

STRENGTHENING TRIBAL RESPONSE TO VIOLENCE AGAINST NATIVE WOMEN SHELTER AND SAFE HOUSING

Tribal Law and Policy Institute

Tribal Judicial Institute, University of North Dakota

Alliance of Tribal Coalitions to End Violence

Alaska Native Women's Resource Center

And Direct Service Providers:

Emmonak Women's Shelter (AK)

Native Alliance Against Violence (OK Coalition)

Domestic Violence Program Seminole Nation (OK)



STRENGTHENING TRIBAL RESPONSE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST NATIVE WOMEN

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www.law.und.edu/npilc/TJI



www.AKNWRC.org



www.TribalResponse.org



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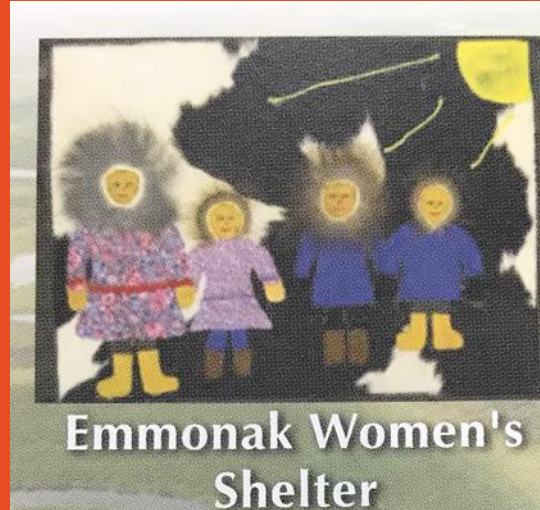
www.ATCEV.org

Who are Training and Technical Assistance Providers?

And Direct Service Providers:



www.sno-nsn.gov/services/dv



www.EmmonakShelter.org



www.OKNAAV.org

56.1% of American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) women have experienced sexual violence and 55.5 % have experienced physical violence by an intimate partner.

National Institute of Justice
Research Report: Violence Against
American Indian and Alaska
Native Women and Men. U.S.
Department of Justice (2016)

An estimated 24.5% of American Indian/Alaska Native women experienced stalking during their lifetimes.

Prevalence and Characteristics of
Sexual Violence, Stalking, and
Intimate Partner Violence
Victimization — National Intimate
Partner and Sexual Violence
Survey, United States, 2011

On some reservations in the United States, the murder rate of Native women is 10 times higher than in the rest of the nation.

Bachman, R. (2008). Violence
Against American Indian and
Alaska Native Women and the
Criminal Justice Response: What
Is Known.



VIOLENCE AGAINST NATIVE WOMEN

What is the Initiative About?



The Strengthening Tribal Response to Violence Against Native Women Initiative

Provides training, technical assistance and resources to tribal government or tribal community **not currently receiving** Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) grant funding to enhance victim safety and more effectively address offender accountability.

www.TribalResponse.org

Features of the website include:

- ✓ Critical resources and tips for strengthening responses that prioritize victim safety & offender accountability
- ✓ Resources for tribal protection orders
- ✓ Critical resources for victim safety planning
- ✓ Resources to design and implement community education and awareness
- ✓ Information on community and systems-based victim advocacy
- ✓ Resources to increase tribal capacity to develop and sustain shelter and safe housing



SHELTER AND SAFE HOUSING

Shelter and safe housing are critical resources often needed by victims of domestic violence and their children as they flee abusive relationships. However, tribes that do not have [Office on Violence Against Women](#) (OVW) [grant funding](#) may lack critical resources for accessing and sustaining emergency shelter and safe housing. Initiative partners provide technical assistance and resources designed to assist tribal governments and tribal communities strategize ways to sustain shelter or safe housing for victims fleeing violence.

What is a shelter?

A shelter is designed to ensure the safety of a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. There are trained domestic violence advocates who staff the shelter 24 hours a day.

What is a safe home?

A safe home can be an established “home,” or facility that may be located within or outside of the community, that is not a shelter, it may have less “bed space,” designed to meet the immediate safety needs of victims fleeing violence.

