

JABG **Technical Support Center**

The Juvenile Accountability Block Grants: Funding Opportunities for Tribes

Lisa Walbolt Wagner, The Justice Research and Statistics Association

In 1998, Congress established the original Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grants (JAIBG) program. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) administers the program and awards block grants to states, which, in turn, are required to pass a portion of the funds through to local jurisdictions. Although the name changed to the Juvenile Accountability Block Grants (JABG) in 2004, the program maintained its mission and goals.

To help states and local governments implement JABG programs, OJJDP funds the JABG Technical Assistance Center, operated by the Justice Research and Statistics Association (www.jrsa.org/jabg). The Center assists states in calculating the amount of JABG funds to distribute to, or expend for the benefit of, eligible local jurisdictions.

Data Sources for JABG

JABG award amounts are based on a formula combining Part I violent crime data and direct current operating criminal justice expenditures. The Center analyzes crime and expenditure data collected by the Federal Government from states, tribes, and local governments. The Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI's) Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program collects crime data, while the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of the Census collects expenditure data. The three

most recent years of available data are used.

Tribes and JABG

The JABG legislation defines all 557 recognized Indian tribes and Alaskan Native villages as eligible for participation in the program. Most tribes, however, do not report to the Federal agencies that collect crime and expenditure data. In order to supplement the national data, JRSA obtained Law Enforcement Program Reports from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). Tribes who voluntarily complete these forms were then included in the formula calculations. Despite the improvement, many tribes do not complete these forms on a consistent basis.

In the 2005 formula calculations, 181 tribes in 30 states were included in the formula calculations. Of these, 120 had reported expenditures and 165 had reported crimes. In order for tribes to fully take advantage of the JABG money available, however, more complete data are needed in addition to information from tribes that are not completing the Program Reports.

Participate in JABG

If your tribe is interested in being included in the JABG program or would like more information, please contact Lisa Walbolt Wagner at JRSA (lwagner@jrsa.org or (202) 842-9330) to discuss the program and available data.