



# TRIBAL ACCESS PROGRAM

FOR NATIONAL CRIME INFORMATION  
ENSURING THE EXCHANGE OF CRITICAL DATA

## OVERVIEW

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has established the Tribal Access Program for National Crime Information (TAP) to provide tribes access to national crime information databases for both civil and criminal purposes. TAP will allow tribes to more effectively serve and protect their nation's citizens by ensuring the exchange of critical data.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is home to the Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division. CJIS manages and operates databases used by the public safety community for both criminal and civil purposes. Agencies across the United States submit information to, and obtain information from, CJIS systems. This exchange of information is essential to public safety.

The FBI maintains the host systems and provides a telecommunication network to one CJIS Systems Agency (CSA) in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, territories, Canada, and federal agencies, including DOJ. CSAs provide access to CJIS systems as well as Nlets, a state-owned justice and public safety information network that queries state, federal, and Canadian databases.

### CJIS SYSTEMS INCLUDE:

- National Crime Information Center (NCIC) – a criminal records database allowing criminal justice agencies to enter or search for information about stolen property, missing or wanted persons, domestic violence protection orders; criminal histories; and the National Sex Offender Registry among other things.
- Next Generation Identification (NGI, formerly known as the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System, IAFIS) – a database of finger/palm prints and mugshots allowing verification of identity, submissions of arrest information, and access to fingerprint-based criminal histories.
- National Data Exchange (N-DEX) – a national investigative information sharing system providing access to records from across the nation to aid in criminal investigations. Investigators have access to review criminal justice data from state, local, tribal, regional, and federal agencies, 24/7, from any secure Internet-capable device. Data includes incident reports, arrest reports, booking and incarceration reports, and pre-trial investigations, and probation and parole records.
- National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) – a system used by Federal Firearms Licensees (FFL) to determine whether a person is eligible to possess firearms or explosives. Tribes can contribute information to ensure prohibited persons are prevented from purchasing firearms; use NICS to determine whether to issue firearms or explosive-related permits; or when returning firearms seized during criminal investigations.
- Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP) – a gateway for criminal justice agencies to access unclassified law enforcement intelligence products, as well as systems or services such as N-DEX, Intelink, the Regional Information Sharing Systems Network (RISSNET), National Gang Intelligence Center, eGuardian, Virtual Command Center, and others.

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CJIS systems are available to the criminal justice community, including law enforcement, jails, prosecutors, courts, as well as probation and pretrial services. CJIS systems also are available to non-criminal justice agencies for specifically authorized civil purposes, including background checks for employment, licensing, child placement, housing, or other purposes.

DOJ has established TAP to ensure tribes have access to these systems and databases. TAP will assist tribes in analyzing their needs and help identify and provide appropriate solutions. In addition, DOJ will serve as a CSA for federally-recognized tribes. One possible solution is a TAP kiosk, a state-of-the-art biometric station equipped with camera, printer, and finger/palm

print scanner that allows access through DOJ to CJIS systems for both criminal and civil purposes.

TAP will provide 24x7 support and training for tribes.

In order to participate, tribes must have Internet access and agree to comply with security, training, and auditing requirements. For civil uses, tribes must be authorized to access CJIS services for intended purpose(s) and execute a user fee Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with CJIS to pay user fees. Tribes will be required to make legislative or policy determinations about what information they share with national databases and how to best utilize TAP to benefit their nation.

Interested tribes should submit a letter from their governing body to [tribalaccess@usdoj.gov](mailto:tribalaccess@usdoj.gov) and designate a primary and secondary point of contact. The same address can be used should the tribe have any questions or wish to learn more about the program.

DOJ recognizes that some tribes have access to certain CJIS systems through state CSA networks. In that instance, DOJ encourages a three-way discussion with the tribe and the state CSA about their information needs.

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