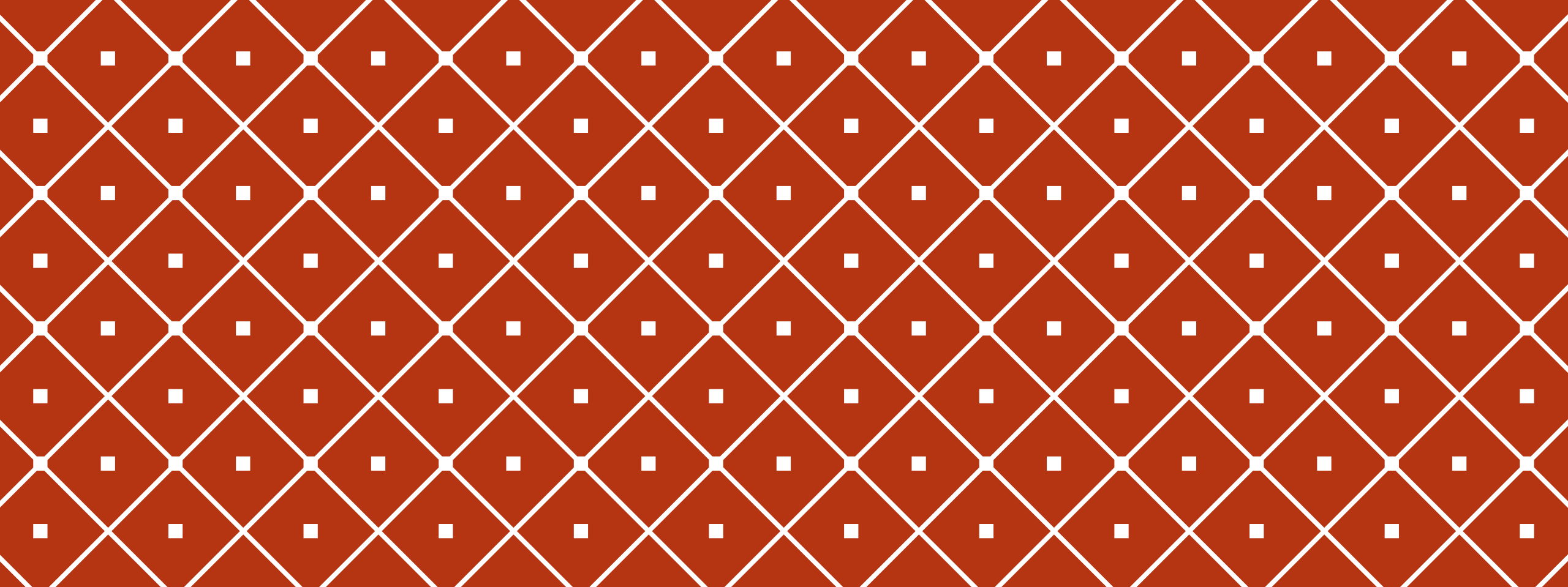
Is a shelter or safe home different than homeless shelter or hotel/motel?

Yes, and it is important to understand that a homeless shelter is open to anyone who may fit the criteria i.e. men or women, over 18 and may not be entirely safe for a victim who is afraid for her life or the life of her children. The hotel/motel may be in an undisclosed location however is a public facility and may impose risks for a victim fleeing for her life.

What makes a residence “secure” or “safe”?

Safety measures or precautions may include but not limited to:

- Locked fence, gates, security system designed for added safety



SHELTERS



HOW VICTIMS ARE KEPT IN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS

Fear:

- Fear of being killed themselves, their children, or other family members
- Fear of abuser threatening or causing harm/death to self
- Fear of being tortured
- Homicides typically occur when a victim is attempting to leave a violent partner. This is considered the most dangerous time in the situation for everyone.
- A domestic violence call is the number one most dangerous call for law enforcement.

HOW VICTIMS ARE KEPT IN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS

Financial Dependency:

- Not allowed to work or doesn't have a job
- Perpetrator controls all the money and takes the paychecks
- Fear of not being able to support the children if they leave

Location:

- Physical Isolation: no transportation, no roads, no electricity or phone service
- Living with or near the perpetrator's family or reservation
- Emotional isolation: not being allowed to talk to family or friends



HOW VICTIMS ARE KEPT IN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS

Housing:

- Lack of funds to secure safe housing
- Lack of available/affordable housing
- Fear of losing the house (under housing authority) or eviction due to DV

Limited Services:

- Inadequate (IHS) medical care or access to medical care
- Lack of knowledge of available resources
- No Cultural healing
- No on-going support services

Children:

- Child Protective Services already threatened to take their children
- Historical fear of losing children
- The implication if a child is from two different reservations or there is a Non-Native parent

OTHER FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE VICTIMS TO REMAIN IN UNHEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS:

- *hopelessness*
- *gender roles*
- *cultural or religious constraints*
- *drug and alcohol dependency*
- *unrealistic views of family dynamics (having two parents is better for children)*
- *co-dependency or unhealthy attachment to partner*
- *guilt*
- *feeling of responsibility*

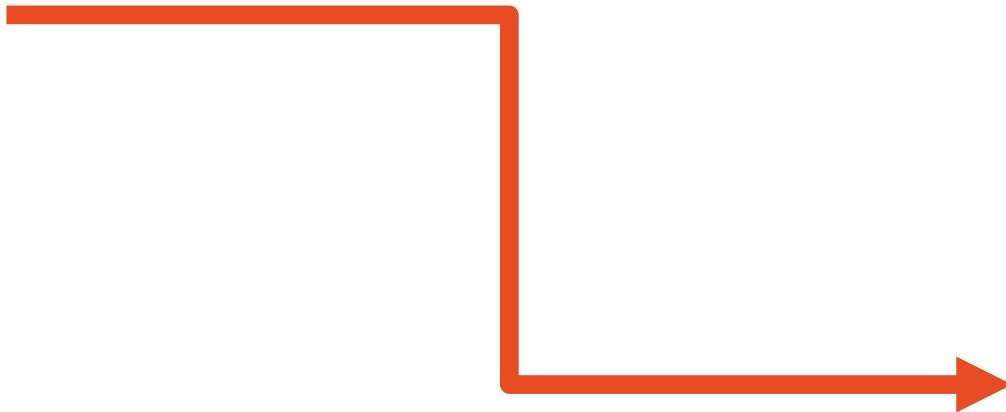


Victims may experience or relate to one or many of these reasons or have reasons unique to their own personal experiences.

It's important to note that each person has their own personal experiences and this information is not set up as a cookie cutter solution for clients.

Each client should be assessed case by case.

These are real hurdles being faced by real people.



DIFFICULTIES FOR VICTIMS GOING TO SHELTER

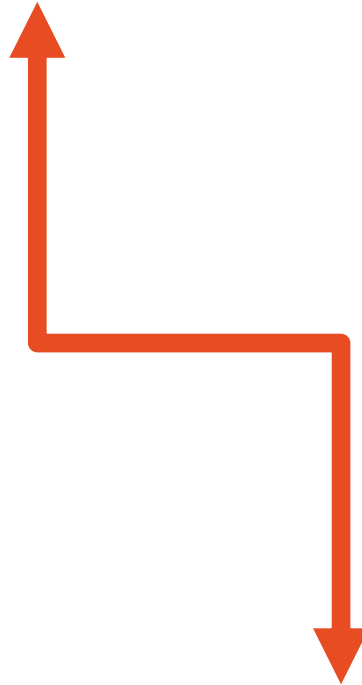
There are many reasons why it's difficult for victims of domestic violence to enter a shelter for safety. Main stream shelter or safe homes are difficult for many victims to enter but are even more so for Native victims.

Finding Shelter:

- No beds available
- Long intake process
- Required classes
- Lack of traditional/culturally appropriate services

Restrictions:

- Lock down
- Cannot work
- No boys 13 years or older
- No substance abuse issues





“Our community lacks resources for accessing and sustaining shelter or safe housing for victims fleeing violence, can you help us address this issue?”

Shelter and Safe Housing

SHELTER AND SAFE HOUSING



Initiative partners provide individualized training, technical assistance and resources designed to assist tribal governments and tribal communities strategize ways to access and sustain shelter or safe housing for victims fleeing violence.

In Native Culture:

There were many customs, laws, and traditions that avoided family violence, or addressed it effectively, in the rare instances when it did occur.

