-Tribal Technical Assistance Working Group (AK ITWG) on Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction (STCJ)

The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2022 (VAWA 2022) introduced the Alaska Pilot Program, which will enable Alaska Tribes to criminally prosecute non-Indians for specific crimes committed in their Villages. The primary purpose of the Alaska Intertribal Technical Assistance Working Group (AK ITWG) is to bring together Alaska Tribes to collectively work toward enhancing safety and justice in Tribal communities with a particular emphasis on considering and preparing for the exercise of Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction (STCJ).

The objectives of the AK ITWG include:

1. **Peer-to-Peer Collaboration:** Through participation in the AK ITWG, Tribes engage in peer-to-peer collaboration, in an environment where Tribes can share experiences, insights, materials, forms, and successful strategies, and build a supportive network of Tribes addressing public safety concerns.
2. **Technical Assistance:** The AK ITWG serves as a resource hub, providing Tribes with technical assistance, knowledge, and resources from Alaska justice system experts on public safety and justice system development.
3. **Challenges Identification and Resolution:** The AK ITWG serves as a Tribal forum to collectively identify public safety challenges faced by Alaska Tribes and to develop targeted solutions and strategies to overcome obstacles hindering the effective establishment and operation of Tribal justice systems and the implementation of STCJ.
4. **Preparation for Special Tribal Criminal Jurisdiction:** A central focus of the AK ITWG is to support Tribes deciding whether and how to implement STCJ. This includes providing guidance on legal aspects, procedural requirements, and community engagement strategies necessary for Tribes to confidently and effectively exercise their jurisdiction in matters of criminal justice involving non-Indians.
5. **Funding Opportunities:** The AK ITWG assists Tribes in identifying and accessing funding opportunities to support the implementation and improvement of Tribal justice systems, with a particular emphasis on preparing for the exercise of STCJ.

For more information about joining the AK ITWG or attending an upcoming meeting, email AlaskaITWG@anjc.net.

This project was supported by Grant No. 15JOVW-23-GK-05462-MUMU awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice.