

Tribal Methodology – Re-Engineered Annual Tribal Trust Evaluation Process

FAQ's

1. Why was the Tribal Methodology initiative developed?

OST is mandated by 25 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1000.354 to conduct annual trust evaluations on tribes and consortiums that compact trust programs under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act. There are approximately 96 tribes/consortiums compacting trust programs, and with current resources, OST is able to conduct approximately 23 trust evaluations annually. This initiative will allow OST to work towards evaluating all compacted tribes/consortiums annually. In addition, this new initiative will be less intrusive on the tribes/consortium's daily operations and allow more timely feedback on the management of their trust programs.

2. What is the purpose of the pilot phase of this project?

The purpose of the pilot phase is to collaborate with the 9 Tribes/Consortiums to develop and test the web-based application tool. By including the pilot tribes/consortiums from the beginning of the initiative, it will enable us to strategize and likely mitigate the majority of implementation difficulties.

3. How were the 9 Pilot Tribes/Consortiums identified?

A presentation on the Tribal Methodology initiative was provided at several national conferences/meetings. During these events, there were 9 tribes/consortiums who volunteered to pilot this initiative.

4. How will this initiative be communicated throughout Indian country?

A letter from Deputy Special Trustee, Deb DuMontier, will be sent to all Tribal/Consortium leaders and Self-Governance Coordinators of tribes/consortiums compacting trust programs notifying them of this initiative. Presentations during break-out sessions have occurred and will continue to occur at events such as the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) conference, the Tribal Self-Governance Annual Consultation Conference, and other similar events. In addition, Regional Meetings will be held at locations across the Nation that are easily accessible to the tribes/consortiums compacting trust programs.

5. When do you expect the web-based application tool will be ready for use?

We expect the web-based application tool to be ready for use in January 2017. A phased approach will be utilized to implement this tool nationwide, so not all of the tribes/consortiums will be utilizing the tool beginning in January 2017. This phased approach will be implemented

to a specific number of tribes over a specific time period. This plan will be communicated to the tribes/consortiums once the plan is finalized.

6. Will there be training offered on the new web-based application tool?

Yes, there will be numerous training options available to the users, including, but not limited to, WebEx training, possible on-site training, training manuals, and providing the users with a “test” environment of the application to navigate and learn the new system.

7. Will OST still perform on-site trust evaluations?

Yes, OST will still perform on-site trust evaluations of programs which warrant a risk-based program specific evaluation on an as needed basis. An on-site risk-based program specific evaluation would evaluate only the programs that received a risk rating which would warrant further testing.

8. What tribe/consortium employees will have access to the new web-based application tool?

The individual access to the web-based application tool will be determined at the tribe/consortium level. The tribe/consortium will assign the roles to the employees as they deem necessary. A single point of contact at the tribe/consortium will be identified, and will serve as the system coordinator for the tribe/consortium.

9. What will be the time period covered during the annual evaluation?

The time period of the evaluation will be the most recently completed fiscal or calendar year based off of your Annual/Multi-Year Funding Agreement. For example, fiscal year funding agreements will be evaluated on the most recent time period completed from October 1st thru September 30th, and calendar year funding agreements will be evaluated on the most recent time period completed from January 1st thru December 31st.

10. Will there be access to the Annual Tribal Trust Evaluation system throughout the year?

Access to the previous year’s evaluations and document library (to upload supporting documents) will be available throughout the year. You will only have access to the current year’s evaluation after such time as the rating period has ended.