The batterer was usually banished or ostracized.

Survivors usually recover in stages. They may go through the stages in any order and may repeat stages before recovery is complete.

- Fear and Sadness
- Denial
- Working through fears
- Growth

RECOVERY TAKES TIME



SO WHY DO WE NEED A CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE SHELTER FOR OUR NATIVE WOMEN?

Non-Native:

- The atmosphere is foreign
- Based on a medical-model
- Too professional/Too strict
- Staff and other clients make them feel un-welcomed
- Too many schedules
- Having to take classes/sessions that have nothing to do with the reason why they are there

CONTINUED:

- No traditional healing methods
- No access to spiritual/ritual ceremonies
- No understanding of the cultural differences between tribes
- Natives have different ways in raising children
- Felt as punishment instead of a place of safety and comfort



We can develop services specific to the Native culture

- Heal & restore cultural, traditional and spiritual ways
- Life-skills
- Establish a sense of protection, safety, and empowerment
- Teach them to live lives of their own

NATIVE SHELTERS



- **Emergency Shelter: Days to a few weeks**
- **Transitional Short-term: a few weeks to 6-months and/or up to a year**
- **Transitional Long-term: year to 2 years**
- **Some up to 3 years**

SHELTER TIMELINES





WHAT IS ACTUALLY NEEDED...

Emergency Shelter: 1-2 days up to a few weeks

- Housing, Hotel, or Cabin
- Safety plan
- Advocacy (including medical and court advocacy)

Transitional shelter (short-term): Few weeks up to the first 2 years

- Getting life back on track
- Court advocacy
- Financial stability (GED, job, TANF)
- Life-skills (budget money, fill out apps, set-up checking/saving account, etc.)
- Parenting classes
- Therapy
- Medical assistance



FIRST 2 YEARS

LONG-TERM: TRANSITIONED UP TO 2 YEARS.

- Housing: Cabin, apartment, home
- Getting life back on track
- Enroll kids in Childcare or school
- Work on getting children back if removed
- Male children allowed
- Family will start to feel safe and empowered

- Court advocacy
- Financial stability (GED, job, TANF)
- Life-skills
- Parenting classes
- Therapy
- Medical assistance
- Establish credit history



LONG-TERM: 3+ YEARS

- Year 3, still a transitional period, continuation from first two years
- Years 4 & 5: start to phase out of shelter into their own place
- Assistance in finding their own place
- Opens space for new clients
- End of 5 years: clients should be self-sufficient and sustaining

- 4 to 5 bedroom house may hold that amount of families, but it depends on how many are in each family.
- Can't have over-crowding
- Most shelters don't allow older male children in shelters (over 13)

COMPARE SHELTER EXAMPLES

House

- Multiple Units: Fits more families
- More privacy
- Core family function
- Sense of ownership
- Empowers them to look forward
- Safety in numbers
- Can setup some units as long-term transitional/some as rentals (up to 5 years)

COMPARE SHELTER EXAMPLES

Apartment setting

- Easy access to stores, transit, schools
- Social service providers
- Setup programs for families and kids in one location
- Support system
- After-school program
- Childcare/daycare on site

COMPARE SHELTER EXAMPLES

Apartment setting

CREATING OTHER TYPES OF HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

- Discuss collaborative efforts between tribes, tribal service providers and housing authorities/HUD.
- Discuss how working together provides shelter options for victims.
- Continue Discussions regarding working with your tribal housing or HUD.
- What works in your tribal community regarding housing for victims?
- Consider using community member homes

OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER

Shelter programming:

- Children services
- One on one counseling/Group counseling
- House Rules/Shared space rules or guidelines
- Guidelines on housing pets
- Rules around having opposite sex at the shelter (men at a women's shelter/women at men's shelter)

Shelter Living Plan

Emergency Shelter: 1 -2 days up to a few weeks

Housing: Hotel or Cabin

- Safety plan
- Advocacy

Transitional Care

Short-term: a few weeks up to 6-months

Housing: Cabin

- Advocacy/Case Manager
- Safety Plan
- Medical Assistance
- Court Advocacy
- Financial stability (GED, job, TANF)
- Life-skills (budget money, fill out apps, set-up checking/saving account, etc.)
- Parenting classes
- Therapy

