

## **Transcript: “A Message from IG Horowitz: OJP’s Tribal Justice Systems Infrastructure Program” January 2017**

Hello. I'm Michael Horowitz, Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Justice.

Today our office issued a report examining the Tribal Justice Systems Infrastructure Program, or “TJSIP.” The TJSIP is a Justice Department grant program that supports planning, building, and renovating tribal justice facilities.

Our report focuses on how the Justice Department manages and oversees this program, which awarded more than \$275 million during the six years we reviewed.

Unfortunately, we found many serious and consequential problems.

To give just one example, we found that the Justice Department has not done what it needs to do to coordinate its grants with the Department of the Interior. This is important because while the Justice Department awards grants to build and renovate tribal justice facilities, the Interior Department is often responsible for providing money necessary to operate and maintain the facilities after they are completed.

We found that ineffective coordination between these two federal agencies resulted in delays in completing grant-funded projects, and also in tribes being unable to operate and staff their grant-funded facilities after they were constructed.

For example, three facilities we describe in our report cost the Justice Department nearly \$22 million in grant funds, but they could not be opened – or could only be partially opened – because of construction flaws or a lack of Interior Department funding to run the facilities. These three facilities each remained closed, or only partially open, for over a decade after the initial grant awards were made, and for 3 or more years after the tribes had used all of their grant money.

That is just one of the findings in today’s report, which also describes our concerns about the Justice Department’s due diligence when making awards, its management and oversight of TJSIP grants, and its efforts to provide training and technical assistance to grantees.

To learn more about our findings and to see our 12 recommendations for the program, please visit our website, [oig.justice.gov](http://oig.justice.gov), where you can read the full report.

Thank you for joining us.