

## **NJOMA Assessment Hearings**

10.21.2008

The NJOMA Board of Director`s met in August at a face-to-face meeting in Phoenix, AZ and discussed the need for data on our JOM Programs nationwide. The board had many idea`s and thought of a nationwide needs assessment. The format will be similar to the BIA Consultation Hearings, and we will be hosting them at various events

The first will be in Seattle at the NIEA Conference. We invite you to give your thoughts on Saturday October 25th, room 608 at 2:45 p.m. The next opportunity to give testimony will be at the NJOMA Conference in Tulsa, OK on November 9th-11th. Please review the following to prepare your answers and give testimony on behalf of your JOM students!

### **Consultation Item No. 1**

#### **Program Accountability for JOM Services**

Proposed Issue: In 1995, along with changing the way the JOM program was administered at the federal level, the BIA stopped collecting meaningful information regarding the JOM program. To our knowledge, no systematic collection of information on the program has been collected in the past decade.

Potential Issue or Change: An effort should be made to collect information on the nature of unmet needs (un-served or underserved or services not provided). For example, new school districts that have been created since 1994 are not being provided services because of the funding "freeze".

Reason for Proposing Issue or Change: The agency and tribes are better able to serve the purpose of JOM when they have had an opportunity to better assess the actual need.

Current Options Being Considered: A request for federal agencies to conduct information collection activities.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The current administration abolished the liaison and personnel between JOM Programs-at-large and the Central Office, Washington D.C., ending the practice of collection of information for the BIE. This function has not existed for several years. This absence of staffing, coupled with a freeze on funding, prohibits additional tribes from receiving JOM funding and does not recognize increased costs due to inflation and accounting for population growth.

#### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What responsibilities does the Bureau of Indian Education (formerly known as Office of Indian Education Programs) in Washington, D.C. have with the JOM Program?
2. Should the Government Accounting Office, or similar federal organization, be considered in conducting the collection of data?
3. Should the Bureau of Indian Education conduct this type of collection? (Note: Could this collection be "sourced out" to another national organization?)

4. Should the freeze on the JOM student count be lifted to identify an accurate eligible student population?

## **Consultation Item No. 2**

### **Advocating for Federal Support**

Proposed Issue: The Bush Administration consistently requested severe reductions or elimination of funding of the JOM Program. But for our friends in Congress, federal JOM funding would have been eliminated. Tribal advocates need clear, consistent, and comprehensive facts about the success of JOM programs to support our federal advocacy efforts.

Potential Issue or Change: Primarily because the BIA/BIE has failed to appropriately account and support JOM programs, an effort is necessary to catalog how the Indian Education Committees are utilizing the program funds. In addition to collecting information related to use of funds, it is important that we secure an accurate number of students utilizing JOM funds.

Reason for Proposing Issue or Change: As we face a new administration we need to present accurate information regarding the JOM program for purposes of convincing the administration and Congress to support our programs.

### **BACKGROUND**

Sufficient data is necessary to support some areas of the JOM program. We need clear written evidence responsive to the questions below.

### **QUESTIONS**

How do you use your Johnson O'Malley Funds (JOM)?

1. Describe your JOM program.
2. Do you take an annual student count? Why or why not? How is it used?
3. Describe how your Indian Education Committee (IEC) works with the local School Board
4. How does your program meet the special and unique needs of Native students?
5. How does your IEC use its vested authority to implement your supplemental program?

What would happen to your school and students if JOM funding is eliminated?

1. How would it impact parents, students, programs, tribal involvement, and cultural knowledge?
2. What student services would be lost?

If you received additional funding what services would you provide or improve to meet the needs of students?

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**Consultation Item No. 3 - OPEN**

Proposed Issue: This topic is to provide the opportunity for participants to openly discuss topics which are locally impacting education programs, potential future consultation items or issues.

Potential Issue or Change:

Reason for Proposing Issue or Change:

Current Options Being Considered:

**BACKGROUND**

The JOM Program has been a target of budget cuts and the subject of congressional inquiry. The JOM Program does not have sufficient data to support some areas of the program when discussing annual funding levels.

**QUESTIONS**

1. Does the JOM Program need to be forward funded?
2. What roles do public school districts have in the funding of JOM?