Long-term campus:

First 2 years

Housing: Cabin or apartment

- Getting life back on track
- Court advocacy
- Financial stability (GED, job, TANF)
- Life-skills (budget money, fill out apps, set-up checking/saving account, etc.)
- Parenting classes
- Therapy
- Medical assistance
- Enroll kids in Childcare or school
- Establish credit history
- Work on getting children back if removed

3 years

Housing: Cabin or apartment (paying rent at a sliding scale)

- Year 3, still a transitional period, continuation from first two years
- Assistance in finding their own place
- Start to phase out of Campus into their own place
- Continue services of care

4- 5 years

Housing: Apartment paying rent

- Clients should be self-sufficient and sustaining
- Continued services of care
- Wellness checks if needed

Sample Plan

PROS & CONS

Pros:

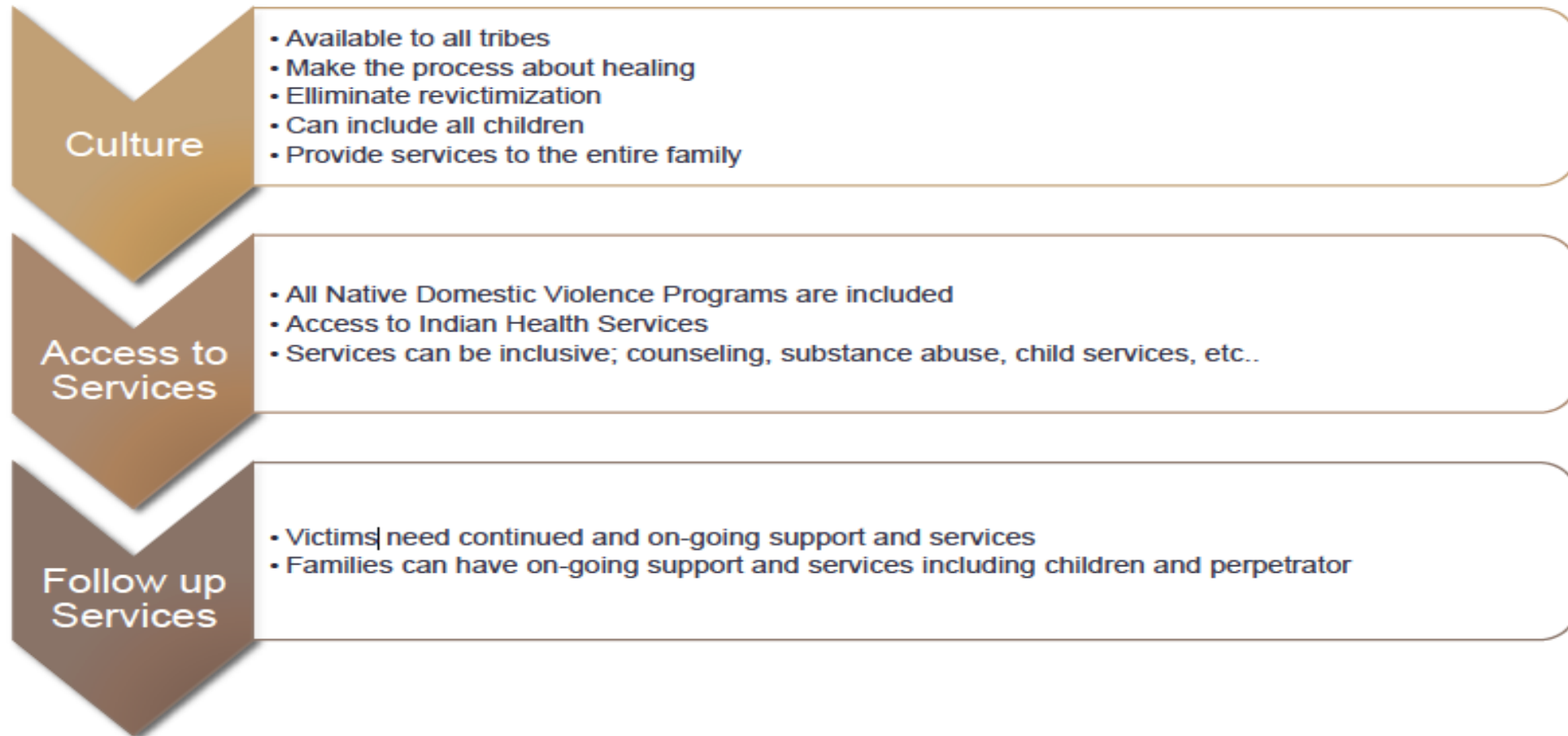
- Tailored to be Native specific
- More control of the shelter
- Benefit to our Native women & children

