

# Vawa and American Indian Tribes: A Pathbreaking Guide to Protecting Indigenous Women

Violence against women is a pervasive issue that affects all communities, including American Indian tribes. The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) was enacted in 1994 to address this issue and provide support to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking. However, many American Indian tribes have faced challenges in accessing and utilizing VAWA funding due to a lack of awareness, understanding, and resources.



## Safety for Native Women: VAWA and American Indian Tribes by Charles F. Hobson

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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This comprehensive guide provides critical information and guidance on the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and its implications for American Indian tribes. It covers topics such as the history of VAWA, its provisions,

and how tribes can access and utilize VAWA funding to combat violence against Native women.

## **History of the Violence Against Women Act**

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) was enacted in 1994 as part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act. VAWA was the first comprehensive federal law to address violence against women and provided funding for a range of programs and services, including domestic violence shelters, sexual assault hotlines, and legal assistance for victims of violence.

VAWA has been reauthorized several times since its enactment, most recently in 2013. The most recent reauthorization of VAWA included a number of important provisions for American Indian tribes, including increased funding for tribal victim services programs and the creation of a new Tribal Law and Free Download Commission.

## **Provisions of the Violence Against Women Act**

VAWA contains a number of provisions that are designed to prevent and respond to violence against women. These provisions include:

- **Funding for tribal victim services programs:** VAWA provides funding for a range of victim services programs, including domestic violence shelters, sexual assault hotlines, and legal assistance for victims of violence. These programs are essential for providing support and assistance to victims of violence and helping them to rebuild their lives.

- **Creation of a Tribal Law and Free Download Commission:** VAWA created a new Tribal Law and Free Download Commission to address the issue of violence against women in Indian country. The commission is responsible for developing recommendations to improve law enforcement and victim services in Indian country and for monitoring the implementation of VAWA.
- **Expansion of tribal criminal jurisdiction:** VAWA expanded tribal criminal jurisdiction to include crimes of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse committed by non-Indians against Indians in Indian country. This provision is essential for ensuring that Native women have access to justice and that perpetrators of violence against Native women are held accountable.
- **Protection for Native women from stalking:** VAWA included a provision that makes it a federal crime to stalk a Native woman on Indian land. This provision is important for protecting Native women from stalking, which is a serious form of violence that can have a devastating impact on victims.

## **How Tribes Can Access and Utilize VAWA Funding**

Tribes can access and utilize VAWA funding by submitting a grant application to the Office of Violence Against Women (OVW). OVW is the federal agency responsible for administering VAWA funding. Tribes can apply for VAWA funding for a variety of programs and services, including domestic violence shelters, sexual assault hotlines, and legal assistance for victims of violence.

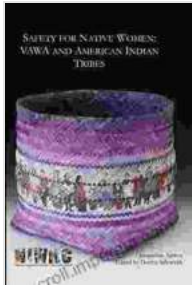
To be eligible for VAWA funding, tribes must meet certain criteria, including:

- **Be a federally recognized Indian tribe**
- **Have a law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction over domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse**
- **Have a victim services program that provides services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse**

Tribes that meet these criteria are encouraged to apply for VAWA funding to support their efforts to combat violence against Native women. OVW provides a variety of resources to help tribes apply for and manage VAWA funding, including technical assistance and training.

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) is a critical tool for combating violence against women, including Native women. VAWA provides funding for a range of programs and services that are essential for providing support and assistance to victims of violence and helping them to rebuild their lives. Tribes can access and utilize VAWA funding by submitting a grant application to the Office of Violence Against Women (OVW). OVW provides a variety of resources to help tribes apply for and manage VAWA funding, including technical assistance and training.

By working together, tribes and the federal government can ensure that all Native women have access to the resources and support they need to live free from violence.



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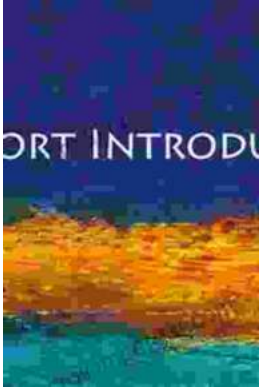
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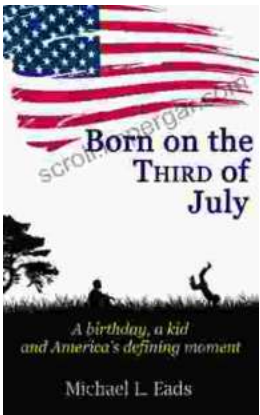
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