

Methodologies for Calculating Estimated Costs of Law Enforcement and Tribal Court Programs

The cost estimates for Law Enforcement programs and Tribal Courts assume that all tribes of a similar size have Law Enforcement agencies or Tribal Courts with the same composition. Law Enforcement programs and Tribal Courts are usually sized to meet the needs of a population range. Population data in the 2013 American Indian Population and Labor Force (AIPLF) Report prepared by the Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs using 2010 Census was used to estimate service population by tribe. The AIPLF estimates that the total service population on Indian lands is just under 2 million. About two-thirds of the population is located in non-P.L. 280 states, and a third is located in P.L. 280 states, primarily Alaska and California. This report grouped tribes by population size, and then used scalable cost models to create estimates for operating Law Enforcement programs and Tribal Courts for each group.

Law Enforcement Cost Estimate – Based on a budget for a standard Law Enforcement program model that includes police officials, dispatchers, administrative services, and supplies and equipment, the cost of a “Basic” program that would serve tribes with service populations ranging from 1,601-6,500 is estimated at \$2.0 million. The number of officers budgeted at each level generally follows a ratio of 2.8 officers per 1,000 residents. The table with the scalable Law Enforcement budget model shows the Basic program scaled to various levels based on tribal service populations. For example, tribes with a service population of less than 600 could be served by a Law Enforcement agency with a lower capacity at a cost of \$666,000, whereas tribes with a service population ranging from 16,251-19,500 would require a Law Enforcement presence three times the size at an annual cost of \$5.5 million.

Tribal Service Population	Law Enforcement Need	Annual Cost (\$000)
<600	Basic @ 1/3 capacity	\$ 666
600-1,600	Basic @ 2/3 capacity	\$ 1,333
1,601-6,500	Basic	\$ 2,019
6,501-9,750	Basic @ 50% increased capacity	\$ 2,994
9,751-13,000	Basic @ 100% increased capacity	\$ 3,836
13,001-16,250	Basic @ 150% increased capacity	\$ 4,679
16,251-19,500	Basic @ 200% increased capacity	\$ 5,501
19,501+	Basic @ 250% increased capacity	\$ 6,344

Tribal Courts Cost Estimate – Data collected from 41 Tribal Court assessments completed by BIA over the past year was used to produce a scalable Tribal Court budget model. The size of the tribe’s service population drives the size of the court, and the size of the court drives the cost of the court. The table with the scalable Tribal Court budget model shows the cost of a Full Time Court that would serve tribes with service populations ranging from 1,601-6,500 is estimated at \$2.0 million and scaled to various levels based on tribal service populations. For example, tribes with a service population of less than 600 could be served by a court that operated for 4.3 months over the course of a year at a cost of \$717,000, whereas tribes with a service population ranging from 16,251-19,500 would require a tribal justice system 3 times the size of a Full Time Court, at an annual cost of \$6.0 million.

Tribal Service Population	Tribal Court Need	Annual Cost (\$000)
<600	Part Time (4.3 months)	\$ 717
600-1,600	Part Time (8 Months)	\$ 1,333
1,601-6,500	Full Time	\$ 2,000
6,501-9,750	Full Time X 1.5	\$ 3,000
9,751-13,000	Full Time X 2	\$ 4,000
13,001-16,250	Full Time X 2.5	\$ 5,000
16,251-19,500	Full Time X 3	\$ 6,000
19,501+	Full Time X 3.5	\$ 7,000