Cons:

- Costs of running and maintaining a shelter
- Insurance and liability
- Continued funding

FINAL THOUGHTS

Native Specific Shelter is needed

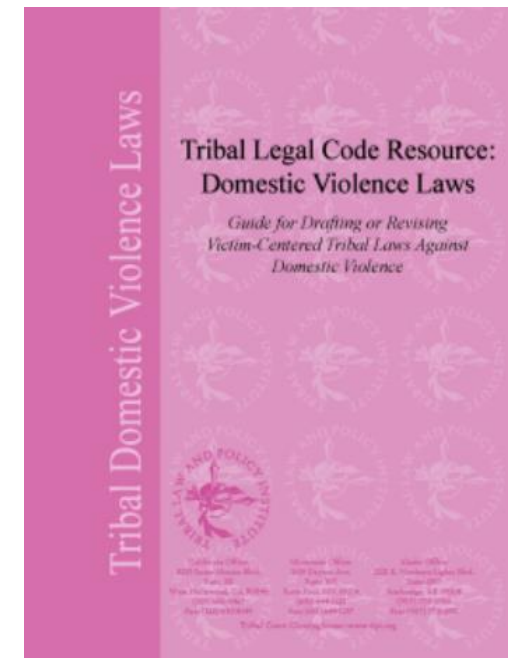
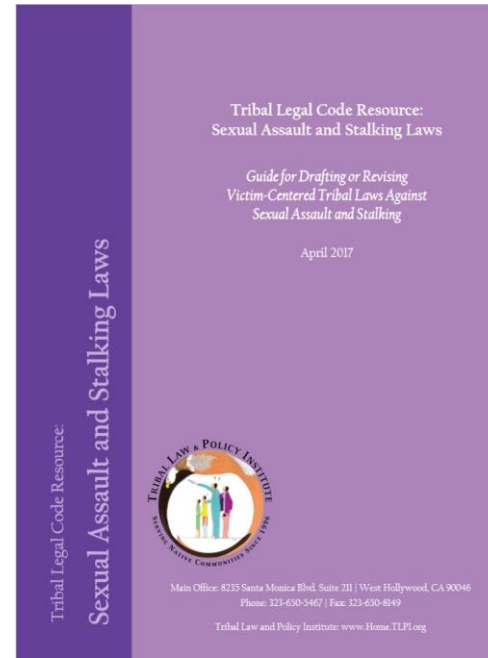
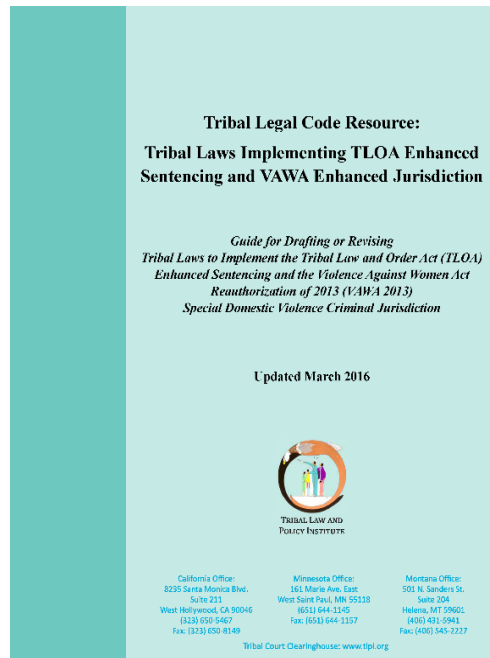


What is the Cost for Training?

