

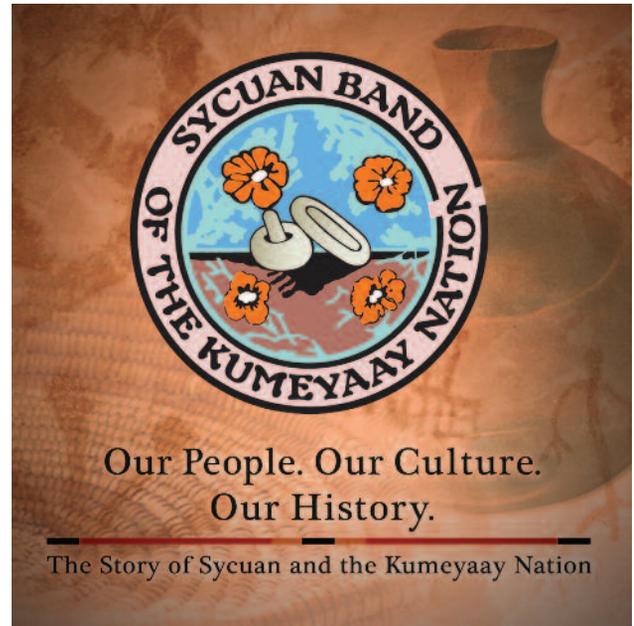
Sycuan Premier Powerful and Poignant Documentary

Sycuan has created an amazing historical documentary that chronicles its 12,500-year existence in the present-day San Diego/Northern Baja region. The production titled, *Our People. Our Culture. Our History. The Story of Sycuan and the Kumeyaay Nation*, features local Native American anthropologists, historians and curators who help weave and trace the Kumeyaay ancestry. It contains biographical accounts that make it an even more compelling and thought provoking piece. It's a trek through history that has never been told or explored by most historians.

History books in California schools teach a view of the past that focuses on Spanish missionaries, conquistadors and other Europeans while omitting the Kumeyaay Native American people who thrived here for thousands of generations before the first settlers came. This documentary produced by the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation aims to change that.

"It really shows our history from a perspective that most people have never heard of, it goes beyond anything in textbooks and accounts ever written or told about the Kumeyaay and Sycuan," said Daniel Tucker, Chairman of the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation.

This film also documents a triumph of the human spirit detailing the Sycuan Band's struggle to survive and thrive as a new generation rediscovers a heritage nearly lost. It will be distributed to school districts throughout San Diego and beyond,



with the goal that it be incorporated into history curriculums to help students learn about California's true past. ♣

The film can be accessed by logging on to www.sycuantribe.org.

FROM THE WHITE HOUSE

Justice Department Announces Funding Opportunities for Federally-Recognized Tribes and Tribal Consortia

The U.S. Department of Justice recently announced the opening of a comprehensive grant solicitation for funding to support public safety, victim services, and crime prevention by American Indian and Alaska Native governments. The department's FY 2014 Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS) is available at www.justice.gov/tribal/open-sol.html.

"Over the past four years, more than \$437 million in much-needed assistance has been provided to American Indian and Alaska Native communities through the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation," said Associate Attorney General Tony West. "These resources are helping to strengthen justice, hope, and healing in tribal communities and are supporting efforts to intervene in the lives of at-risk youth, prevent violence against women, improve community policing, and explore alternatives to incarceration."

CTAS is administered by the Justice Department's Office of Justice Programs (OJP), the Office of Community Oriented

Policing Services (COPS) and the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW). The funding can be used to enhance law enforcement; bolster adult and juvenile justice systems; prevent and control juvenile delinquency; serve victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and elder abuse; and support other efforts to combat crime.

Applications for CTAS are submitted through the Justice Department's Grants Management System (GMS), which enables grantees to register and apply for CTAS online. Applicants should register early, and no later than Tuesday, March 4, 2014, in order to resolve difficulties in advance of the application deadline. The deadline for submitting applications in response to this grant announcement is 7:00 p.m. EST on Monday, March 24, 2014.

The FY 2014 CTAS reflects improvements and refinements from earlier versions. The department received feedback from tribal leaders during tribal consultations and listening

sessions, from written comments from applicants and grantees, and from a specially developed assessment tool that was used to obtain information about the application experience.