There is no cost for technical assistance, training, and resources to any tribal government or tribal community **not currently receiving** Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) grant funding.



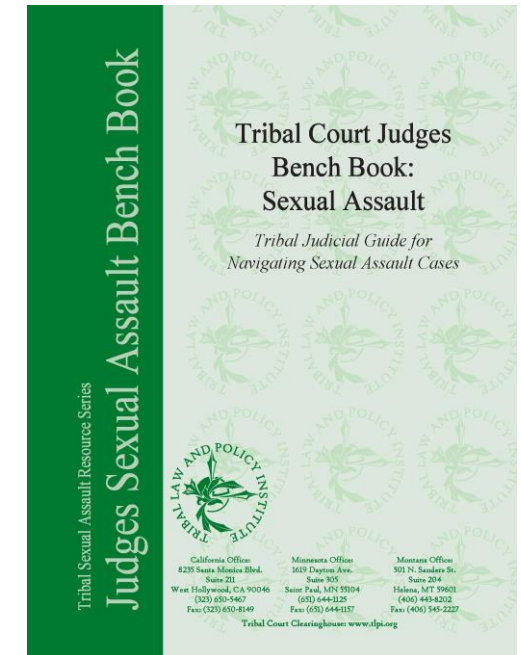
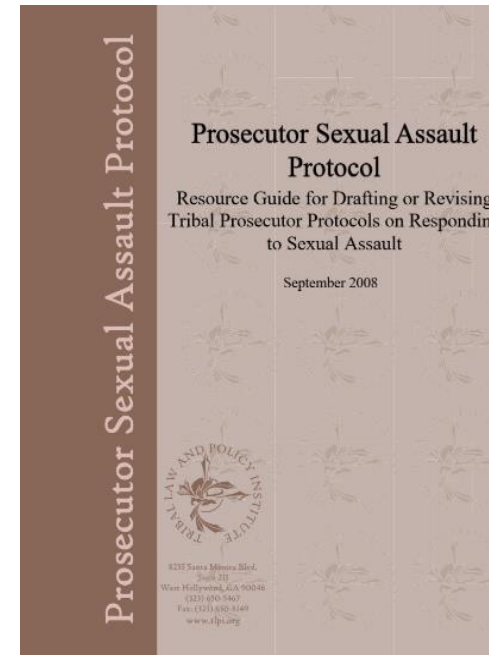
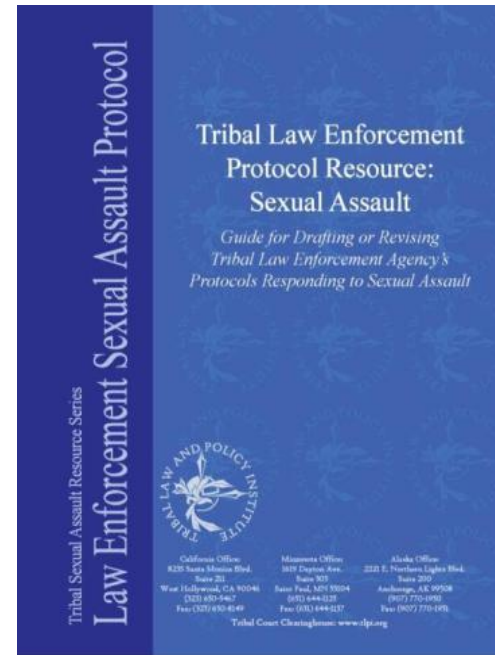
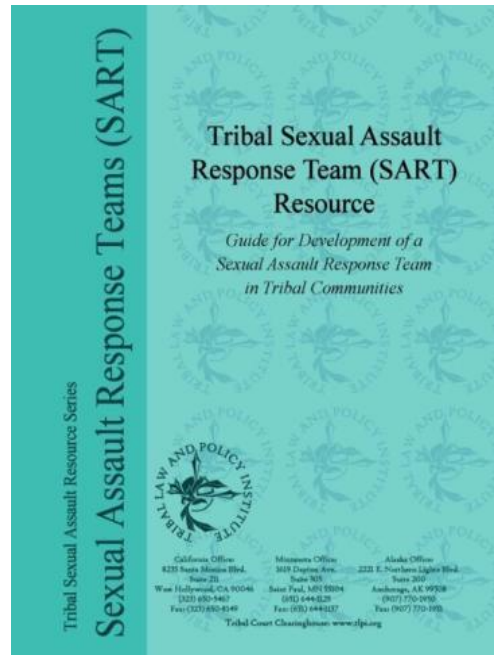
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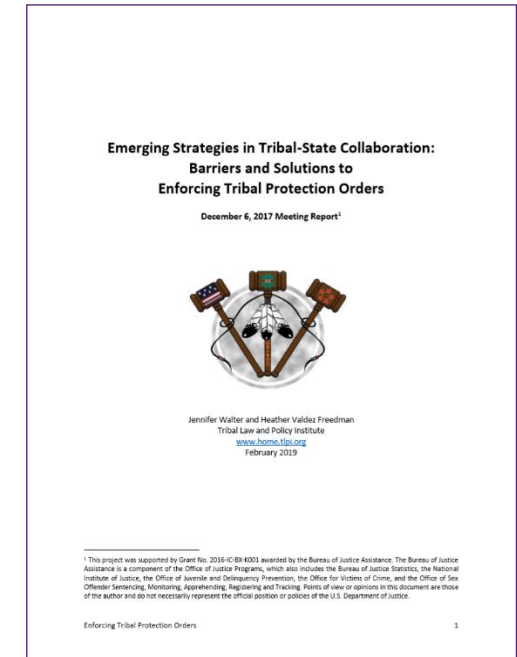
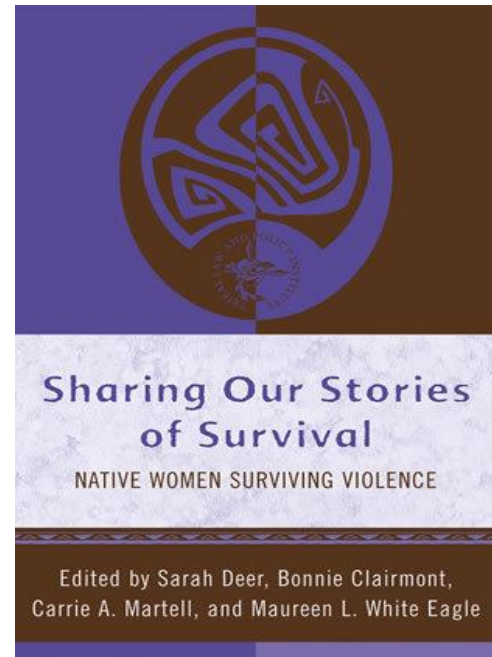
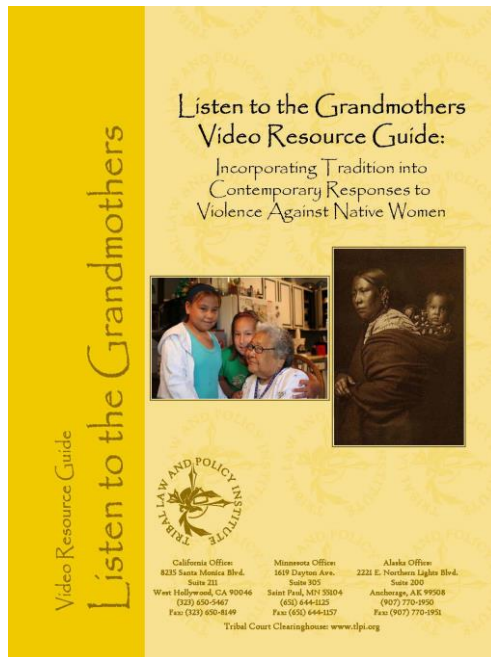
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SEXUAL ASSAULT RESOURCES



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TRIBAL LAW & POLICY INSTITUTE RESOURCES: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESOURCES





**WOPIDA TANKA-
THANK YOU!**

Questions?

NEXT STEPS TO REQUEST TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



Please email:

TribalResponse@TLPI.org

Lonna Hunter lonna@TLPI.org or call 651-644-1145

Bonnie Clairmont at bonnie@TLPI.org 651-644-1145

Or visit www.TribalResponse.org



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