For the FY 2014 CTAS, a tribe or tribal consortium will submit a single application and select from nine competitive grant programs referred to as Purpose Areas. This approach allows the department's grant-making components to consider the totality of a tribe's overall public safety needs.

The nine purpose areas are:

1. Public Safety and Community Policing (COPS)
2. Comprehensive Tribal Justice Systems Strategic Planning (BJA)
3. Justice Systems, and Alcohol and Substance Abuse (BJA)

4. Corrections and Correctional Alternatives (BJA)
5. Violence Against Women Tribal Governments Program (OVW)
6. Children's Justice Act Partnerships for Indian Communities (OVC)
7. Comprehensive Tribal Victim Assistance Program (OVC)
8. Juvenile Justice (OJJDP)
9. Tribal Youth Program (OJJDP)

Tribes or tribal consortia are encouraged to explore other funding opportunities for which they may be eligible under non-tribal, government-specific federal grant programs. Additional funding information may be found at www.grants.gov or the websites of individual agencies.

Interior, Oglala Sioux Tribe Announce First Cooperative Agreement to Facilitate Purchase of Fractionated Land under Cobell Settlement

The Department of the Interior recently announced that it has finalized the first cooperative agreement to facilitate the purchase of individual interests in highly fractionated trust lands to consolidate ownership for tribes. The agreement between the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations (Buy-Back Program) and the Oglala Sioux Tribe of the Pine Ridge Reservation outlines the strategy and resources to be provided to the tribe's leadership to facilitate owner outreach and education about the Buy-Back Program.

The Buy-Back Program was created to implement the land consolidation component of the Cobell Settlement which provided for a \$1.9 billion fund to consolidate fractional land interests across Indian Country. The Buy-Back Program allows interested individual owners to receive payments for voluntarily selling their land. All lands sold will immediately be held in trust for the tribe with jurisdiction. The Pine Ridge Reservation is among the most fractionated in the United States. Due to the nature of fractionation, the land interests on Pine Ridge are owned by various individuals, including members of other tribes.

"It is a priority for the Obama Administration to reduce fractionation and implement the Buy-Back Program in as fair and equitable a manner as possible," said Interior Secretary Sally Jewell. "Cooperative agreements give us an opportunity to work together, nation-to-nation, to ensure that the Program's implementation is tailored to the specific priorities of each tribe. This agreement reflects a spirit of mutual respect and teamwork as we work together to address this opportunity."

Interior holds about 56 million acres in trust for American Indians. More than 10 million acres are held for individual American Indians and nearly 46 million acres are held for Indian tribes. The fractionation of tribal lands has locked away resources and decision making from tribes. In Pine Ridge alone, there are

approximately 6,028 tracts with 195,862 purchasable fractional interests. This has made it increasingly difficult to manage the land for economic development and other uses.

"I am very happy with the agreement and glad that was done," said Oglala Sioux Tribe President Bryan V. Brewer. "Our outreach workers are out meeting with the people in the communities. I am hoping that we will be able to start buying the fractionated land that is out there with the money that is available. We are also anticipating the first offer to be complete within the month."

Following nation-to-nation consultations with tribal leaders, the Department released an Updated Implementation Plan earlier this year that significantly expands program implementation beyond Interior's initial strategy to launch pilot efforts with less than a dozen tribes. This expanded strategy will allow for greater flexibility and meaningful engagement with tribal governments across Indian Country. An open solicitation period will be held through March 14, 2014, during which tribes with jurisdiction over the most fractionated locations (approximately 90 percent) are invited to submit letters of interest or cooperative agreement applications for participation in the program. Significant outreach, mapping and mineral evaluations are already occurring at many locations.

Outreach and tribal engagement will also continue with the tribes that represent the locations with the remaining 10 percent of fractionated lands, and flexible purchase ceilings will be used to protect against the risk of premature exhaustion of the available funds.

There are a number of steps that tribal nations can take now to prepare for involvement in the Buy-Back Program, including increasing owner awareness of the value and benefits of participation in the Program and designating an authorized tribal point of contact to engage with the Program. ♣